

How much will it snow?

Winter storm warning issued

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

A winter storm warning has been issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for Pagosa Springs to last from 6 a.m. today, Thursday, Dec. 9, through 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10.

According to the NWS, heavy snow is expected, with total snow accumulations of 1 to 2 feet.

The NWS is predicting a 100 percent chance of precipitation on Thursday night, with new snow accumulations in Pagosa Springs totaling at 8 to 12 inches, with wind gusts as high as 35 miles per hour (mph).

According to Pagosa Weather, higher elevations are forecasted to receive 18 to 24 inches from Thursday afternoon through Friday

■ See Snow A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Santa's workshop

As a special treat this holiday season, Santa Claus has located one of his workshops downtown near the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center.

Woodman picked for county admin

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer



Woodman

After an executive session held as part of Tuesday's regular meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted 2-1 to hire Derek Woodman as county administrator.

After the executive session, the board reconvened the regular meeting, with Commissioner Ronnie Maez proposing the first motion.

Maez made a motion to have the county's human resource director begin recruitment for the position for another 30 days. However, that motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Warren Brown
■ See Woodman A8

Valdez announces he won't run for re-election

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer



Valdez

In a letter addressed to the citizens of Archuleta County that was shared with The SUN Tuesday, Dec. 7,

Archuleta County Sheriff Rich Valdez announced that he will not be running for re-election in the 2022 general election.

"It has been the privilege of my lifetime to be your Sheriff for eight years, which will officially end in January of 2023," the letter states.

In an interview with The SUN Wednesday, Valdez explained he

■ See Valdez A8



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Festival of Trees

Last week's Festival of Trees, held at the Ross Aragon Community Center, raised funds for a number of local nonprofit organizations through the auctioning off of trees decorated by, or in the case of Build Pagosa, built and decorated by the nonprofits. The event also featured a public viewing Thursday, complete with a visit from Santa, and gave the public an opportunity to vote for their favorite trees.

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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(970) 264-2100
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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12/1	59	26	-	-	-
12/2	61	27	-	-	-
12/3	57	25	-	-	-
12/4	55	23	-	-	-
12/5	50	21	-	-	-
12/6	47	19	-	-	-

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OUR VIEW

Making Christmas merrier

Last year, in hopes of brightening the holiday season during the pandemic, a small group of volunteers gathered to talk about putting more spirit into Christmas events in Pagosa Country.

In no time at all, plans were made and products were ordered to create a COVID-safe event along the Riverwalk in downtown Pagosa Springs. The group even planned a holiday lighting contest for local residences and businesses.

As the days grew darker and COVID-19 infections in the community increased, the Riverwalk event was canceled out of an abundance of caution.

Even with the cancellations, one local couple still set out to create a unique workshop for Santa inside the Visitor Center for viewing throughout the season and the holiday lighting contest was also able to continue.

This year, the group came back together and started planning way back in April for this year's inaugural Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration.

The event is set for Saturday, Dec. 18, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The concept is simple. You can enjoy an evening stroll along the San Juan River in our historic downtown with your friends and loved ones while you participate in activities and view Christmas-themed displays.

Segments of the Riverwalk have been adopted by local businesses and organizations that hope to make your Christmas brighter.

You'll find the Knights of Columbus caroling at the annual Nativity scene in Town Park.

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association will showcase an Ancestral

Puebloan pithouse at their unique stop along the route.

GOAL High School will join in the fun with kids' activities and games. Girl Scout Troop No. 26237 will be handing out toys. The Pagosa Youth Soccer Rangers will be playing games and handing out candy. We are pretty sure these and most other giveaways along the route are while they last.

There will be plenty of seasonal musical offerings along the Riverwalk from Jason Rose and the Jackson Mountain Ramblers, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Centerpoint Church, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Buckaroos Horse Drawn Rides and the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership.

Buckaroos Horse Drawn Rides will also be offering hot chocolate.

We hear the Pagosa Springs Humane Society might even have some cute puppies on display.

The San Juan Outdoor Club will be showing you what a Christmas campout is all about with hot chocolate, cider and ornaments for the kids.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs will warm you up with some green chile chicken stew and sweets.

Willow and Reed Design Co. will feature a display of luminaries and other beauty inspired by Kristi Smith.

Some participants are keeping their stops along with Riverwalk a secret to be unveiled that night. Those include The Springs Resort and Spa, Restorative Solutions and Soul Medicinals, and United Way of Southwest Colorado.

One highlight of the evening will be a balloon glow by Pagosa Adventure.

Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS will have a specially decorated ambulance on display.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center will have cookies and hot chocolate. You will have the opportunity to view Santa's workshop while you enjoy your snacks.

The one-way walking route will have four entrance stations: Town Park, the San Juan River Scenic Overlook, the Visitor Center and the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site at Centennial Park.

We've been told you might even see Santa Claus along your stroll.

You can participate in a scavenger hunt and pick up a card to have stamped at each entrance that you pass along the route to win a free ornament.

Please call the Visitor Center at (970) 585-1200 if you are able to volunteer. Help is especially needed for cleaning up after the event.

Kudos go out to town staff and volunteers from the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board, including Jon Johnson and Kristi Smith, with the effort led by Jennifer Green. Special thanks to the Pierce family and to those who have adopted a section of the Riverwalk for creating a fun and festive evening to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead.

Please take the time to enjoy the spirit of Christmas that Pagosa Country offers.

Terri Lynn Oldham House
Editor's note: On Monday, Archuleta School District provided a recording to The SUN of the Board of Education's work session that was held in Colorado Springs last week. We applaud the board for recording the meeting and making it available.



LOOKING BACK

From the Sept. 12, 1974, Pagosa Springs SUN. PRICKLY FRIEND — A pet porcupine was the center of attention last week when a dinner was held to honor Dr. Gary Janssen and Ray Johnson, Physician's Assistant for their time and effort in conducting an EMT course. Mrs. Janssen and Mrs. Johnson found the little porcupine friendly, it would eat from their hands and made no effort to get quills up as protection.

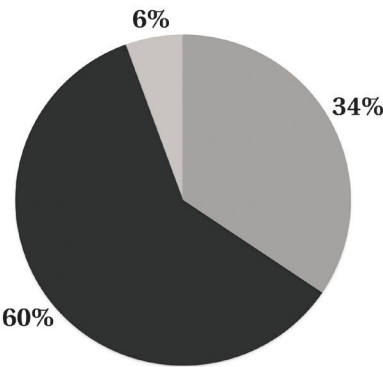
WHADDYA THINK?

Where do you plan to do most of your holiday shopping?

Poll results (90 votes)

Locally — 34 percent
Online — 60 percent
Larger cities — 6 percent

Vote this week online:
What do you think of the snow?
www.pagosasun.com



YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Archuleta County Commissioners
Alvin Schaaf, 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 DeGuisse
mdeguise@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

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 9, 1921

Last week a most peculiar accident occurred on Wolf Creek and while we were unable to learn all the details of the affair yet, the story reported is something like this. It seems three men were traveling in a Hupmobile and were on the ascent of Wolf Creek pass, the car slipping, causing the men to jump from the car. The car went over the grade and skidded some distance down the hill, where it struck some trees. The compact caused an explosion, which was followed by fire which completely destroyed the car. We have heard that an insurance policy completely covers the loss. Two of the men in the party went on over the hill to Pagosa, while the owner of the car returned to Tom Adams ranch. He took the train at South Fork and returned to his home at Trinidad. The fact that each man jumped probably saved their lives.

The fine new shed for the horses of the pupils attending the Yellowjacket school has been completed and is now in use.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 13, 1946

Discussion is getting warmer about "allowing" Jerry, the deer, stalk the streets of Pagosa. While there may be much to be said against it, I feel that the tame deer is a definite characteristic, a part of the personality of the town and an added colorful note for which we probably could permit much meandering on the part of the deer.

Characteristics — Mrs. John Lynn carrying that purse which makes a noise — Marshal Floyd Bramwell's stride along the street — Maudie Ruth Risinger's penchant for the unusual in togs for instance her toboggan cap with the long tail — Fussy Gus and his sincere friendliness.

A Christmas program will be presented at the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium on Thursday evening, Dec. 19, at 8 o'clock, it was announced this week by Elbie L. Gann, principal and music director. High school and elementary pupils will take part in the musicale, to which the public is invited.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 9, 1971

About 14 inches of new snow fell in town this past week and snow depth is about ten inches on the level. The snow started settling fast late Wednesday and will be down from that depth soon. Roads and highways are in good condition, but travel is slower than normal because of snowpack and icy conditions.

Glenn Porter, of Tucson, Ariz., was the lucky winner of a lot in Lake Pagosa Park. The lot was given by Eaton International in a drawing last week. Only requirement to be eligible to win was registration at one of the sales offices of Eaton International, or at one of the travel shows in which the firm participated. More than 44,000 persons registered for the drawing. The lot is located on Lake Pagosa in Lake Pagosa Park.

Several cases of hepatitis have been reported in the community, but no widespread epidemic is anticipated. Health officials say that extreme care with personal cleanliness is the best safeguard against the disease.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 12, 1996

School District 50 Joint board of education took steps Tuesday night to allow for the sale of bonds to produce revenues to construct a new high school, then passed supplemental budgets to appropriate and allow the use of the resulting monies and related funds during the current budget year. Terry Casey, a representative of Denver-based Dain Bosworth Inc. attended the meeting of the board, explained the bond situation and asked the board to pass a resolution allowing for the sale of \$12,020,000 worth of the "A1-rated" bonds.

Local police officers and sheriff personnel received word this week from the federal government concerning their role in the enforcement of a new federal law banning anyone convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense from possessing firearms or ammunition. The law, as it applies to employment of law enforcement organizations, is clear. With regard to the general populace, the role of local authorities in enforcing the law is somewhat ambiguous, and they have yet to decide exactly how to approach the situation.



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.

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Boebert

Dear Editor:
If you really want to know the truth about what Rep. Lauren Boebert is up to, check out her November 22 newsletter called, "Fighting Socialism". Just type in Rep. Lauren Boebert's newsletters and you will have the option of going to that site which lists her newsletters. It's very "eye-opening".

Paula Bain

Vigilante

Dear Editor:
Vigilante...hmmm, so what distinguishes a self-proclaimed 'super patriot' from a domestic terrorist, a religious nut-job fanatic (Islam or Christian..God tole me 'ta do it), demented school shooter or someone who travels to another state with at least half a decision to shoot.. zip...nada...not much except the garbage between their ears. These individuals aren't politically right or left they're just killers without disguise. Yes, they are all willing to kill to prove they're right or rid the world of their 'enemies' or gain entrance into some fantasy heaven/garden/group or for the few honest

one's...just for the thrill of it.

Elections, laws & institutions are what distinguishes man from animals. To choose otherwise is to prove one's level in the foul. Our nation is not ridding itself of a foreign King via a revolution. What seems inexplicable is Trump's supporters want a King while screaming all they want is freedom??? They should know there are likely still some King George worshipers in Newfoundland..better yet try Russia. G. Washington specifically chose not to be President for life and no-one else has that self-proclaimed right so these idolatry worshipers should just get over it in this life; but if they play their cards right, they can get on bended knee for eternity to another God. "Get over it, Donald. Rupert Murdoch, FOX News owner, tells shareholders the ex-president needs to move on from election loss and focus on the future."

2024 will bring another election. Want a different outcome, put the hate away, use what you should have learned in school and start campaigning. Hey, I get it, the GOP's not angrily destructively disillusionist enough for all the vigilantes/militia oriented/fascist fanatics...so start your own political party...or easier yet, the KKK awaits.

David Blake

Guadalupanas

Dear Editor:
How many times do we get an opportunity to show our gratitude? I have to admit how proud I am when I read letters to the editor from visitors experiencing the good in our community or when I hear someone tell about a selfless act, or a story about someone quietly paying it forward and expecting nothing in return. Now simply feels like the right time and right season to say thank you.

The Guadalupe Society /Las Guadalupanas are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their work on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at a little after 11:00am at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Extremely appropriate as December 12 is the day to celebrate the patroness of the Americas and the namesake of The Guadalupe Society. Although, the society of women was formed in 1970, the anniversary could not be celebrated last year due to concerns for each other's health.

So, what is their work and who are these women? Their ministry is for bereaved families of the catholic community in Archuleta County. The women have volunteered to serve a meal on the day of the funeral for the families and those who come to show their respect for the deceased. And since its inception, it has been a place where many elderly women have chosen to offer their support for their neighbors at a time when those families need help. In a model of selflessness, they will provide a dessert, or a side dish from their own resources, plus a main posole meal. They will assist the family, set up for the meal, serve all the guests and clean up afterward so the family can focus on itself and their guests. Many women have served over the decades but with each passing year, many of the bereaved families have been those of the society members. The average age continues to edge upward but the support continues. Supplying food or meals extends far beyond the Catholic community as this practice extends deep into our entire community. The model of collaboration works sim-

ply because everyone understands if they can do just a little, then if you add it all up, the bereaved family gets the support it needs.

As unique as this work is, so is this anniversary. As time moves on and the average age of the women continues to increase and they decrease in number for a variety of reasons, something new has begun. It is not uncommon for members of our community who know of the society's work, to donate food on the day of the funeral. Men such as Moises Martinez and his sons, or Manny Trujillo step in to make a large batch of posole or work up mashed potatoes and gravy which is offered to every family who needs the service or the Rivas family for providing music. Many, step in to fill the gaps. So, the anniversary is not only to celebrate the 50 years of service by the society, and it is not only to thank the many women for all the years of service but to thank anyone who has ever helped the society in this service.

There is a small procession before the mass at 11:15 where all society members, and helpers, will be given a rose in honor of the patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe. After mass, all are invited to the parish hall for refreshments and entertainment. But the moment really and truly is our opportunity to thank Las Guadalupanas, and those that have helped families in their time of need. Lydia Martinez at 95, may be one of the few who was with Juanita Salazar, her sister-in-law, when Juanita started the society. Lydia will be present as will the current president, Juanita Archuleta. Many, many women have helped off and on, as their life circumstances allowed over the last 50 years. All have served honorably and selflessly.

For the rest of us, we certainly need to be grateful for our teachers, and for our health care professionals, and our emergency responders especially during this time. We should also take the opportunity to seek out and find those that work behind the scenes, sometimes voiceless, very quietly contributing to the good of our community. This is our opportunity to show our gratitude to these women and their supporters, for their selfless service over the last 50 decades.

J. L. Martinez

'It's your school district'

Dear Editor:
Does Dolores Umbridge live in Pagosa Springs?

For over a year, our schools have had to endure the new superintendent — her big city ideas, and her big city philosophy in regards to both the students and those in her employ.

If you don't agree with a new mandate, you are dismissed or you can leave. We have a bunch of teachers ready to replace you (??)

If you are a good student, great. If you are a struggling student, she will make it "better."

If you are a student who just doesn't care, don't worry. The "grand dame" will lower the standards across the district to make the numbers look good to the state and to the board.

What happened to learn and pass principles?

The numbers say it is safer for all to be masked, she does not protect her staff or the students and require masks.

Our little school district, right before our eyes, is being transformed into an inner city: do your time and no matter what, you will graduate because it makes our school look good.

Folks, it's your school district, and we are about to lose more staff and teachers.

You need to be represented and not have puppets installed in the board for the rubber stamp.

Adam Miller

Chimney fire

Dear Editor:
Last Tuesday we had a small chimney fire in the main building at the Wildlife Park.

I was able to scale the roof and smother the flames with a fire extinguisher. However, I realized that it would be prudent to call the Fire Department knowing that the fire was not really out. Within minutes the fire department responded in force. I was not allowed to go back into the building until the Fire Crew was finished some 2 hours later.

I certainly expected the water damage to exceed the fire damage within the gift shop.

■ See Letters A4

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

e-mail:
editor@pagosasun.com

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

be 500 words or less
be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday), 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.

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Letters

Continued from A3

To my surprise the water damage was zero. But only due to the abilities of a very well trained, well equipped and well disciplined Fire Department. It is a privilege to live in a County where we are so well protected.

A big Thanks to all involved,
Dick Ray

COVID-19

I'm seeing something that could be quite disturbing, the government continuing to attempt to control the masses in not only the other countries of the world but our own as well.

Let's look at the science of Covid 19.

This family of corona viruses has been around for so far back as it is not recordable.

The common cold. Many anthropologists believe that the antibodies for it were naturally created by Neanderthal and then passed on through inbreeding with Cro-Magnon.

Whatever. Humans have adjusted to it with natural immunities.

Introduce Influenza, also a corona virus, only this time zoonotic and was passed from birds, like chickens to humans. It at first devastated Humans. For example, the Spanish Flu, which was a bird flu. But we, humans have developed a natural immunity to it, in a general arena. We accepted that it is here to stay and are dealing with the fact that it is not going away and are dealing with it despite that it will kill those who are prone to it for whatever reason. Again, we accepted it.

Introduce Covid 19. also a corona virus. The difference here is that the governments of the world have through the word pandemic established and maintained "control" of the mainstream of humans through "fear". They have, which is even worse, let the pharmaceutical companies through mandates to earn millions of dollars. Don't be fooled that just because you get the vaccinations, and now boosters, that are free, that someone has to pay for it, if not up front, but through taxes. They now discount natural immunity that despite tests to the contrary is more powerful than the vaccination cocktail.

Now comes Omicron and the push for another vaccine, in the form of a pill, which the pharmaceutical companies, who are now developing and creating more millions of pill, are pushing through their lobbies to create.

Never mind. Covid 19 is never going away, just as the Flu and Common Cold has not. We just have to accept annual vaccines that keep those of us who are bothered by it up with the variances.

You see the pattern? Governments are using "fear" to control the populace and keep us from communicating by using mask mandates, and, the pharmaceuticals through their lobbies to gain millions of more dollars in production of millions of more doses at any and all variants. The worst part is that, through mandates, the federal/state governments are pushing a program each day causing many more to lose their jobs over their right to protest, and freedom of speech and privacy.

What really bothers me are the vaccinated accusing the unvaccinated of spreading the virus. This is not true. I am fully vaccinated, and I still came down with Covid a couple months later and at that time I was still contagious and I passed it on to my wife.

Doug Roberts

Editor's note: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Influenza (flu) and

COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a coronavirus first identified in 2019, and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses."

Humane Society response

The Reality of the Situation: A response to "BoCC tables decision on Humane Society request" article

Recently an article was published regarding the Archuleta BoCC tabling their decision regarding a request from the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) to renew their service agreement at an increased rate.

The HSPS is a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization and receives no funding from the government or any national animal welfare organizations. Instead, we rely on generous donors and community partners to help us provide a vital service to our community's animals and residents.

After a challenging couple of years due to the pandemic, the HSPS Board has had to carefully re-evaluated its budget so that we can continue to provide exceptional care to the more than 700 animals that come through the shelter annually. One of the outcomes of this budget evaluation was a realization that the HSPS has not increased its service fees to the County in more than seven years. The County does not fund our non-profit, it only pays for a service we offer.

Our community looks very different today than it did seven years ago. Archuleta BoCC has grown and more animals than ever are occupying space in our shelter. The cost of materials, utilities and services has climbed. To hire and keep employees, our payroll costs have increased. Bottom line...organizational expenses have grown year-over-year and yet, we have not asked the BoCC to increase its rates until now.

The article then spun an even worse picture by making the County's decision to table the request for an increase in service rates to also be about the County's recent request to use part of the HSPS shelter driveway as access to its own adjacent lot, which the County used to create an archery range park.

Archuleta BoCC stated "we all need to be good neighbors" and that consent to use the shelter property as access to their archery range "was not given", as if the HSPS had turned down the County's request when in fact the HSPS had responded requesting a revised plan that would be more mutually beneficial. The County simply did not respond. The HSPS has also been "a good neighbor", allowing the County to store maintenance equipment on our property with no request for anything in return.

For the County to say the Humane Society's refusal to grant access has now "put the County in a way where it's costing the taxpayers a lot of money because of that refusal to be a good neighbor" is a very loaded statement. The BoCC is fully responsible for its own land, its decisions to create an archery range park, access to said archery range park, and its choices when it came to building their extravagant driveway, seemingly not being built with taxpayer's dollars in mind. The County could have instead decided to agree to "be a good neighbor" and respond to the HSPS's request to create a plan that would be mutually beneficial to the HSPS, the County and its taxpayers. But instead, they, not the HSPS, made the decision to build their own driveway at the expense of our taxpayers.

Phil Rosenstein, board president

Charitable donations

When I was a child, my family always taught me that it was better to give than to receive. It was hard to understand as a first grader. At Christmas time I was excited to see presents below the tree. With great anticipation, I checked out how big they were, and how many there were for me.

As I grew older, I learned about how great it is to be a giver, and to celebrate the gratitude expressed by those that received gifts.

This year the IRS is offering us a tax break for charitable contributions for those that are classified under a 501c3 organization.

For people who itemize under Schedule A, each charitable contribution can be written off your AGI for a 100% deduction. Those of you that don't itemize, can still write off \$300 as a single person, or \$600 as a married couple.

For more information go to: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/expanded-tax-benefits-help-individuals-and-businesses-give-to-charity-during-2021-deductions-up-to-600-available-for-cash-donations-by-non-itemizers-or-ask-your-CPA-for-guidance>. The deadline for this tax benefit is December 31, 2021.

Covid has impacted many of our local organizations, which are in need of financial help. If you are able to give, this is a unique year to express gratitude, and help others.

James R Sanders

Ideas

Marjorie Taylor Greene, and indeed, some of the writers to this paper, enjoy using the C-word to describe our current president and the policies being developed by the Democrats in Congress. That word is communism. Sometimes they like to use the M-word, that is, Marxism. In the interest of clarity, perhaps we should look at the actual definition of communism and socialism, which is another scary word bandied about by people on the right.

Socialism is a political and economic system in which the means of production is owned and controlled by the people (in the form of the democratically elected government). Marxism posits that it is the transitional state between the overthrow of capitalism and the realization of communism which abolishes private ownership of land, farms and factories — these are then controlled by the state and the state provides all citizens with their needs re: housing, jobs, education and health care. We are all aware of the problems incurred by these policies, the biggest being that people really don't want to share and then the government must become oppressive in order to try to make it work.

One can throw these words around in order to demonize the president and his party, but it is important to understand what those words mean and how far they are from describing the policies being proposed by the Democratic Party. The fact is that unregulated capitalism also has its problems, the most obvious being gross economic inequality. Democratic members of Congress are trying to develop policies that will improve the lives of ordinary American citizens who are not fabulously wealthy. They are trying to provide access, for Americans, to health care, education and a more prosperous life. They are also trying to re-invest in our country via infrastructure projects that should improve the lives of Americans in general. (There are Congressional Republicans

who are already bragging to their constituents about the infrastructure projects for their states, even though they voted against the bill.)

There are no, and have never been, any proposals to abolish private ownership of property. It is unfortunate that (most of) the Republican Congressional members refuse to participate in crafting legislation to improve our lives but have chosen to obstruct, name call and plan ways to maintain power even in the face of losing elections. They have already announced that they will still not have a policy platform for the 2022 elections. Where is their vision? Where are their ideas for making your life better? Why are they refusing to do their jobs, and given that they refuse to do their jobs, how do they maintain any support from the citizenry to whom they are responsible? I suspect that if they weren't in thrall to our former president, the man we now know thoughtlessly and intentionally exposed people to COVID, they might feel emboldened to come up with some ideas.

Lee Stopher

1969: Home for Thanksgiving

Editor's note: The following letter arrived at The SUN last week with the last paragraph missing. It is being reprinted in its entirety.

Dear Editor: November 14th, 1969... the day after a tremendous fight for survival on a hilltop in I Corps near the Demilitarized Zone, and I am on a plane to Bien Hoa near Saigon. My ultimate destination?... home. I missed the helicopter that was to take me from that hilltop the evening before, so boarding this twin turboprop plane from Quang Tri to start my out-processing was no small thing.


After days of sweating, sitting, sweating, and sleeping, I boarded that big "Freedom Bird" to San Francisco, California. I spent another 24-30 hours at Oakland Army Base without sleep and I was free. I caught my flight at San Francisco International Airport after a brief, unpleasant encounter with two Hare Krishna representatives (they lost). I then boarded my flight home to Dayton, Ohio. At a lay-over in Chicago, I was wearing my winter, wool uniform with a long winter coat but still could not hold my cup of coffee steady enough to drink it. My hands were shaking so badly from the cold that I sipped much of it while it sat on the table in front of me. Talk about your dramatic, environmental temperature changes.

I landed at the airport in Dayton, Ohio and caught a cab to my parents' home about an hour away. My departure from Vietnam was so immediate and dramatic and out-processing so time consuming that I didn't even notify my family that I was coming home. I wasn't even aware what day it was as I was in the cab riding home.

At last we arrived at the front door of my family's home. I paid the driver, grabbed my duffel bag, and walked down our side driveway to the back door. I noticed two cars in the driveway and remembered thinking that my parents probably had visitors. As I stood at the back, kitchen door, I heard the sounds of conversations and dishes rattling. I looked at my wristwatch and noted that it was almost noon. My family and their guests must be sitting down for dinner.

I knocked on the door. Ten or fifteen seconds later, my mother opened the door and let out a gasp of surprise. I then heard my father's voice say my mother's name and utter the words that will forever remain in my memory... "Aggie. Is my boy home?"

It was Thanksgiving Day.
Russ Widener



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Obituaries

Ramona B. Montano

Ramona B. Montano was born in Pagosa Springs, Colo., Sept. 23, 1934, to Eloisa and Seraphino Gallegos. Ramona was one of seven daughters who were raised on the Hersch's ranch just outside of Pagosa Springs. She also raised seven children, six girls and one boy, all who remain in Pagosa Springs.



Ramona's hobbies were watching soap operas, dancing, gardening, singing, fishing, camping, playing bingo and, recently, painting rocks.

Ramona is preceded in death by her parents, Eloisa and Seraphino Gallegos, sisters Julia Romero, Esther Matuz, Eloisa "Lucita" Montoya, daughter Wanda Rivas and granddaughter Jessica Medina.

Ramona is survived by six of her children: Elouise Andrews, Alex and Debbie Montoya, Connie and Henry Medina, Monica Archuleta, Vicky "Mercedes" Montano, Peggy Montano; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; sisters Viola Rosales, Rachael Griego, Crucita "Clorinda" Trujillo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family of Ramona would like to thank everyone for the kind words, prayers and the sharing of all the wonderful memories.

The rosary was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Wednesday, Dec. 8. Funeral services will be held Thursday, Dec. 9, at 9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, located at 445 Lewis St.

James Brank Smith

James Brank Smith, better known as JB, passed away peacefully after a lingering illness Jan. 18 in Colorado Springs. He was 79, born Dec. 17, 1941, in Rockford, Ill., to parents Florbel and Morrey Smith.

Prior to moving to Pagosa, JB invested in real estate and owned and edited newspapers in several

small Colorado towns. An avid reader, JB owned and operated a bookstore in Olathe, Colo. Later in life, he was active in the Pagosa Springs Senior Center.

In his youth, JB worked in Colombia in the U.S. Peace Corps. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, his Colombian wife and adopted son. He is survived by second cousins Dave and Jody Nelson, of Colorado Springs. No services are planned at this time.

Raymond Wegner

Raymond Wegner, age 84, of Brenham, Texas, passed away Monday, Nov. 15. Memorial services will be held Dec. 11 at Abiding Word Lutheran Church, 464 Oak Tree Crossing Drive, Brenham, Texas. Raymond was born Feb. 19, 1937, in Zionsville (Brenham), Texas, to Fred and Alma Rust Wegner. He was baptized April 11, 1937, at Zionsville Lutheran Church and confirmed April 7, 1952, at St. John's Lutheran, Prairie Hill, Texas, by Pastor Paul Gogolin.

He met the love of his life, Patsy Ruth Jackson-Coffer, at St. John's Lutheran one Sunday in June 1959. They only had two real dates but faithfully wrote letters to each other daily until they were married on March 27, 1960, at Zion Lutheran Church in Houston, by the Rev. George Reck.

He and Patsy moved with all they owned in a small Mercury car to Lawton, Okla., the day after they were married and found a place to live the following day at sundown. Raymond faithfully served in the Army at Ft. Sill, Okla., from 1959 to 1961. He then moved back to Brenham and was in the Army Reserves until he received an honorable discharge in 1965 as an E5 Staff Sgt.

Raymond was a carpenter for his remaining career, specializing in

single-family homes. He worked for Walter Thielemann for many years until he and Patsy started Raymond Wegner Construction in 1974. Operating out of their business on Hwy. 105, they built many homes in Brenham and the surrounding area until they moved to Colorado in the summer of 1985. They opened Wegner Properties Inc. in Pagosa Springs and again built homes, some commercial facilities and performed property management and real estate sales. After 19 years in the beautiful mountains of Colorado, they moved back to Brenham in 2004.

Raymond was a faithful man to his Lord and served in a variety of Lutheran church positions including: treasurer in 1965 at St. John's of Prairie Hill; treasurer of the Men's Brotherhood and chairman of the Congregation, also at Prairie Hill, from 1980-1982; and president of the congregation at Our Savior in Pagosa Springs from 1995-1996. He was also a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and attended Bible class every Sunday. In 2011, he and Patsy and around 50 people formed a new Lutheran Church in Brenham called Abiding Word Lutheran (LCMC and NALC) where he served on the 1st Council and the Call Committee who called the first pastor of that church, Pastor Martin Moore.

Raymond was fun-loving and enjoyed making people laugh by his jokes. When he lived at Prairie Hill, he and his wife raised cattle, always had gardens, sometimes a horse, dogs and cats. He had a German shepherd who inspected each newborn family member when they came home from the hospital, forever after forming a bond and protecting the child. Raymond enjoyed watching his children riding their motorcycles up and down in the gullies in the back of the home in Prairie Hill. He always took the family hunting deer in the Hill Country of Texas and in East Texas. He loved to fish and taught his children how to fish as well. He even helped coach a boys Little League team one year. He and Patsy played volleyball on the Prairie Hill Church team and belonged to the Prairie Hill Shooting Club. Raymond was a member of the Brenham Elks Lodge and the Brenham Country Club for a number of years.

Raymond was preceded in death

by: parents Fred and Alma Rust Wegner; sister Edna McKelvey; brother Harold Wegner; brothers-in-law Richard McKelvey, Gus Draeger, and Carroll Webb; sister-in-law Joella Wegner; father-in-law Ralph W. Jackson Jr.; and mothers-in-law Thelma L. Jackson and Annie B. Coffer. Also, many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Raymond is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Patsy; sisters Helen Draeger, of Burton, Texas; Esther Webb, of Dale, Texas; Weda Campbell and Jean Wegner, both of Brenham; brother Alfred (Alice) Wegner, of College Station, Texas; daughter Sheila Demery, of Brenham; sons and their wives, Damon (Frances) Wegner, of Brenham, Larry Wegner, of Fredericksburg, and Christopher (Karla) Wegner, of Pleasant View, Utah. He is also survived by granddaughters and their husbands, Lori (Dusty) Kasprovicz, Megan (Collin) Newsome, Stacy Rosenbaum, Christina (Joel Antonio) Gomez, all of Brenham; Heidi Wegner and Hope Wegner, of Nashville, Tenn.; Samantha Wegner, of Fredericksburg, and Reagan Wegner, of Pleasant View, Utah. His surviving grandsons are Augustus Wegner, of Fredericksburg, and Ryan Wegner, of Pleasant View, Utah. Great-grandchildren include Raelyn Rosenbaum, Paisley Kasprovicz, Antonio Joel Gomez and Brantley Newsome, all of Brenham; brothers-in-law, James R. Jackson, of Port Angeles, Wash., and Dr. Phillip Campbell, of Dallas, Texas. He is also survived by his "Visiting Angel" of nearly four years, Veronica Nickerson, of Brenham; and his wonderful nurses at Brenham Nursing and Rehab, Brandy Koehne, Samantha Gregory and Valerie. Also, many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorial services for Raymond will be held at Abiding Word Lutheran Church, 464 Oak Creek Drive, Brenham on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. Lunch and fellowship following at church.

The family of Raymond would like to thank all those who have prayed for him and their outpouring of love.

Services are entrusted to Memorial Oaks Chapel, 1306 West Main St., Brenham, TX 77833.

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Cards of Thanks

Knights of Columbus

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, we would like to thank the Town of Pagosa Springs, especially Richard McNeil, for their cordiality and assistance in allowing us to display the Nativity Scene in Town Park. Since "In Him we live and move and have our Being" (Acts 17:28), we appreciate the opportunity to profess this Sacred Mystery in a public setting. Let us not forget

to "Keep Christ in Christmas." In Gratitude and Blessings to All for a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Ruby Sisson Library Foundation

All of us at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library are very grateful for such a successful Festival of Trees. We would like to thank the Ross Aragon Community Center

and the staff for putting on a lovely event. We also would like to thank Jann C. Pitcher Real Estate for bidding on our tree and for their ongoing support of your Ruby Sisson Library. We mustn't forget to thank volunteers Carol Sheets, Kristi Smith, Claire Spence, Carmelita Perez, Andrea Cox and Josie Snow for working tirelessly to create the beautiful ornaments and decorations. And, thank you to everyone who voted on our tree. Thank you Pagosa Springs!

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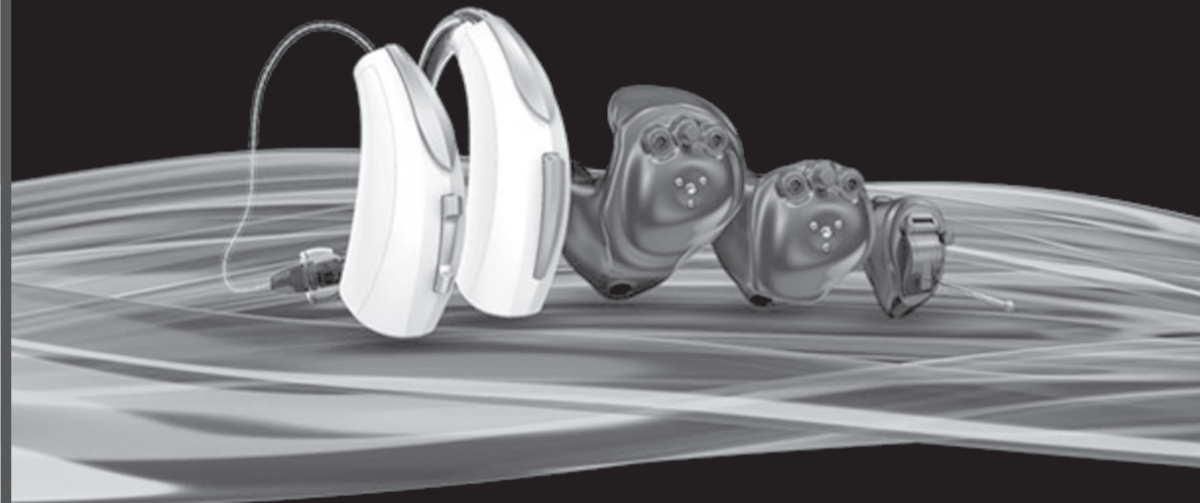
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Education

PPOS board votes in favor of student-created dress code

By Emily Murphy
Pagosa Peak Open School

Nine Pagosa Peak Open School students grades 6-8 sat on the floor in a circle. They had just spent the past three weeks learning the basics of Restorative Practices (RP): a nonpunitive, culture-building approach to handling conflict in schools. This was the first year PPOS would implement a Restorative Practice Student Board, and these nine students would be the RP pioneers.

Their RP introduction included things like restorative language, circles and mediation. Their next step was to set goals for this student board around building a restorative school. The first item on their agenda? Changing the school's

dress code in order to reflect a restorative mindset.

"The dress code felt targeted and sexist toward feminine people," eighth-grader Sarah Joy said. "Our school identifies as being progressive and restorative and we wanted the dress code to reflect that."

The group reflected on not only the PPOS dress code, but also dress codes from around the country. They studied the impact of dress codes and formed their own opinions based on this new learning. Students then created a presentation for the PPOS school board, and a revised PPOS dress code.

"Our founding vision was for the students to get involved in the governance and operations of the school to directly immerse them

into a democratic community," PPOS School Board President Ursula Hudson said. "When students are consulted about policies and are able to influence decisions that directly affect them, they become more invested in the organization because they are heard. This fosters a strong sense of place and belonging."

The PPOS school board voted to adopt the students' revised dress code on Nov. 17 and the new dress code went into effect Dec. 1. Student responses so far have been positive.

"It makes me feel more comfortable with my body," PPOS seventh-grader Annie said.

Revisions to the dress code included: violations going to the RP Student Board instead of the

school director; the prohibition of hatred and bigotry; the addition of expectations for clothing during special events like Presentations of Learning and field work days; and the removal of banning specifically identified styles of clothing (such as sweatpants, sheer clothing and skirts that go above fingertips).

"The contemplation and work that the students put into reforming the dress code will affect future students and that's the outcome of real, meaningful work," Hudson said.

To see the full version of the new dress code, visit Pagosa Peak Open School's website at <https://pagosa-peakopenschool.org> and click on the Family Handbook under "Family Resources."

Middle School first-quarter honor roll announced

By Anjelica Gallegos
Pagosa Springs Middle School

The following fifth-grade students made the first-quarter honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Rylan Ash, Charlie Barraza-Haymaker, Abigail Barreraz, Kylie Coleman, Veda Deitemeyer, Samson Dennis, Alexander Forster, Kaydence Hibbert, Quinn Howard, Derek Johnson, Brandt Kerns, Daniel Kinsley, Delaney Kirkham, Logan Lamoreaux, Paisley Lister, Ember Liverett, Brynn Looper, Morgan Lucero, Ahrianna Martinez, Raquelle Martinez, Kelsey Matyniak, Jimena Moreno Echavaria, Laken Pitcher, Bella Postolese, Alan Renteria, Aurion Richardson, Xavier Sanchez, Izabella Scarpinato, Wayde Sutherland, Taylor Swenson, Kailey Vincent, Avery White and Reilly Yates.

The following fifth-grade students made the A honor roll with a

4.0 GPA: Kian Berghoff, Avery Book, Treyson Cotts, Corinna Galabota, Ward Halterman, Lily Peck, Valeria Pereyra, Evelyn Rohwer and Lilly Taylor.

The following sixth-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Lorelei Abramson, Noah Bellina, Ethan Bracken, Lillian Buchner, Tyler Diamond, Asha Erickson, Darría Fiorenza, Allyson Firestone, Tristan Harper, Bella Jackson, Tristan Jelinek, Kasen Limebrook, Ethan Lopez, Katie Lucero, Mila Miller, Jesus Montes, Jessica Parker, Peyton Pfeiffer, Isabelle Ratcliff, Colby Ross, Liam Sherman, Leela Simpson, Audrina Smith, Anderson Talley, Nicolas Tator, Janzen Tuggle-Rapp, Liana Vega, Lotus Webb and River Wilson.

The following sixth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Avea Bruce, Riley Culligan, Reese Jenkins, Luke Reynolds, Oliver Samu, Gianna Shaeffer, Carrington Smith, Avonlea Thomas, Ellie Vining and Molly Washburn.

The following seventh-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Marlie Adams, Trinity Angle, Nile Bollig, Jackson Chaney, Victoria Currier, Nevaeh Evans, Van Halterman, Connor Kirkham, Lucille Kleckner, Asher Kurz, Braylon Landry, Aki'chita LeftHandBull, Sophie Martinez, Kiley Matyniak, Samuel Munro, Italia Pereyra, Koen Pitcher, Jaxon Postolese, Brian Rafferty, Jonathan Rodriguez, Justin Sewell, Sequoya Tsoisie, Gwendolyn Tyler and Reagan Vanatta.

The following seventh-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Isabela Forster, Parker Frame, Emma Jackson, Kelly Anne Kubelka, Kaiya Lyons, Bryant Sanchez and Peyton Yates.

The following eighth-grade students made honor roll with 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Ava Berry, Leah Blackman, Olivia Cardenas, Samuel Casaceli, Jordan Compton, Viridiana Cortez-Pina, Deaglan Denen, Benjamin Dozier, Xav-

ior Haynie, Alaura Hughes, Luke Kinsley, Mackenzie Leadingham, Yordy Lopez, Colton Lucero, Andres Martinez, Jadon Martinez, Kyleigh Martinez, Katelynn Mills, Stephen Pair, Lillian Petago, Zachary Pouyer, Vander Quinn, Isabel Romine-Vasquez, Nicolas Santille, Eric Segura-Tarango, Amberlynn Snarr, Wyatt Sutherland, Natalie Talley, Aislinn Thomas, Aidan Vega, Ethnea Williams and Brady Ziminsky.

The following eighth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Reeve Belarmino, Xyra Belarmino, Terriana Cage, Alexis Campbell, Jacob Castaneda, Izabella Castillo, Kylie Chavez, Aliyanna Davis, Milo Deitemeyer, Dylan Dempster, Faith Domingo, Hope Domingo, Jessie Elledge, Karina Hernandez, Alia Hibbert, Jenna Jenkins, Adison Johnson, Samuel Kelly, Kaila Limebrook, Kathryn Martin, Anja Nasralla, Hayden Peterson, Weston Phillips, Chance Ramirez, Heidy Renteria, Jayton Ross and Johnathon Smith.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School Scholar of the Week



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Dawson Wood is respectful, courteous and kind to others all the time. He sets a great example of being neat and organized at school. Dawson always picks up the classroom without being asked and he is a good friend who looks after others' needs.

Charter school adds new board member, hears test scores

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its meeting on Oct. 20, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) voted to add Michelle Carpenter to the board, with Carpenter then joining the board at its Nov. 17 meeting.

The board interviewed Carpenter, whose resume reflects a background in education, during a work session prior to the board's regular meeting on Oct. 20.

In discussing whether or not to appoint Carpenter to the board, board member Julie Simmons noted she was "speechless" and that Carpenter is exactly what the board is looking for, with other board members highlighting her skills and experience in education and serving on boards.

According to her resume, Carpenter holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in education administration and

policy concentration: early care and educational leadership.

The addition of a new board member was one of several items the board has dealt with this season, with the board also discussing at multiple meetings how to best move forward with finding a tenant to rent its warehouse space and its charter renewal and expansion application to the school district.

The board first discussed the warehouse on Oct. 20, when it was noted that Parelli was vacating the warehouse on Nov. 1.

Discussions since, at that meeting and meetings on Nov. 17 and 29, dealt with whether PPOS should rent the space to a for-profit venture at a commercial rate or work out a deal with an organization or organizations that could provide after-school programming for PPOS students.

On Nov. 29, the board heard from two such organizations before voting 6-1 to hand off the decision

to PPOS staff and PPOS's building corporation, which owns the building housing the school.

Board member Mark Weiler voted against the motion to hand off the decision.

The board also briefly discussed its charter renewal and expansion application again on Nov. 29 before voting unanimously to approve the draft to be submitted to Archuleta School District.

Assessment data

The PPOS board also heard preliminary assessment data for the school on Oct. 20 and Nov. 17.

On Oct. 20, School Director Angela Reali-Crossland presented the school's fall NWEA assessment data.

"We're making ... significant progress," she told the board.

According to the information provided by Reali-Crossland, PPOS's first-graders had an average ■ See School A7

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PAWSD manger provides annual report to BoCC

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs Area Water and Sanitation (PAWSD) District Manager Justin Ramsey provided an annual report for the year 2020 to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) at a work session held on Nov. 16.

According to Ramsey's report, the board will have three director positions up for election in May 2022.

Ramsey outlines in his report that the district's boundaries "have expanded significantly over the years through the process of elections and petitions for inclusion, resulting in an area that now exceeds 76 square miles for water service and 9.1 square miles for

wastewater service."

The report notes that in order to service that area, the district operates approximately more than 300 miles of water main lines and 100 miles of wastewater main lines.

The report also notes that associated infrastructure includes more than 1,200 fire hydrants, 26 wastewater lift stations, three water treatment plants, 12 treated water storage tanks, one wastewater treatment facility and five reservoirs.

Water service connections as of Dec. 31, 2020, were listed at serving a total of 6,068 properties, "which serve 7,941 equivalent units (a unit of measurement by the District to equate to the level of service necessary for one single-family home)," the report notes.

Wastewater service is provided to 3,456 properties and 4,657 equivalent units.

Additionally, the district has been treating wastewater conveyed from the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District.

The report notes there were three inclusions for water purposes and two inclusions for wastewater purposes into the district boundary during 2020.

Capital projects completed in 2020 include the replacement and up-sizing of the Put Hill water tank, which is used as a treated water storage tank, according to the report.

Ongoing projects within the district include the cleaning and televising of selected portions of the district's sewer lines.

During the work session, Ramsey mentioned that the district was able to increase its pull from the Four Mile diversion on Oct. 27 from 0.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 2 cfs.

He explained that the district is "putting as much water into Hatcher as we can."

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented about the possibility of having water lines installed in the Aspen Springs area.

Ramsey indicated that it would be big project to have those lines installed, but it is something the district could begin looking into as a project in the future.

According to the report, the 2021 annual district report will be ready by Oct. 1, 2022.

clayton@pagosasun.com

School

Continued from A6

fall RIT of 161.9 in math compared to the national norm of 157.9. In reading, first-graders scored an average of 157.6 compared to the norm of 153.8.

In math, PPOS second-graders averaged 172, compared to the norm of 173.1. In reading, they averaged 168.4, compared to the national norm of 170.3.

In math, third-graders averaged 185.5, compared to the national norm of 186.9. In reading, they averaged 184.1, compared to the norm of 184.9.

In math, fourth-graders averaged 198, compared to the norm of 198.3. In reading, they averaged 205.7, compared to the norm of 195.2.

In math, fifth-graders averaged 199.5, compared to the norm of 208.1. In reading, they averaged 194.6, compared to the norm of 203.3.

In math, sixth-graders averaged 203.5, compared to the norm of 213.8. In reading, they averaged 206, compared to the norm of 209.3.

In math, seventh-graders averaged 213.8, compared to the norm of 219.5. In reading, they averaged 215, compared to the norm of 213.5.

In math, eighth-graders averaged 214.3, compared to the norm of 224.3. In reading, they averaged

217.8, compared to 217.4.

Then, on Nov. 17, Reali-Crossland presented information on the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment.

Information presented by Reali-Crossland shows that, on the beginning-of-year assessment, 27 percent of PPOS's kindergartners, 37 percent of its first-graders, 43 percent of its second-graders and 31 percent of its third-graders were "well below benchmark."

The information further shows 20 percent of kindergartners, 31 percent of first-graders, no second-graders and 19 percent of third-graders were "below benchmark." Seven percent of kindergartners, 13 percent of first-graders, 13 percent of second-graders and 13 percent of third-graders were at benchmark.

The data provided by Reali-Crossland indicates that several students were above benchmark: 46 percent of kindergartners, 19 percent of first-graders, 44 percent of second-graders and 37 percent of third-graders.

DIBELS is completed three times a year, with Reali-Crossland noting it will be done again in January.

Other business

In other business at meetings this fall, the PPOS board:

- Heard from Reali-Crossland that the school's official enrollment number from October was 120.

- She noted the school budgeted for 133 students and would be looking at trimming the budget and would prioritize not having layoffs.

- She noted the official October count was harder this year due to quarantine, illness and the school's October break and that students gone during the count period had to be justified to be added into the school's total, which determines how much funding is received.

- Heard from Business Manager Chenni Hammon that the district would be refunding \$13,000 in administrative fees to the school that were in excess of the cap and would be saving about \$12,000 in annual expenses by using a different commercial kitchen within the community.

- Approved a resolution allowing the school to apply for multiple grants for literacy and writing

instruction, "MTSS systems and structures design and professional development," and small-group math tutoring.

- Approved the school's Unified Improvement Plan, which is then filed with the state.

According to the Colorado Department of Education's website, the Education Accountability Act of 2009 requires each Colorado district and school to create an annual improvement plan.

"The intent is that schools and districts create a single plan that has true meaning for stakeholders, ultimately reducing the total number of separate plans required," the website states.

PPOS is listed as being under a Priority Improvement Plan due to decreased participation, though the state's accountability system has been paused for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years due to COVID-19.

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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 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 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.

BoCC hears requests for body cooler, new staff and more

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Coroner's Office has been experiencing a spike in cases, according to Coroner Brandon Bishop.

Bishop made a request to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) at a work session Tuesday to consider purchasing a body cooler for the county.

"In the last three months, the coroner's office has stayed busy," Bishop said.

He noted that his office has had approximately 30 cases over the past three months.

He mentioned that the county currently has just two cooler spaces available to use, which it rents from Hood Mortuary.

Bishop also mentioned that Hood is the only mortuary in the area.

He explained that Hood advised him that the county should look into purchasing its own cooler.

He noted there is no conflict with Hood other than simply not having enough space.

"So, I think it's time for Archuleta County to have its own facility," he said.

Bishop explained that the item was not included in the department's budget proposal for next year, but with the increase in cases over the recent months, the need is becoming more apparent.

"I think that it's something that needs to be addressed," he said. "I'm just making it known that this is something we're going to have to

look at."

Bishop also mentioned that his department does not necessarily need more office space, but a body cooler is becoming a necessity.

County Attorney/Interim Administrator Todd Weaver mentioned that the county could potentially use COVID-related funding to purchase a cooler.

However, Bishop indicated that the increase in cases is not directly related to COVID.

"As far as I can tell right now, the spike that I've had in cases is not COVID-related," he said.

Bishop explained that the pathologist his department uses refuses to autopsy COVID patients.

He noted COVID patients are transported directly to Durango to be housed in a COVID-specific trailer cooler, which can hold up to 45 people.

He noted that the Durango office has also seen an increase in cases and its coolers have been staying full recently.

"It's probably time for the coroner's office to find their own cooler," Bishop added.

He noted there would be an up-front cost to the county, but over time the county would save money from not having to pay Hood to use its cooler.

"We should probably start doing something now," Commissioner Ronnie Maez said.

Maez noted that with the growth the area has been experiencing, it is important to think about needs in the future.

Bishop explained that he would like to have a six-bay cooler, which can hold up to max of seven bodies.

Commissioner Warren Brown mentioned the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office substation in Arboles could be a potential site for the cooler.

"That's definitely an option," Bishop said, noting that it needs to be a secured location.

Bishop indicated that the cooler would cost anywhere from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

Additional staff requests

Also during the work session, the BoCC heard two more staffing requests: one for the Development Services Department and one for the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Human Resource Director Tina Woodman introduced the first request, along with Development Director Pamela Flowers, for an additional code enforcement officer.

Woodman noted the county currently has two code enforcement officers.

She explained the justification for the additional officer is the increase in work in the Development Services Department.

The county recently approved a resolution providing residents with more flexibility with staying in a recreational vehicle, which Flowers noted has caused an increase in site visits for inspections and an increase in paperwork.

"They're already plenty behind on getting there paperwork done,"

Woodman added.

Flowers explained that the additional officer would allow for one person to be in the office working on paperwork at all times while the other two are in the field.

She also explained that one officer is currently out with a long-term illness and could be out for a few more weeks.

"We're basically down — there's no field operations going on right now," she said. "We're just behind in everything."

Later in the day, at a regular meeting, the BoCC voted to deny the request for an additional officer by a split vote of 2-1.

Commissioner Alvin Schaaf and Brown voted to approve a motion denying the request for an additional officer at this time. Maez voted against the motion.

"I have difficulty approving this position on such short notice, although I know ... it's probably needed," Brown said.

He explained that the county is currently dealing with multiple other funding and staffing requests which were submitted during the budget work sessions held over the past month.

Also during the work session, Woodman introduced the staffing request being made by DHS.

She explained that DHS is requesting an additional executive/legal assistant.

She noted the justification is because the current contract attorney used by DHS "has many conflicts of interests" and is unable to represent the county on a majority of cases.

DHS Director Matthew Dodson explained that DHS is in need of some administrative support along with assistance with paralegal work.

"My concern is that with workforce right now, if we don't figure out how to support the current and existing workforce by offering them some administrative support, we're going to be in a worse situation long-term," he said.

Woodman

Continued from front

then made a motion to select Woodman.

The motion passed by a split vote of 2-1 with Commissioner Alvin Schaaf and Brown voting for it, and Maez voting against.

That motion also included designating Schaaf to be the negotiator with Woodman's contract.

Woodman was one of three finalists for the position, along with Mark Garcia and Robin Young. The finalists were interviewed on Nov. 23.

"First and foremost, I'm super excited and honored that the commissioners selected me. I truly believe that I could make a positive impact on Archuleta County in total, and not just out of my position at the sheriff's office," Woodman said in a later interview.

Woodman indicated that he will be leaving his position as Archuleta County undersheriff and will likely begin his new position as county administrator on Dec. 21.

"It's a pretty quick turnaround," he added.

Woodman noted this is going to be a new experience for him, as he has spent the last 40 years in law enforcement.

"I will say, this is certainly step-

Brown indicated that he was unsure about the request due to the position's wage in comparison to the tasks that would be performed.

"I don't want to have a \$70,000 paid administrative assistant," Brown said. "I think that's a pretty well-paid administrative position ... we're trying to mix apples and oranges."

Dodson also noted that his department currently only has one certified case worker.

He noted that worker is not getting the support needed to be able to handle the workload without falling behind.

"I know we have a need; I'm just trying to figure out the best and most effective way to get that resource for you and the county," Brown added, "but it's sounding to me that it's almost you need almost a manager more so than you need legal expertise."

Later in the day at the BoCC's regular meeting, the board voted unanimously to deny the DHS request for an additional executive/legal assistant.

Schaaf mentioned during the meeting that he "couldn't possibly vote for that," given the wage being associated with the position.

Brown cited the reasons given for denying the Development Services Department's request for why he was against approving the DHS request.

Old business

On Nov. 16, the BoCC tabled its decision in regard to the approval of an agreement with the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs for animal shelter services.

The Humane Society requested an increase in contribution from the county to go up from \$50,000 annually to \$62,500 annually.

During the meeting on Dec. 7, Weaver indicated that he was directed to research the legal obligation the county has to enter into an agreement with the Humane

Society.

"This is not statutorily required; it's discretionary," he said.

Brown noted that his comments were consistent with the ones given at the Nov. 16 meeting.

He mentioned the BoCC needs "to look out for the staff of Archuleta County, first and foremost."

The Humane Society also requested to raise its impound fee from \$35 to \$40 and raise its daily housing fee from \$15 to \$20 per day.

Brown mentioned that he did not have an issue with the fee increases.

Maez concurred with Brown's comments.

The BoCC voted unanimously to approve the agreement with the Humane Society, raising the fees, less the increase in contribution to \$62,500.

Broadband funding

Also at the regular meeting held by the BoCC on Dec. 7, the board voted unanimously to approve \$100,000 for the Broadband Services Management Office.

The meeting's agenda notes, "The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) has requested \$100,000.00 from the Board of County Commissioners to help fund the Broadband Services Management Office's operations for fiscal year 2022."

The agenda also notes that this funding comes from the federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes, or PILT, program.

Weaver mentioned that this was presented earlier this year and "somehow fell through the cracks."

Maez clarified that this is funding for 2021 and should have been approved in April or May.

"If everything keeps falling into place, the way it's looking, I think eventually we may not have to fund this much every year, but it is making progress for Archuleta County," Maez said.

clayton@pagosason.com

Snow

Continued from front

afternoon, while the valleys below 7,500 feet are forecasted to receive 6 to 8 inches. Valleys above 7,500 are forecasted to receive 8 to 12 inches.

Today, Thursday, Dec. 9, temperatures are forecasted to reach a high of 30 degrees and low of 19 degrees, with snow showers mainly after 1 p.m. and south southwest wind blowing 10 to 20 mph. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches is possible during the day.

"The snow could be heavy at times," the NWS forecast notes.

For Friday, Dec. 10, the forecasted high is 22 degrees and a low of 2 degrees with snow showers likely, mainly before 11 a.m. The afternoon is forecasted to be partly sunny and breezy with a west wind of 15 to 20 mph.

For Saturday, Dec. 11, temperatures are forecasted to reach a high of 30 degrees with sunny skies and a low of 14 degrees with mostly clear skies throughout the night.

For Sunday, Dec. 12, the forecasted high is 38 degrees with sunny skies. The forecasted low is 20 degrees with mostly clear skies at night.

Additional detailed weather reports and forecasts can be found online at: pagosaweather.org.

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 4.3 inches of snow water equivalent as of 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

That amount is 49 percent of that date's median snow water equivalent.

The San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan river basins were at 31 percent of the Dec. 8 median in terms of snow pack.

That amount is down from last week's median report of 33 percent.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Manager Justin Ramsey explained in an email to The SUN that, "the little bit of snow we have gotten is certainly melting due to the warmer temps which if it continues will effect our spring runoff."

River report

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Piedra River near Arboles was flowing at a rate of 48.1 cfs as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Based on 59 years of water records at this site, the average flow rate for that date is 101 cfs.

The highest recorded rate for this date was 645 cfs in 2008, while the lowest recorded rate was 26 cfs in

1964.

According to the USGS, the San Juan River was flowing at a rate of 49.4 cfs in Pagosa Springs as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Based on 86 years of water records at this site, the lowest recorded flow rate for this date is 15 cfs, recorded in 1964.

The highest recorded rate for this date was in 2008 at 459 cfs. The average flow rate for this date is 76 cfs.

Drought report

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was last updated on Nov. 30.

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

The website also notes that 100 percent of the county is in a moderate drought. This is up from the previous report of 70.86 percent from previous report.

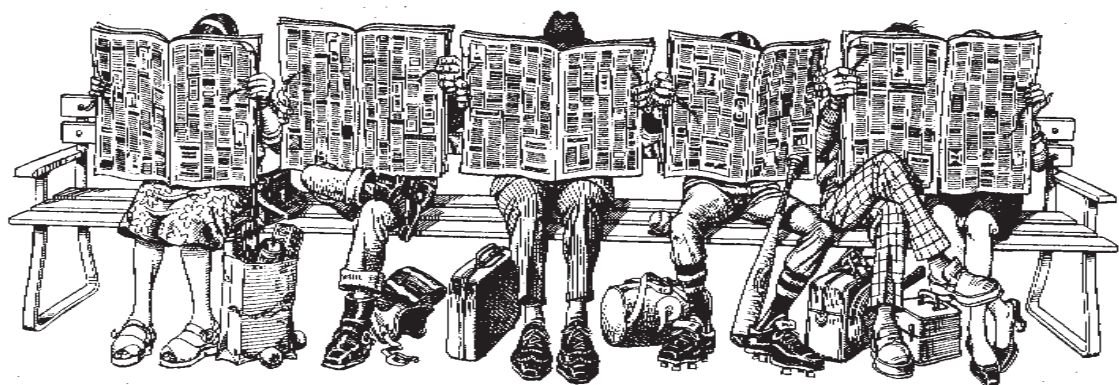
The NIDIS website also notes that 47.66 percent of the county is in a severe drought stage, consistent with the previous report.

Additionally, the NIDIS website notes that 10.33 of the county remains in an extreme drought, consistent with the previous report.

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

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Valdez

Continued from front

cer. Little did I know I would become a jack-of-all-trades and become a quick learner in air quality, employee health law, jail architecture, building specs, strategic planning, and many more. While most of this was not what I expected to be spending my time on, I am grateful for the positive outcomes that we achieved and the vast amount of experience and education I received from each situation."

In the letter, Valdez notes that leading his team "through the many ups and downs that happened during my two terms has been the leadership challenge of a lifetime."

It continues, "I can walk away knowing ACSO has a new office, new detention center, along with a professional and dedicated staff. The foundation has been set and I believe the next Sheriff will be able to bring a new perspective and hit the ground running."

"My wife and I have been thinking about this for a long time," Valdez said Wednesday, adding, "It was an extremely hard decision."

By the end of his term, he explained, his youngest will be in college.

"When I initially ran for Sheriff, I knew at that time that this would not

be the final step of my career," the letter states, adding later, "We started talking in the summer of 2020 about our future and we are strategically daydreaming/planning what we want our final 20 years in the work force to look like. We are adventurous souls and when my term is over, we are ready for the next adventure that God has in store for us."

Valdez noted Wednesday his future isn't yet determined — it may be in law enforcement, but it could also be something different.

In both the letter and the interview, Valdez counted the relationships he has made during his time as sheriff as one of his greatest accomplishments and something he will treasure.

"The culmination of being elected Sheriff two times fulfilled a dream few ever achieve. I did not do this alone. Thank you to each citizen who took a chance and voted for me, thank you to my family for standing beside me, and thank you to my staff for your continued support. I have worked extremely hard every day to make the citizens of Archuleta County proud of their Sheriff's Office," the letter states.

"Being the sheriff was an amazing opportunity," he said.

have any intention of making any significant changes within the first six months, as it'll be a learning period for him.

"It's starting over," he said. Woodman also suggested he hopes to develop new relationships within the community while continuing to enhance existing relationships as well.

The BoCC still needs to approve Woodman's contract before the position is officially filled.

Woodman indicated that he anticipates the BoCC will vote on that matter during its last regular meeting of the year, scheduled for Dec. 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the commissioner's room at 398 Lewis St.

During the meeting on Dec. 7, after the executive session, the BoCC also voted unanimously to approve the renewal of Todd Weaver's county attorney employment contract.

Weaver indicated that Human Resource Director Tina Woodman was included in the executive session only for the consideration of any documents protected by the mandatory nondisclosure provisions of the Open Records Act related to personnel issues.

clayton@pagosason.com

COVID-19: Eighth local death added, Delta surge continues

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) listed an eighth Archuleta County death among COVID-19 cases on its dashboard late last week.

SJBPH COVID-19 Public Information Officer/Communications Director Chandler Griffin reported Wednesday the death was of a middle-aged individual who was not fully vaccinated.

He noted the death is not associated with an outbreak.

According to SJBPH, Archuleta County's seven-day cumulative incidence rate was 613.4 cases per 100,000 people Wednesday — up from 306.7 a week prior.

As of Tuesday, SJBPH listed 1,968 total cases of confirmed COVID-19 among permanent Archuleta County residents since late March 2020, up from 1,892 on Dec. 1.

The agency showed Archuleta County was at 19 percent positivity Wednesday.

Griffin indicated that the continued "severe surge" caused by the Delta variant, which includes a surge in hospitalizations and deaths, has led to increased urgency for those who are eligible to receive a booster dose, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also suggesting that eligible adults should receive a booster dose.

He explained it's "never been more important" to be vaccinated and receive a booster dose, noting that Archuleta and La Plata counties are near capacity for ICU, and health care continues to be strained across Colorado.

More than 90 percent of the COVID hospitalizations in southwest Colorado, he explained, are individuals who are not fully vaccinated.

Outbreaks

There continue to be four outbreaks identified in Archuleta County.

As of Sunday, Pagosa Springs Elementary School's outbreak was up to 21 cases — 20 students and one staff member. The first case was identified on Oct. 20.

As of Monday, Pagosa Springs Middle School's outbreak remained at 10 cases — nine students and one staff member. The first case was confirmed on Nov. 2.

As of Monday, the outbreak at

Pagosa Springs High School remained at five cases — three staff members and two students. The first case was confirmed on Oct. 29.

The vast majority of the cases associated with the school outbreaks, Griffin reported, are either adults or minors who are not vaccinated.

He noted vaccination is the No. 1 thing recommended for parents with kids in school, adding that it is also recommended students mask at school, even if the district does not require it, given the current transmission levels.

Vaccinations and masks, he added, can keep kids in school following exposures.

"Parents do have a choice to send their students to school with a mask," he said.

As of Sunday, the outbreak at Pine Ridge Extended Care Center included seven cases — six 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.

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

Omicron variant

Tuesday afternoon, the state announced two cases of the Omicron, first identified in South Africa, had been discovered in Colorado through genomic sequencing, with both cases in individuals who had recently traveled.

Public health officials across the globe have been working to identify where the variant is already present, as well as key things about the variant, including its transmissibility, the severity of illness it causes, if it evades immunity derived either from infection or vaccination, and if it can outcompete the Delta variant in areas with significant transmission.

"It does appear that this is a highly transmissible variant based on the mutations and also what they've seen on the ground in South Africa and places where it's emerging," Griffin said, adding that officials are still seeing how Omicron can compete with Delta in areas with higher transmission of the Delta variant.

Griffin added that positive test

results from the region continue to be sent to the state lab for sequencing, and SJBPH will let the public know when Omicron is identified in the region and will track if it spreads locally.

Variants confirmed in the area are included on SJBPH's COVID-19 data dashboard.

Federal health officials, Griffin added, are not sounding the alarm regarding the severity of the Omicron variant, and it does not appear to be dramatically more severe than previous strains of the virus, though more data and analysis are needed before that can be determined definitively.

He added that a preliminary lab study from Pfizer that was released this week indicates that Omicron is not a variant that completely evades immunity, and Pfizer released that a booster is important, especially for preventing severe disease and hospitalization.

Vaccines, boosters continue to be available

"With our hospitals at capacity and so much transmission occurring, so much spread, you want to be in the group that has as much protection as possible," Griffin said, clarifying that means being fully vaccinated and receiving a booster dose when eligible.

All three authorized vaccine types continue to be available. Youth ages 5 through 17 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.

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 clinics.

Booster doses of all three vaccine types also continue to be available. 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).

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/>.

Monoclonal antibody treatments

SJBPH is continuing to work with

the state to increase access to monoclonal antibody treatment locally.

Conversations are continuing, Griffin explained, and it is looking "promising" that Archuleta County may see increased access to the treatment.

Previously, the treatment was only available following referral by a medical provider, but Colorado recently made it easier for residents to access monoclonal antibody treatment by allowing those who are eligible to self-schedule through the state.

Currently, Pagosa Springs Medical Center is the only provider of monoclonal antibody treatments in Archuleta County, according to the state's COVID-19 website.

A mobile unit administering monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is located in La Plata County until Dec. 11.

"CDPHE's mobile unit will provide monoclonal antibody treatment to individuals who are eligible," a recent SJBPH press release states. "You might be eligible if you have tested positive for COVID-19, your symptoms started within the last 10 days, you aren't hospitalized or on oxygen due to COVID-19, and you are at risk of getting very sick without treatment. Eligibility for treatment is for people 12 years of age or older. Monoclonal antibody treatments have been shown to be effective at preventing hospitalizations among individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and are considered high risk for severe illness."

More information about monoclonal antibody treatments, eligibility and the CDPHE's mobile units is available at: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/covid-19-treatments>.

Questions about the mobile unit or monoclonal antibody treatments should be directed to the CDPHE by calling 1-877-COVAXCO (1-877-268-2926).

The state's mobile unit is set to be at the La Plata County Fairgrounds, located at 2500 Main Ave. in Durango, until Dec. 11, with the site operating from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day except Sunday.

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 9

Airport Advisory Commission meeting. 8:30 a.m., Nick's Hangar, 777 County Road 600.

San Juan Basin Public Health Board of Health meeting. 9 a.m. Zoom meeting. For more information, visit: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/>.

Tracks Across Borders Byway Commission (TABB) meeting. 10 a.m., Sisson Library, 811 San Juan St.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District regular meeting. 5 p.m., 100 Lyn Ave., or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86914039929?pwd=ZFAvdjY0NFF4cDR2VnphNlZRIlZSdz09#success>, meeting ID: 869 1403 9929, password: 389372.

Town of Pagosa Springs Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. 5:30 p.m. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Monday, Dec. 13

CSU Advisory Board meeting. 11:30 a.m., CSU Extension of-

rice, 344 U.S. 84.
San Juan Water Conservancy District regular meeting. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Ste. 5.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

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=dIFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agenda-center>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners budget hearing. 10 a.m. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dIFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agenda-center>.

Archuleta County Republican Women's meeting. Noon, CSU

Extension office, 344 U.S. 84.
Town Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Review Board meeting and work session. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. or via Zoom. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Upper San Juan Health Service District special meeting. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd., or Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85395501309>, meeting ID: 853 9550 1309.

Archuleta School District Board of Education regular meeting. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School Library, 309 Lewis St.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee meeting. Noon, The Den Restaurant, 729 San Juan St.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation work session. 4 p.m., Chamber of Commerce conference room, 105 Hot Springs Blvd.

Pagosa Peak Open School board meeting. 5 p.m., 7 Parelli Way.

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Sports

BASKETBALL

Pirates nab two wins at Wolf Creek Classic

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team picked up a pair of wins at last week's Wolf Creek Classic, leaving the team with a 2-1 record so far on the season.

The wins included a narrow victory against Buena Vista and a 38-point win over Lamar.

"Obviously it's always nice to be able to win a close one. We've been in several of them between last year and the early going of this year," coach Wes Lewis said. "It's nice to be able to find a way to win a close one."

The Pirates faced the "quality" Buena Vista Demons on Friday, Dec. 3.

"We didn't start the game well," Lewis said of the Pirates' 10-point deficit by the end of the first quarter, when Lamar held a 14-4 lead. "But I was proud that they found a way to dig themselves out of it in the second quarter."

The Pirates outscored the Demons 12-6 in the second quarter to leave Lamar with a 20-16 halftime lead.

"We missed some easy shots, we had some turnovers, and that kind of plagued us in the first quarter," he said. "It was much better in the last three quarters."

Pagosa was able to outscore Buena Vista in the second half, including 13-8 in the third and 11-10 in the fourth to walk away with the 40-38 win.

"We didn't shoot free throws very good on the whole, but we hit some free throws down the stretch when we had to to kind of secure the win," the coach said.

He added that while the team's defense isn't perfect, it was good in the game and the team's defensive rotations are getting better.

"I think our defense is coming along. I think our press continues to frustrate people," Lewis said. "It doesn't always get a steal, but I think it's pressure, a lot of pressure throughout the course of a game wears on kids and I think being able to apply that kind of pressure for 32 minutes is a strength of ours right now."

Gunner Dozier led the team with 12 points in the game, which included two 3-pointers. He also had five rebounds, one assist and two steals.

Breck Wilson added nine points to the team's total, as well as three rebounds and two steals.

Kayson Shahan logged six points, three rebounds, one assist and a steal.

Logan Harper had five points, two rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Colt Lewis and Joseph Lord each scored three points, both on 3-pointers. Colt Lewis also had three rebounds, five assists and two steals.

Lord had one rebound and one assist.

Blake Laner added two points four rebounds and a steal.

Chase Harper had one steal on the night.

Pagosa made six of 15 free-throw attempts and turned the ball over 18 times.

Wes Lewis noted Buena Vista went on to beat DSST: Green Valley Ranch and will likely win a lot of games this year.

"I think it prepares you for adversity," Lewis said of playing close games early in the season. "Every-



Pirate Kayson Shahan fights for a rebound against Buena Vista players. Shahan had three rebounds in the 67-29 win.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

time you go into a basketball game ... with two fairly even opponents you're going to have a lot of adversity. Every possession's going to matter, those extra free throws, having the ability to get the defensive rebound to end their offensive possession."

The next day, the Pirates took on the Lamar Savages and walked away with a 67-29 win.

"I thought we had a chance to be successful against Lamar. I didn't see that lopsided of a victory," the coach said.

Pagosa outscored Lamar in all four quarters: 20-8, 15-4, 17-7 and 15-10.

"Our press again was good, our pressure was good, our rotation's out of the zone were good, they had a hard time finding and getting open looks," Wes Lewis said. "I thought we rebounded the basketball pretty well, limited them to, for the most part, one and done, and we got out and got some good transition baskets, kind of made it easier going ... And

then we shot the ball pretty well from the field."

He added the Pirates also did well in their traps and anticipating where the ball would go.

"I thought it was a good effort all the way around," he said.

Dozier racked up 25 points, including five 3-pointers in the game. He also had three assists and six steals.

Shahan scored 10 in the game, and had five rebounds and three steals.

Colt Lewis notched eight points, which included two 3-pointers, as well as three rebounds, five assists and two steals.

Chase Harper scored seven, including a 3-pointer, and had a rebound and a steal.

Wilson contributed six to the team's total score, and led the team with 11 rebounds. He also had one steal.

Laner scored five, and had three rebounds and two steals.

Lord had four points and an assist.

Aaron Aucoin scored two, and had one rebound, one assist and a steal.

Logan Harper contributed a rebound, four assists and a steal.

Pagosa made nine of 17 free-throw attempts in the game and turned the ball over 13 times.

This week, the Pirates will take on the Gunnison Cowboys Friday night at 6:30 p.m. and the Salida Spartans Saturday at 10 a.m. as part of the Buena Vista Tournament.

Gunnison is 1-2 on the season, and Salida is 0-1 on the season.

"Although I feel like things look pretty decent, there's always room for improvement," the coach said, explaining the team will work to recreate some of the situations they didn't do well covering, will continue to work on free throws and will continue to work on its press and defensive rotations this week.

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WRESTLING

Pirates start season with win over Bayfield

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team opened its season on Friday, Dec. 3, with a victory in a dual against the Bayfield Wolverines.

The Pirates traveled to Bayfield for the match and won by a team score of 54-30.

"It was a good start to things," coach Dan Janowsky said.

The Pirates earned 30 team points from forfeits by the Wolverines in the 120-pound, 145-pound, 182-pound, 195-pound and 220-pound weight classes.

Janowsky mentioned he would've liked to have had opponents for those weight classes to give more Pirates the chance to wrestle.

"That's just the way it goes sometimes," he said, noting that can happen at the start of the season.

The Pirates earned four wins and five losses in the remaining weight classes.

"We wrestled fairly well," Janowsky added, also noting the junior varsity team performed well.

Janowsky highlighted Kaden McKee's performance in the 270-pound weight class.

"He got a big win for us there,"

Janowsky said.

McKee was able to pin his opponent four minutes and 38 seconds into the match, earning six team points.

Janowsky also highlighted Anthony Manzanara with his victory in the 106-pound weight class, which earned six team points.

"It gives us a chance to see some of the bigger Denver schools."

Coach Dan Janowsky

Manzanara was able to pin his opponent three minutes and 25 seconds into the match.

"Both of them wrestled really well," Janowsky added. "They locked up the dual for us right then and there."

Janowsky went on to highlight Luke Tressler, who won his match in the 126-pound weight class by pinning his opponent two minutes and 12 seconds into the match, earning six team points.

"He did really well," Janowsky said.

He also mentioned that Tressler

has been putting in a lot of time in training.

Janowsky praised Griffin Bower, freshman, saying, "He flashed some pretty good technique, as well."

Bower wrestled in the 132-pound weight class and was able to pin his opponent just 42 seconds into the match, earning six points for the Pirates.

Michael Thomas was defeated by his opponent in the 113-pound weight class by getting pinned two minutes and 53 seconds into the match, giving six team points to the Wolverines.

Taylor Hancey was pinned by his opponent in the 120-pound weight class two minutes and 43 seconds into the match, giving up six team points.

Chandler Mazur was pinned by his opponent in the 138-pound weight class one minute and 31 seconds into the match, giving up six team points.

Jacob Miller was defeated by his opponent in the 152-pound weight class by getting pinned 37 seconds into the match, giving up six team points.

David Morehouse lost to his opponent in the 170-pound weight class by getting pinned three minutes and six seconds into the match, giving up six team points.

Janowsky mentioned that, all in

all, the team had "very high spirits after the dual."

He also mentioned the team put in a good practice on Saturday morning, noting that the "kids came in ready to go and worked hard."

Janowsky explained that the Pirates will be working on improving some of their skills and basic motions during the first half of the season and then look to incorporate more conditioning as the year goes on.

"That's kind of the way it works in the early season," Janowsky said.

The Pirates will continue their season this weekend at the Columbine Wrestling Invitational being held at Columbine High School on Saturday, Dec. 11, with action starting at 9 a.m.

Janowsky explained the tournament will feature teams the Pirates don't usually get to compete against.

"It gives us a chance to see some of the bigger Denver schools," he said, adding that multiple 3A schools from the northern plains will be competing in the tournament as well. "So, that's fun."

Teams at the tournament will include Arapahoe, Bear Creek, Columbine, Denver South, Heritage, Highlands Ranch, Horizon, Legacy, Lutheran, Mountain Range, Platte Canyon, Rock Canyon, Sheridan, Sierra, Sterling, Thomas Jefferson and Weld Central.

clayton@pagosahun.com

SWIM

Lady Pirates hopeful despite training obstacles

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team is set to start its season this weekend with a meet in Farmington, N.M.

The Pirates will travel to Farmington to compete on Saturday, Dec. 11, at Farmington High School, with action starting at 10:30 a.m.

The Pirates have 13 swimmers on this year's roster, with three seniors leading the team.

Those three seniors are Nell Taylor, Lexie Valdez and Molly Bishop.

Coach Heather Miller shares in an email to The SUN that the team has been dealing with some adversity in preparation for the season, but is hopeful for a successful year.

"We are really hoping to return to state with a couple individuals and a relay or two," Miller wrote, "but that has been made more difficult without a local pool to train in."

She explains that the team has been unable to use the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) Recreation Center's pool due to repairs currently being made.

"We are having to train 2 days a week in Durango due to the PLPOA pool being repaired and no other facility allowing us to swim," she wrote.

She mentioned the team has been trying new ways of training due to the lack of practice time actually in a pool.

"Practice has been quite unusual this year: we are trying lots of new things because of our swimming limitations," Miller wrote.

She explains the team has been incorporating a variety of strength and conditioning, along with yoga.

"We are practicing yoga on Mondays, swimming in Durango on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and doing a variety of strength and cardio training on Wednesdays," she wrote.

"We are really hoping to return to state with a couple individuals and a relay or two, but that has been made more difficult without a local pool to train in."

Coach Heather Miller

Miller also mentions the team has been working on solidifying the "basics" and the team's anticipations for the start of the season, given the lack of pool time.

"We have been working on the basics, and I think we have a solid base but still have a lot to work on, especially with just a few practices in the water," she wrote.

Miller notes that the team will

likely experience some early-season "jitters," but she is confident in the team's veteran leaders to navigate the team through those early-season hiccups.

"We anticipate typical first meet jitters and nervousness but know our swimmers will work through that and rise to the occasion. We also have great veteran leadership and their poise under pressure will certainly demonstrate to our novice swimmers how to succeed in a meet situation," Miller wrote.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of Wednesday, Dec. 8, but is subject to change.

The Pirates will continue their season the following weekend on Saturday, Dec. 18, competing in the Montrose Meet at Montrose High School, with action starting at 9:30 a.m.

On Jan. 8, 2022, the Pirates will travel to Montrose again to compete in another Montrose meet, with action starting at 9:30 a.m.

On Jan. 19, 2022, the Pirates will travel to Salida to compete in the Salida Swim Meet at Salida High School. The meet is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

On Jan. 21, 2022, the team will head to Delta for a meet that is set to begin at 4:30 p.m.

On Jan. 28, 2022, the Pirates will be competing in the Durango Meet being held at Durango High School. Start times have yet to be determined.

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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates move to 3-0, face 'big week'

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team improved to a 3-0 record on the season after outscoring its opponents 121-32 at last week's Wolf Creek Classic.

On Friday evening, the Lady Pirates faced the DSST: Green Valley Ranch Raptors and wrapped up the contest with a 68-8 victory.

Pagosa limited the Raptors to two points in the first half, which came on a first-quarter layup, and six points in the second half, which came on a pair of 3-pointers in the third quarter.

The Lady Pirates tallied 22 in the first, 17 in the second, 17 in the third and 12 in the fourth.

"It's tough," coach Charles Rand said of balancing sportsmanship while continuing to work and improve. "We started out doing what we do, pressing, but then midway of the first quarter there we stopped pressing."

At that point, the team transitioned to man-to-man defense, and in the second half played a two-three zone to work on it.

He noted that the intent wasn't to run up the score, but "we need to do what we need to do. ... I can't tell my kids to stop shooting."

"Second game of the season, we gotta get better, because they're not going to be in a round of 32, and we plan on being in the round of 32, so we've gotta just push ourselves — sprint the floor for your teams, just do all of the little things that's going to make us better against a better team."

Coach Charles Rand

Rand noted he told the players at halftime they weren't playing against the other team; they were playing against themselves and should push themselves to get better.

"Second game of the season, we gotta get better, because they're not going to be in a round of 32, and we plan on being in the round of 32, so we've gotta just push ourselves — sprint the floor for your teams, just do all of the little things that's going to make us better against a better team," he said, pointing out the Pirates are a young team this year.

Rand explained the team shared the ball "quite well" and its man-to-man defense was "up to par" in the game.

Three Lady Pirates logged double-digit point totals in the game: Karsyn Shahan, Elizabeth Currier and Trista Tully.

Shahan led the way with 18 points, which included a pair of 3-pointers. She also had a rebound, a block and three steals.

Currier followed with 17 points, which included one 3-pointer, as well as a rebound, six assists, a block and nine steals.

Trista Tully put up 12 points, and tallied eight rebounds and two assists.

Annie O'Donnell tallied eight points, three rebounds, two assists and three steals in the game.

Kori Lucero had seven points, which included a 3-pointer, five rebounds, three assists, a block and a steal.

Jordan Lindstrom had four

points and eight rebounds.

Chantelle Caldwell added two points, eight rebounds, four assists and three steals.

Lucy Taylor contributed two rebounds and a steal, and Kylie Ketchum and Daveyann Snarr each had one rebound.

"Everybody wants to score, which is good to see," Rand said.

Pagosa made two of four free-throw attempts in the game and turned the ball over 13 times, which Rand noted was too high in a game like that.

"We're young, we're going to get better," he said. "I don't think we're no where near our potential right now; we're still making mistakes."

The next day, the Lady Pirates faced the DSST: Byers Falcons, walking away with another win.

The Lady Pirates jumped to a commanding lead early in the game, ending the first quarter with a 22-9 lead.

"I thought our intensity, how we started the game was really good. I mean, we were ready to play, so I was really proud of the kids that way, because they were ready to play."

The Pirates added another 10 points in the second quarter while limiting the Falcons to seven, giving the home team a 32-16 lead at halftime.

The Lady Pirates continued to build on their lead in the second half, outscoring DSST: Byers 8-5 in the third and 13-3 in the fourth to put a 53-24 win in the books.

"They're big," Rand said of the Falcons' height. "And because we're so small, it makes them even look bigger. ... They made some shots."

Rand noted the Falcons' height also allowed them to block Pagosa's shots.

"You can't do anything about that," he said, commending the Falcons on their blocks. "They're just big, and they're better than you think they are, too. ... I think they're a decent team because of their size."

The coach also suggested the Lady Pirates played "fearless" and attacked in the first half, with Pagosa's defense helping to keep the team in the game.

Pagosa had two players with double-digit points against the Falcons: Currier and Shahan.

Currier put up 20 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. She also had five rebounds, five assists, two blocks and four steals.

Shahan had 12 points, which included three 3-pointers. She also contributed two rebounds, two assists, one block and four steals.

Tully followed with eight points, six rebounds, one assist and four steals.

Caldwell and O'Donnell each had four points. Caldwell also tallied three rebounds, six assists and four steals. O'Donnell also contributed two rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Lindstrom logged three points.

Lucero had two points, three rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Daveyann Snarr also had an assist.

Pagosa made six of 20 free-throw attempts and turned the ball over 18 times.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce
Lady Pirate Elizabeth Currier puts up a layup in Pagosa's 68-8 victory over DSST: Green Valley Ranch on Dec. 3. Currier scored 17 points in the game.

This week, the Pirates will head to Buena Vista for more tournament play Friday and Saturday.

"It's a big week for us," Rand said, explaining the team will play Grand Valley at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and Salida at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

"Grand Valley got a lot of kids back," Rand said, reminding that the Cardinals beat the Lady Pirates at home in regional action last season. Grand Valley is 3-1 on the season, and Salida is 1-0.

"We've just got to be mentally ready to go," he said, adding that it will be a big week for the program and its standing in the state. "We just have to ... have a good showing up there."

randi@pagosasun.com

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on edge

State mental health safety net is “failing” Coloradans Will planned reforms fix or further the problems?

This investigation is part of the ongoing “On Edge” series about Colorado’s mental health by the Colorado News Collaborative, the nonprofit that unites more than 160 communities and news outlets like ours to ensure quality news for all Coloradans. The series title reflects a state that has the nation’s highest rate of adult mental illness and lowest access to care, and the fact that state government is on the edge of either turning around its behavioral health care system or simply reorganizing a bureaucracy that is failing too many Coloradans.

By Susan Greene
Colorado News Collaborative

Matt Vinnola lay curled up on a downtown sidewalk one Sunday in September, his eyes as blank as those of the stuffed lamb he was using as a pillow. The former honors student and youth Taekwondo champion seemed too out of it to shoo a fly off his lip or realize he was peeing through his shorts onto the concrete. If he noticed the woman offering Wet Wipes or the man trying to hand him a \$5 bill, he showed no interest.

“Tell them, just tell them I don’t need help so stop it,” he grumbled to no one in plain sight.

The voices in Vinnola’s head whisper and yell. They can be so loud, so constant, he figures everyone can hear them. Chronic paranoid schizophrenia and an addiction to shooting up whatever he can find to still the voices have landed the 29-year-old Denverite in emergency rooms, psychiatric wards and jails so many times that his mother stopped counting.

Crisis after crisis, Janet van der Laak had to push the Mental Health Center of Denver to provide care for her son instead of finding reasons to deny it. Each time the center dropped him from treatment, Vinnola lost more faith in seeking help. And the more faith he lost, the harder his mother pressed because he was free-falling and she alone could not catch him.

“What kind of safety-net system blows off the hardest cases?” van der Laak once wrote in a note to herself. “Giving up on Matt, giving up on anyone in crisis should not be an option.”

As part of our ongoing “On Edge” coverage of mental health statewide, the Colorado News Collaborative has spent six months investigating a state behavioral health system that turns away some of the most vulnerable and at-risk Coloradans in crisis, with no recourse from state officials. We zeroed in on the 17 community mental health centers that are paid more than \$437 million a year in tax dollars to serve as the core of Colorado’s safety net.

We learned that Colorado, the state with the nation’s highest rate of adult mental illness and lowest access to care, has been giving those centers non-compete contracts and a privileged rate status for nearly 60 years, without meaningful oversight. Our investigation shows that the



Matt Vinnola and his mom, Janet van der Laak. She fought for years trying to prod the Mental Health Center of Denver to treat him rather than refuse him care. (Photo by LJ Dawson)

centers — most now facing workforce shortages — collectively have treated fewer clients during the pandemic than before it, despite skyrocketing mental health needs. At the same time, more than half the centers have been sitting on liquid reserves of \$10 million or more. Denver’s center kept more than \$40 million in liquid reserves while its clients faced record-long wait times for care.

COLab also found that, starting long before the pandemic:

- The state’s payment system inadvertently created a financial incentive for the centers to take on fewer ill people and charge higher costs, while also protecting them from competition.
- The centers have been charging taxpayers up to 17 times more than independent Medicaid providers for the same services, but with little transparency about the expenses those rates are based on.
- Several centers, including those in communities with sizable immigrant populations, have had no Spanish-speaking care providers.
- Some centers have been paid for programs they’ve not provided, with no pushback from the state agencies funding — and charged with regulating — them.

We learned that some of these and other questionable practices stem from a long record by the centers’ powerful trade association of pressuring the state to avoid reforms that would ensure greater transparency and accountability.

Even now, as Gov. Jared Polis’ administration is poised to launch a new cabinet-level department to carry out those reforms, we’ve found

that state government, at the urging of the trade group, is backpedaling. Months before the new Behavioral Health Administration even launches in July, state officials already have ruled out key ways of regulating the centers more closely. They also have all but scrapped what was supposed to be a top safety-net priority for the new department: stepping in when the centers fail clients like Vinnola and trying to catch them before they hit bottom.

Colorado’s ‘safety net’

The community mental health movement took root in the 1960s, when President John Kennedy called to deinstitutionalize people with mental illnesses. Private nonprofits popped up around Colorado to offer the mental health services — and, eventually, addiction counseling — needed to keep people out of hospitals and in their communities. Those organizations eventually became the 17 regional community mental health centers (CMHCs) the state has relied on for more than a half century to treat Coloradans who are indigent, on Medicaid or under-insured and can’t pay for private treatment, and to stabilize people in crisis. They are each contracted to provide inpatient hospitalization, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient psychiatric care, counseling and other forms of assistance to residents of the counties they’re responsible for serving.

The centers have helped generations of people throughout Colorado, especially those with less complex mental health needs. According to the state, they collectively served 158,911 clients in the fiscal year end-

ing in June.

“Colorado is lucky to have the system it has built with such a strong network of CMHCs,” Doyle Forrestal, CEO of the centers’ trade group, the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, wrote in an email.

Still, we found vast disparities in the quality and speed of the centers’ services.

Last summer, a Greeley resident with severe depression could see a psychiatrist within a few weeks of calling the center there, but someone just as depressed in Rio Blanco or Moffat counties had to wait nine or 11 months, respectively, for the same kind of appointment, if Mind Springs Health — the center serving those counties — agreed to schedule one at all.

Multiple sources say at least four of the centers are providing addiction counseling by staffers who aren’t certified to counsel addicts. We spoke with people who either work in or with three centers that rely on clinicians with no pediatric training to prescribe medications to kids. Clients of four centers told us their clinics are so slow to renew prescriptions that they tailspin biochemically as they wait. And we found centers serving six communities with high immigrant populations that have no bilingual clinicians, leaving Spanish and other non-English speakers virtually iced out of care.

Annie Diaz, of Cortez, treated about 80 clients as a counselor for Axis Health System — so many she said she struggled to remember their names and problems.

“I did the best that I could under the best circumstances, but it wasn’t my best and it wasn’t good enough,” she said.

Some centers’ staffers describe pressure to drop their toughest cases.

A former case manager at Mind Springs in Summit County said administrators made her stop treating an acutely ill client earlier this year because he made inappropriate racial comments. She said she objected because she knew he had no other support system, but complied for fear of losing her job.

The client ended his life shortly after.

“I blame myself for that every single day,” said the case manager, who quit right after his suicide. She asked to remain anonymous for fear the client’s death would hurt her career.

Mind Springs cited privacy reasons for refusing to discuss the case.

Emma Harmon, a single mom and Medicaid recipient in Durango, called Axis Health System when she was so depressed she was thinking about suicide several times an hour. She said the center made her wait six weeks for an intake appointment, then three more to meet with someone for a treatment plan. She asked to see a psychiatrist in the meantime, but was told he was busy. Her mother took her to the hospital, which released her because she hadn’t actually hurt herself.

Axis’ spokeswoman would not comment on Harmon’s case.

■ See On Edge A14

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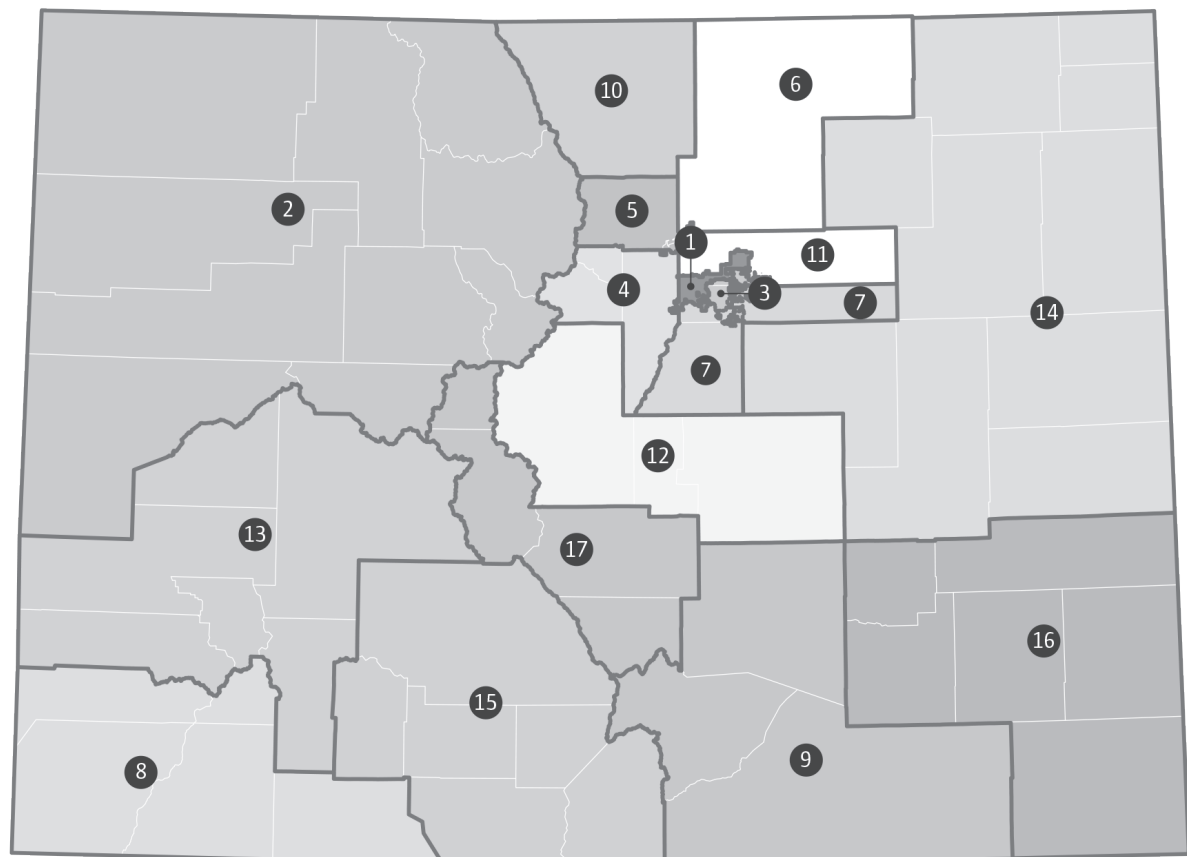
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Colorado's mental health safety-net system: A wide range in rates

The map shows the coverage areas of the state's 17 regional community mental health centers. The table shows what each center charges the state for Medicaid reimbursement versus what an independent clinician is reimbursed by Medicaid for the same service, as well as how much in liquid-asset reserves each center had on-hand and how much the CEO of each made last fiscal year.

AMOUNT MENTAL HEALTH CENTER CHARGES STATE OF COLORADO FOR SERVICES

	Lowest	Highest	Liquid assets on hand last fiscal year	CEO compensation	Amount Medicaid reimburses center for an hour of crisis intervention	Amount Medicaid would pay independent provider for an hour of crisis intervention	Amount Medicaid reimburses center for an hour of counseling	Amount Medicaid would pay independent provider for an hour of counseling
1			\$41,326,675	\$819,340	\$818.20	\$47.52	\$592.03	\$91.08
2			\$21,612,135	\$312,331	\$536.97	\$47.52	\$388.54	\$91.08
3			\$20,894,924	\$312,612	\$530.18	\$47.52	\$383.63	\$91.08
4			\$19,985,204	\$289,810	\$424.89	\$47.52	\$307.44	\$91.08
5			\$17,354,816	\$210,456	\$578.15	\$47.52	\$418.34	\$91.08
6			\$16,694,984	\$173,861	\$315.18	\$47.52	\$228.05	\$91.08
7			\$16,305,451	\$376,791	\$465.78	\$47.52	\$337.03	\$91.08
8			\$12,287,414	\$314,954	\$440.78	\$47.52	\$318.94	\$91.08
9			\$11,592,987	\$330,241	\$548.68	\$47.52	\$397.01	\$91.08
10			\$10,788,329	\$273,256	\$492.39	\$47.52	\$356.28	\$91.08
11			\$9,960,960	\$434,920	\$321.03	\$47.52	\$232.29	\$91.08
12			\$7,872,840	\$242,995	\$379.82	\$47.52	\$274.83	\$91.08
13			\$7,366,053	\$212,981	\$491.66	\$47.52	\$355.75	\$91.08
14			\$7,162,587	\$181,984	\$447.92	\$47.52	\$324.10	\$91.08
15			\$6,811,341	\$209,795	\$501.45	\$47.52	\$362.84	\$91.08
16			\$4,782,866	\$203,080	\$614.61	\$47.52	\$444.72	\$91.08
17			\$1,654,930	\$223,327	\$553.20	\$47.52	\$400.29	\$91.08



Sources: Audited financial statements submitted to Colorado's Office of Behavioral Health, adjusted cost reports submitted to Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Form 990 financial disclosures submitted to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Colorado Medicaid Fee for Service Rate Schedule

Kevin Hamm, The Denver Post

On Edge

Continued from A13

"I was on the brink of death — so, so close to killing myself, and they said, 'You're fine,' and never followed up with me," Harmon said. "The way things seem to work there, you'd actually have to have killed yourself before they'd meet with you."



Emma Harmon, of Durango, with journals she has kept about her mental health challenges. She said Axis Health System would not help her when in crisis. "The way things seem to work there, you'd actually have to have killed yourself before they'd meet with you," she said. (Photo by Jerry McBride/Durango Herald)

A rainy day

Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, the centers' trade group, represents them in negotiations with Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, which provides about two-thirds of their public funding through Medicaid, and with the Office of Behavioral Health, which provides approximately the remaining third through a complex web involving 18 state agencies and more than 75 programs. The state has handed the centers decades of automatic contract renewals despite long-standing local concerns about their services.

Commissioners in most of Colorado's 64 counties have over the years complained that their law enforcement and human service officials end up handling mental health crises when the centers fail to do so. Parents raise their hands at support group meetings to describe the desperation of having to send teenagers experiencing psychotic breaks across the state because there were no adolescent psychiatric beds open near them. Some people with severe depression are limited to two or three therapy appointments, but prescribed drugs indefinitely, with little follow-up.

State mental health officials have long been aware of these and other

problems. "The centers and the state have been failing people," said Robert Wertheim, director of the Office of Behavioral Health, which will morph into the Behavioral Health Administration when the new department launches in July.

The Council — whose members pay an average \$66,000 in dues annually — has, in the meantime, spent years lobbying and litigating to limit the number of independent contractors the state authorizes to receive Medicaid dollars.

"The centers pretty much have a corner on their local markets and don't want competition," said Byron Pelton, a Logan County commissioner and member of the state task force aiming to increase access to behavioral health care.

The Council also has pushed to preserve its members' favored Medicaid reimbursement rate status with the state. The Mental Health Center of Denver receives \$592 in Medicaid reimbursement for an hour of counseling, for example, compared to the \$91 Medicaid pays an independent clinician for the same service. And the Denver center receives \$818 for

an hour of crisis intervention compared to the \$47.50 an hour paid the private provider.

Those reimbursement rates are based on a formula — developed by the centers' trade group in conjunction with the state — that divides a center's overall expenses for any given year by the total number of ser-

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Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2021-002

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On September 3, 2021, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records. Original Grantor(s) Genev M Rodriguez Original Beneficiary(ies) Security Service Federal Credit Union Current Holder of Evidence of Debt Security Service Federal Credit Union Date of Deed of Trust May 01, 2017 County of Recording Archuleta Recording Date of Deed of Trust May 15, 2017 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 21702779

Original Principal Amount \$28,000.00 Outstanding Principal Balance \$24,516.16 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof. **THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. LOT 22, BLOCK 2, PAGOSA IN THE PINES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED MARCH 13, 1970 AS RECEPTION NOS. 73014 THRU 73027, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO.** Also known by plat numbers as: 141 Pines Club Pl, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. **THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**

NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
"HEREFORE, Notice is hereby given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 01/06/2022, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication 11/11/2021
Last Publication 12/9/2021
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
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DATE: 09/03/2021
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: /s/ Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Ilene Dell'Acqua #31755 McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369-6122 Attorney File # CO-21-893705-LL
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
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Published November 11, 18, 25, December 2 and 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

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Telephone: (303) 645-6600
Plaintiff: LOTUS FIDUCIARY SERVICES, INC., AS TRUSTEE OF THE MARILYN E. OLEN TRUST, v. Defendant: DOROTHY S. ALEXANDER and JACK B. ALEXANDER
Attorneys for Plaintiff, Lotus Fiduciary Services, Inc., as Trustee of the Marilyn E. Olen Trust:
Alison E. Zinn, #36365
Lathrop GPM, LLP
1515 Wynkoop Street, Suite 600
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Telephone: (720) 931-3200
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Case No.: 2021CV30060
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Dated: November 17, 2021.
Published In: The Pagosa Springs Sun
First Publication: November 25, 2021
Last Publication: December 23, 2021
Note: This Summons is issued pursuant to C.R.C.P. 4(g).
LATHROP GPM LLP
s/ Alison E. Zinn
Alison E. Zinn, #36365
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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Case No. 2021PR7
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before March 25, 2022, or the claims may be forever barred.
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Personal Representative
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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published November 25, December 2 and 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District (PPMID) Board of Directors for the calendar year 2022. The proposed budget is available for public inspection at 55 MILTON LANE, ARBOLES, CO. Copies are also available upon request by email at PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or phone at (970 749-5968). The proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the PPMID board of directors to be held on December 14, 2021 at 55 Milton Lane, Arboles, Colorado at 6 PM.
Any interested party may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto in writing at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Any objections may be submitted to the PPMID Board of Directors by email PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or letter P.O. Box 1609 Arboles, CO 81121.
Published November 25, December 2 and 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

DISTRICT COURT , ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 449 San Juan Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: JOHN L. JAYCOX and LINDA S. JAYCOX v. Defendants: MERLE C. FELLER, MIRIAM FELLER, and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.
Attorney for Plaintiff
David B. Kirkpatrick, Reg No. 36964
Archuleta County, Colorado, CO 81302
Phone: 970-247-0269
Email: david@kirkpatricklegal.com
Case Number: 2021-CV-30074
Division Courtroom

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Plaintiff filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons will be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
A parcel of land in Tract No. 3 of PIEDRA PARK SUBDIVISION NO. 2A, according to the plat thereof filed for record January 23, 1961 as Reception No. 60166, Archuleta County, Colorado, being more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING at a point where the centerline of Pine Crest would intersect with the East line of Run Around Road; Thence South 88° 07' East, 90.35 feet;
" South 44° 28' East, 200 feet, to Colorado Highway No. 151 (formerly 172) right-of-way;
" 175 feet in a Southwesterly direction along said right-of-way on a 04° 30' curve to the right;
" North 39° 04' West, 234.5 feet, to a point on the East line of Run Around Road;
" 59.49 feet in a Northerly direction in a 67.17 foot radius curve to a point 50 feet South of the point of beginning;
" North 00° 05' East, 50 feet along the East line of Run

Around Road to the point of beginning.
Dated: 11/23/2021
/s/ David B. Kirkpatrick
David B. Kirkpatrick 36964
Attorney for Plaintiff
Published in the PAGOSA SUN
First Publication: December 2, 2021.
Last Publication: December 30, 2021.
Published December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 449 San Juan Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: JOHN L. JAYCOX and LINDA S. JAYCOX v. Defendants: H.L. MORELAND, and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.
Attorney for Plaintiff
David B. Kirkpatrick, Reg No. 36964
PO Box 2747 Durango, CO 81302
Phone: 970-247-0269
Email: david@kirkpatricklegal.com
Case Number: 2021-CV-30073
Division Courtroom

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Plaintiff filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons will be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
A parcel of land in Tract No. 3 of PIEDRA PARK SUBDIVISION NO. 2A, according to the plat thereof filed for record January 23, 1961 as Reception No. 60166, Archuleta County, Colorado, being more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING at a point which is 226.84 feet South 16° 34' West from a point which is at the exact center of the North side of said Tract No. 3 and is also on the South line of Cedar Street;
Thence South 62° 21' East, 203.82 feet to a point on the West right-of-way line of Colorado Highway No. 151 (formerly 172);
" 102.95 feet along said right-of-way line in a Southerly direction;
" North 56° 12' West, 200.09 feet;
" North 28° East, 82.79 feet to the point of beginning.
Dated: 11/23/2021
/s/ David B. Kirkpatrick
David B. Kirkpatrick 36964
Attorney for Plaintiff
Published in the PAGOSA SUN
First Publication: December 2, 2021.
Last Publication: December 30, 2021.
Published December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Sybil Lee Malouff aka Sybil L. Malouff, Deceased
Case No. 2021PR30066
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before April 6, 2022, or the claims may be forever barred.
COLORADO WATER & LAND LAW, LLC
By: /s/ Amy N. Huff
Amy N. Huff, Reg. No. 34897
679 E. 2nd Ave, Ste 11B
Durango, CO 81301
Published December 2, 9 and 16, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON December 21, 2021
JOSHUA RAY has applied for a FINAL PLAT REVIEW for the RAY MINOR SUBDIVISION, on RURAL Sec: 10 Twn: 34 Rng: 1W E2E2SE4SE4 at 626 Catchpole Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN21-128). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL ESTATES (AE). The application is for a Minor Subdivision of two lots at that location.
Comments regarding this proposal may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507; telephone: (970) 264-1300 or PFlowers@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on December 21, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published: December 2 and 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

Archuleta County, Colorado
Buttress Avenue and Port Avenue Asphalt Surfacing
Archuleta County, Colorado is in the process of finalizing the above listed project constructed by Strohecker Asphalt & Paving, Inc., 37801 Highway 160, Bayfield, Colorado 81122. Any claims against this project by suppliers, subcontractors, or others should be delivered to the project engineering firm of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. at 188 S. 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. All claims shall be delivered prior to December 17, 2021. Any claims received on or after December 17, 2021 shall not be considered. Claim forms can be obtained from Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (Phone 970-264-5055).
Published November 25 and December 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

Archuleta County, Colorado
North Pagosa Boulevard Resurfacing & Bridge Repair Project
Archuleta County, Colorado is in the process of finalizing the above listed project constructed by PAP, LLC, P.O. Box 758, 39018 Highway 160, Bayfield, Colorado 81122. Any claims against this project by suppliers, subcontractors, or others should be delivered to the project engineering firm of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. at 188 S. 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. All claims shall be delivered prior to December 17, 2021. Any claims received on or after December 17, 2021 shall not be considered. Claim forms can be obtained from Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (Phone 970-264-5055).
Published November 25 and December 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Right-of-Way - Town Park to Highway 160
The Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado is in the process of finalizing the above listed project constructed by Strohecker Asphalt & Paving, Inc., 37801 Highway 160, Bayfield, Colorado 81122. Any claims against this project by suppliers, subcontractors, or others should be delivered to the project engineering firm of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. at 188 S. 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. All claims shall be delivered prior to December 17, 2021. Any claims received on or after December 17, 2021 shall not be considered. Claim forms can be obtained from Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (Phone 970-264-5055).
Published November 25 and December 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2021CV030011 DIVISION NO. MG
INITIAL COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEM
Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association v. Defendant, GARY CANOVA; VIRGINIA CANOVA

PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER SERVICE CHARGE CHANGES JANUARY 13, 2022
At a public hearing in September of 2018, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors approved changes to the rates for water service customers. The changes will increase the minimum monthly service charge per equivalent unit and increase the volume rate charges by 6% annually through 2023 and will equate to a 33.74% cumulative increase over the 5 year period.
The following changes will be implemented in 2022:
WATER CHARGES
Monthly Service Charge: (per equivalent unit) increase from \$27.98 to \$29.66
Volume Charge:
2,001-8,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons) increase from \$5.02 to \$5.32
8,001-20,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons) increase from \$10.05 to \$10.65
Over 20,001 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons) increase from \$12.61 to \$13.37
Water Fill Station Charge per 1,000 gallons: increase from \$10.84 to \$11.49
Water Availability of Service remains at \$14.30
Wastewater Availability of Service remains at \$12.50
The Capital Investment Fees for both water and wastewater will increase by 3% per year.
WASTEWATER CHARGES
The changes to wastewater service charges include a 2.5% annual rate increase beginning in 2024 and ending in 2027. These increases will equate to a 10.38% cumulative increase over the 4 year period.
The Water and Wastewater Rate Study can be found at <http://www.pawwsd.org>
For assistance regarding how these proposed rate changes could affect your water bill, please call 970-731-2691 and a staff member will be able to do a comparison based upon your historical usage.
Published December 9, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2021CV030011 DIVISION NO. MG
INITIAL COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEM
Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association v. Defendant, GARY CANOVA; VIRGINIA CANOVA

SHERIFF SALE NUMBER 2021-22
This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated July 8, 2021, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of a lien recorded on September 29, 2017 at Rec. No. 27105978, in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The judicial foreclosure is based on a default under the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, recorded on June 24, 1970 at Reception No. 73297 in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The Declaration and notices, as recorded, establish a lien for the benefit of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association.
Description of property to be foreclosed:
Regarding: Lot 321, Pagosa Vista, according to the plat thereof filed September 13, 1971, as Reception No. 74884, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado.
Also known as: 444 Prospect Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

NOTICE OF SALE
You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff's Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, Pagosa Springs, Colorado at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the 4th day of February, 2022, at 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; phone number 970-264-8434. At which sale, the above described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder for cash or certified funds, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of purchase, as provided by law. Plaintiff makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection with this sale.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
First Publication: December 9, 2021
Last Publication: January 6, 2022
Published In: The Pagosa Springs SUN
The name, address and telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of the debt is as follows:
Orlen Cavanagh Holmes & Hunt LLC
1445 Market Street, Suite 350
Denver CO 80202
DATED this 8th day of November, 2021.
Rich Valdez, Sheriff
Archuleta County, Colorado
By: /s/ Lorena Medina, Office Manager
Published December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021 and January 6, 2022 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
SHERIFF SALE NUMBER 2021-22
This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated July 8, 2021, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of a lien recorded on September 29, 2017 at Rec. No. 27105978, in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The judicial foreclosure is based on a default under the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, recorded on June 24, 1970 at Reception No. 73297 in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The Declaration and notices, as recorded, establish a lien for the benefit of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association.
Description of property to be foreclosed:
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Also known as: 454 Prospect Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

NOTICE OF SALE
You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff's Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, Pagosa Springs, Colorado at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the 4th day of February, 2022, at 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; phone number 970-264-8434. At which sale, the above described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder for cash or certified funds, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of purchase, as provided by law. Plaintiff makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection with this sale.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
First Publication: December 9, 2021
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Orlen Cavanagh Holmes & Hunt LLC
1445 Market Street, Suite 350
Denver CO 80202
DATED this 8th day of November, 2021.
Rich Valdez, Sheriff
Archuleta County, Colorado
By: /s/ Lorena Medina, Office Manager
Published December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021 and January 6, 2022 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

PUBLIC NOTICE
C & J Gravel Products, Inc. (C&J), 27661 Hwy-160E, Durango, CO 81303, (970)385-4112, has applied for a Regular (112) Construction Materials Operation Reclamation Permit with the Colorado Mined Reclamation Board under provisions of the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials in Archuleta County. The attached information is being provided to notify you of the location and nature of the proposed operation. The entire application is on file with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (the "Division") and the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder.
The proposed operation is known as Oakbrush Hill Gravel in Archuleta County, and is located in Portions of Sections 31 & 32, in T35N R2W, and Sections 5 & 6 in T34N R2W 10th (NM) PM. The proposed date of commencement is approximately February 2022, and proposed date of completion is 31 December 2042. The proposed future use of the land is pasture. Additional information and the tentative decision date may be obtained from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS), 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3567 and the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder, Courthouse, 449 San Juan Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or the above-named agent. A complete copy of the application is available at the Archuleta Courthouse and at the DRMS office & C&J.
Comments concerning the application and exhibits must be in writing and must be received by DRMS by 4 PM, on 21 January 2022.
Please note that under provisions of C.R.S. §34-32-101 et seq. comments related to noise, truck traffic, hours of operation, visual impacts, effects on property values and other social or economic concerns are issues not subject to this Office's jurisdiction. These subjects, and similar ones, are typically addressed by your local governments, rather than the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety or the Mined Land Reclamation Board.
Published December 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

On Edge

Continued from A14

vices it provided the year prior. The higher a center's spending and the lower the number of times it treats clients, the more money it will receive through Medicaid reimbursement. The methodology effectively creates an incentive for centers to be less efficient with their spending and to limit or even refuse clients care.

"It is hard to imagine how that formula is in the best interest of Coloradans, especially when there are so many people waiting for care," said Nancy VanDeMark, former director of the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health who now works as a consultant.

North Range Behavioral Health in Greeley and Mental Health Center of Denver have the lowest and highest reimbursement rates among the 17 centers, respectively, according to cost reports submitted to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Greeley charges Medicaid \$228 for an hour of counseling compared to Denver's \$592 for an hour of the same service.

Mental Health Center of Denver said it needs the higher rates to bankroll the array of programs the centers are required by contract to provide and to subsidize others that don't make money, such as food pantries and homeless shelters.

Forrestal, the Council's CEO, refused multiple requests for an interview. In a series of email exchanges, she said comparing the centers' reimbursement rates to those of independent Medicaid providers is unfair because centers offer a greater "depth and breadth" of services. Besides, she wrote, "Behavioral health has been significantly underfunded, and without (the Council's) efforts to secure additional funding, there would be no new money for (the centers) to expand services or build new programs."

The trade group recently hired the state's assistant Medicaid director, Laurel Karabatos, as a consultant only months after she left the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), and she has been attending meetings with that agency about changing the future payment methodology. Karabatos has not sought an opinion from the state's Independent Ethics Commission about whether that job breaks the state's revolving-door ethics law prohibiting state employees from taking jobs in industries they regulate, and HCPF sees no conflict of interest.

The centers have received far more public funding since Colorado enacted Medicaid expansion in 2013, and watchdogs say some are wasting it with inefficiencies and other questionable spending.

According to a cost report it filed with the state that serves as the basis for its reimbursement, the Aurora Mental Health Center spent 48 cents on administrative costs for every dollar it spent on care in 2020. That's in sharp contrast to North Range Behavioral Health in Greeley — the most efficient of all the centers statewide — which in the same year, records show, spent 8 cents on administrative costs for every dollar spent on care.

Kelly Phillips-Henry, CEO of the Aurora center, attributes her vastly higher administrative costs partly to updating technology, including the systems required to convert to telehealth care.

Former state Human Services director Reggie Bicha long has frowned on an overuse of mental health funding for things rather than people. He points specifically to the aquaponics greenhouse at the Mental Health Center of Denver's Dahlia campus, which recirculates water through fish tanks and garden beds. "It's a wonderful little concept," he said. "But from an organization that was constantly saying they needed more financial resources, I wasn't seeing nearly that kind of creativity put into fighting severe mental illness, reducing suicide rates, keeping people out of hospitals and jails and institutions."

The \$15.6 million Dahlia campus was funded partly through the center and private donations, but mainly through Denver Urban Renewal Authority bonds.

For the union representing workers at the Denver center, it is a sore point that CEO Carl Clark made \$819,340 in 2019 — the most recent year for which data is publicly available — including \$331,583 in bonuses. That's 10 times more than an average clinician there earned that year. Clark defends his earnings, noting his pay is set by his board, not by him.

He made upward of two and a half times more than the \$301,337 average total compensation for CEOs of community mental health centers in Colorado in 2019, our analysis of

financial disclosures found.

The Denver center's audited financial report also shows it sat on \$41 million in liquid assets in 2020. Clark said his board likes to keep sizable reserves on hand as a "rainy-day fund."

Since the pandemic hit in 2020, Denverites have faced the longest-ever wait times for care as pandemic-related depression and anxiety rates skyrocketed. And Denver's is not the only center sitting on reserves. Nine others kept at least \$10 million in liquid assets last year while their wait times also grew and the state plummeted to the bottom of national ranking for access to care.

"If the CMHCs are not willing to reinvest their reserves to expand access to care now, then when?" VanDeMark asks.

As the pandemic gripped Colorado in early 2020, the centers halted most of their services temporarily, then moved to telehealth. Yet, they still managed to treat more patients in that fiscal year ending in June 2020 than they did the following fiscal year, when the statewide caseload dropped by 7,200.

The Council attributes the decline to what Forrestal calls a "dire behavioral health workforce crisis," which she writes has left more than 1,000 job vacancies among its members.

"There simply is not enough workforce to meet demand."

Union members counter that the center could retain more staff by raising salaries far more significantly than it has — and by using bonus pay for executives like Clark to do so.

Leaving holes in the safety net

Despite the workforce shortage, the Council has fought a proposal that the soon-to-be-launched Behavioral Health Administration offer "care coordination" — regional teams to work with some of the hardest-to-serve clients to make sure they're not dropped from the centers' care and don't otherwise fall through the cracks. The proposal was meant to help people like Vinnola, whom centers commonly refuse to treat if they have pending criminal charges, or show up high or delusional or are otherwise hard to manage.

The trade group has sought to block the proposal, saying the centers already coordinate care for their clients and that the state stepping in to do so could divert funding away from their own services. The Council's opposition comes after it has spent years fiercely opposing attempts to add "no reject, no ejection clauses" to centers' contracts preventing them from refusing to serve the sickest clients or dropping clients who are difficult to serve.

The Council has an unlikely ally in Vincent Atchity, president and CEO of Mental Health Colorado, the leading statewide group advocating for people with mental health challenges. On the task force responsible for recommending reforms, Atchity voted against making care coordination a priority for the new department as what he calls "an attempted appeasement of the (centers) that objected strongly to" it. He describes his vote as "more about diplomacy than actual opposition."

The no-voters were outnumbered by task force members who supported prioritizing care coordination as perhaps the most important aspect of a reform package the state has made a point of branding "Putting People First."

Nevertheless, a state report released in early November outlining

how the new department will function does not, in 109 pages, mention the kind of hands-on care coordination the task force approved. It instead lists detailed plans for what officials call "care navigation" — ways to help the public on the phone or online find behavioral health providers.

Werthwein — who until this fall was a vocal proponent of providing care coordination — at first said his office intentionally left plans for it out of the report because details about how to staff and fund it "have not yet been worked out." In that same interview, however, he called the omission "an oversight" and insisted the new department will be prioritizing hands-on care coordination and will revise the report accordingly.

But, so far, the so-called "care coordination working group" Werthwein's office has gathered to address the issue has made no mention of plans for person-to-person care coordination. Instead, the group is focused only on making the state mental health care system more user-friendly technologically.

At least for now, there is no significant plan recognizing that sometimes the centers fail people, and when they do, somebody ought to step in and keep those people from free-falling.

What we don't know

Werthwein's Office of Behavioral Health said it does not know how many indigent Coloradans the centers are serving or how many people with private insurance policies that don't cover mental health care the centers are allowing to pay on a sliding scale.

State officials also say they don't know what happens to tax dollars centers receive for services they end up not providing. The Center for Mental Health in Montrose, for example, was paid to set up a mobile crisis program in the six counties it covers. For logistical reasons, that program didn't serve San Miguel County. County Commissioner Hilary Cooper spent months trying to figure out where money for her county's piece of that program went.

"They showed me a bunch of fancy budget slides and explained that it's really too layered and complicated for someone like (me) to understand, and in the end, I got no answers," she said.

The Center's CEO, Shelly Spalding, did not, in response, indicate where her organization spent that money.

"I think we're transparent. But maybe other people don't think we're being transparent enough. Maybe things are being lost in translation," she said.

Summit County officials say they could not get an answer from Mind Springs Health about what it did with state money it was supposed to spend on a detox program there, which it shut down without telling them. They also say that, despite years of questioning, Mind Springs has never said how much in public funding it was — and should have been — spending in the county.

CEO Sharon Raggio told them, and us, that there is no such information because Mind Springs does not track services or spending per county, but rather more generally in the 10 West Slope counties it's responsible for covering.

"It's like a frigging ridiculous mystery when you ask about it," said Assistant Summit County Manager Sarah Vaine, who refers to Raggio as "a liar" and to Mind Springs as "The

Mob." "The way the state contracts work and the way the money flows is so confusing. And I think the community mental health centers benefit hugely from that confusion because it makes it harder to hold them accountable," Vaine added.

The centers also benefit from their status as private 501(c)(3) non-profits, which, unlike government agencies, are not subject to open records laws. Federal tax law makes it so the centers can — and do, as we've discovered in our reporting — refuse to provide information about how they spend public funding beyond the few financial disclosures required by the IRS and state.

Voters in several counties, including Summit, have over the past five years passed tax measures to pay for mental health services they say they aren't getting from the centers. And one, Eagle County, is for the first time in the 60-year history of Colorado's safety-net system breaking off from its center, Mind Springs, to create its own — one that officials there say will be more responsive to their residents. Eagle County's will be the only center in the state that won't be joining the trade group.

County governments have spent years urging state government to reform Colorado's safety-net system so taxpayers don't have to double pay for services. They embrace the creation of the Behavioral Health Administration, which is supposed to give county governments and the public "a better sense of the dollars flowing into their community, and the outcomes resulting from those investments," according to a state report released in November.

Still, many county officials worry the new department will not be able to monitor centers closely enough because it still won't have control over their Medicaid contracts. That responsibility will remain within the separate HCPE.

"If no single agency is actually responsible for these pieces, we fear there won't be real oversight and we'll just see a repeat of what we have now," said Gini Pingent of Colorado Counties Inc., a consortium of county governments.

County governments specifically have urged the state to audit the centers' finances and conduct performance audits to make sure they are complying with contract requirements and not being double paid by the multiple state agencies and programs that fund them.

There are no plans for the new department to do so, despite state officials' insistence that it will prioritize making the centers more transparent and accountable.

Bicha noted there long has been "significant political pressure" from the trade group not to monitor centers that closely.

"The Council has a tremendous amount of influence," he said.

Free-falling

Before it sought and received lawmakers' approval to create the new department, the state Behavioral Health Task Force heard more than 200 Coloradans statewide testify about the mental health reforms they want — and desperately need — from state government.

Vinnola's mom was one of them. Her son was in jail at the time in 2019, awaiting a competency evaluation after having been involuntarily hospitalized eight times in a year. The Denver car saleswoman had come, she said, as "Matt's mom, advocate and voice."

van der Laak wanted to know why

JIM GARRETT

ATTORNEY

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Area law enforcement agencies investigating stolen vehicles, burglary

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Area law enforcement agencies are investigating a series of incidents that include burglary and motor vehicle theft that took place near Arboles last week.

An Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) deputy responded to a home on County Road 973 near Arboles shortly before 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 1 in regard to a stolen vehicle, according to an incident report.

The report indicates that, upon arrival, the deputy was greeted by an elderly woman who relayed that a clean-shaven, slender male drove onto her property on a small motorcycle and asked to use an air compressor to air up a tire on the motorcycle. The woman offered the man a drink and allowed him inside, gave him a drink and he gave her a \$2 bill.

The man then went back outside and the woman noticed both her

barn doors open, the report explains. While walking toward the front door, the woman noticed the man driving her white 2014 Chevy Cruze out of her driveway and turning onto County Road 975.

The woman relayed she believes the man obtained her vehicle keys while in the house getting a drink, and reported the man had left his motorcycle helmet inside the front entrance to her home.

On Tuesday, Archuleta County Undersheriff Derek Woodman explained that, later that evening, the ACSO received a call regarding a burglary just up the road from the woman's house.

"It's close proximity," he said. The man who reported the burglary explained he was missing the motorcycle and a few other items, Woodman noted.

The burglary took place while the house was vacant during the day, Woodman suggested.

"Whomever broke into the house

... goes into the house, showers, sleeps in the bed, changes clothes, leaves clothes, takes clothes and redresses, obviously before 2 o'clock when this other incident takes place," he said.

Woodman reported to The SUN on Friday, Dec. 3, that a suspect had been arrested following the incidents.

At the time, he also noted that there were four vehicles stolen in La Plata County, which were believed to be separate and unrelated incidents.

One of those stolen vehicles resulted in a pursuit and subsequent crash at Navajo State Park the day before the burglary and stolen vehicle.

On Tuesday, Woodman reported that charges against the suspect were dismissed pending further investigation.

He explained that the continuing investigation yielded additional information that indicated there may have been a misidentification of the suspect by the victim.

"We are now relooking at whether or not this is one criminal episode to include the other four stolen vehicles out of La Plata County from the day before," he said.

Woodman explained there was another stolen vehicle Friday in Aztec, N.M., that resulted in a pursuit, though he noted that had not been connected to the others as of Tuesday.

Anyone with information is asked to call the ACSO at (970) 264-8430.

randi@pagosasun.com

On Edge

Continued from A15

she could make a routine doctor's appointment for her husband, but not an appointment at Mental Health Center of Denver for her adult son who is delusional, unable to remember his birthday or home address, and so sick he doesn't always know he is sick.

She wanted to know what families like hers are supposed to do when the centers drop their loved ones from treatment.

She wanted to know what the centers are doing with hundreds of millions of tax dollars if not treating severely sick people like her son.

"MHCD dropped him ... How do you drop someone who's gravely disabled? How do you deny someone services like that?" van der Laak asked the task force. "We're leaving out a huge, vulnerable population that we're not treating."

The Mental Health Center of Denver's Clark said privacy laws keep him from discussing Vinnola's case.

"Could things have been dropped? It's possible for them to have been dropped," he said, adding that if a client is not seeking care for himself, the center "need(s) to focus on someone who wants treatment."

Five months after van der Laak's testimony, one of her older sons, Aaron Ruiz, ended his life in March 2020.

Relatives say the family had not been aware of Ruiz's mental health challenges, and had been focused on Vinnola's for the 10 years since he developed symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia.

Five months later, van der Laak took her life by suicide. She was 49.

It has been more than a year since the only real voice Vinnola would listen to stopped saying, "Come on, hijito, let's go get you some help." He has been plummeting since his brother's and mother's suicides, both of which took place while he was home. He had a long jail stint last fall and winter, and for about seven months now, has been living on the streets, off his medication and untreated.

His father and stepfather have, as of our last conversations with them, lost track of him.

When time allows, his father goes looking for the son whose mental health van der Laak put before everything else, including her own. He searches Denver's homeless encampments, occupied by many who also need a safety net, but have learned they can't count on one.

He drives by the condo where van der Laak used to live. The neighbors there sometimes spot Vinnola strung out and sleeping on the sidewalk out front, waiting for her to come back.

Freelance reporter LJ Dawson contributed to this report.

Susan Greene can be reached at

susan@colabnews.co. This story and all of the Colorado News Collaborative's On Edge reporting are supported by the Carter Center's Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Reporting as well as by the Benjamin von Sternfels Rosenthal Grant for Mental Health Investigative Journalism. To learn more about COLab, visit colabnews.co.

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 or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

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- Knights of Columbus — annual Nativity scene
 - Chimney Rock Interpretive Association — Ancestral Puebloan pithouse
 - GOAL High School
 - Restorative Solutions and Soul Medicinals
 - Girl Scout Troop No. 26237
 - Pagosa Springs Youth Soccer
 - Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership
 - Pagosa Adventure — balloon glow
 - The Springs Resort and Spa
 - St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 - Buckaroos Horse Drawn Rides
 - United Way of Southwest Colorado
 - Humane Society Animal Shelter
 - Our Savior Lutheran Church
 - Chamber of Commerce at the Visitor Center
 - San Juan Outdoor Club — Christmas Camp-out
 - Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs
 - Centerpoint Church
 - Willow and Reed Design Co.
 - Pagosa Springs Medical Center Department of EMS

If you're experiencing a mental health crisis, call the Colorado Crisis hotline at 1-844-493-TALK(8255). There is no wrong reason to reach out.

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preview

ARTS & LOFE

Christmas in Pagosa



Pagosa Baking Company



Two Old Crows Gallery



Healing Waters Resort & Spa



Homespun Comforts



Photo courtesy Guiseppe Margiotta

Knights of Columbus members set up the Nativity scene in the Town Park on Saturday. The Knights and fellow parishioners look forward to singing Christmas carols during the Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration along the Riverwalk on Dec. 18.

Make plans for a fun and festive evening downtown

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

Join us Dec. 18 for the inaugural Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration along the Riverwalk in downtown Pagosa Springs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Along the walking route, there will be various Christmas-themed displays and activities, a balloon glow, acoustic musicians, choirs, free hot chocolate and cider, games, toys and other goodies. And, of course, Santa Claus. The route is approximately 1 mile long and will be lit with luminarias and the amazing

holiday lights in downtown Pagosa.

Entry points for the walking route include: (1) Town Park, (2) San Juan River Scenic Overlook, (3) Visitor Center and (4) the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site at Centennial Park. Participants entering at the key entry points will be provided with glow sticks and a scavenger hunt card to win a free ornament.

Segments have been adopted by the following groups, organizations and businesses:

- Knights of Columbus — annual Nativity scene.

■ See Evening on next page

Live Performers

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

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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
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William Thomas

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

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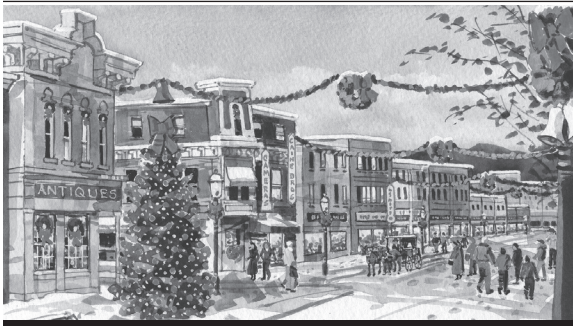


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Breakfast with Santa planned for Saturday

By Olivia Craig
Pagosa Springs Future Business Leaders of America Chapter

Sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America, Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, Dec. 11, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Pagosa Springs High School, 800 S. 8th St.

Come join us for a fun-filled morning. There is a \$5 entry fee (\$20 maximum per family), which includes a picture with Santa, face-painting and handmade ornament. A full breakfast will be served. A small silent auction will take place.

All proceeds go toward helping students attend the Future Business Leaders of America national leadership conference.

Evening

continued from previous page
• Chimney Rock Interpretive Association — Ancestral Puebloan pithouse.

- GOAL High School.
- Restorative Solutions and Soul Medicinals.
- Girl Scout Troop No. 26237.
- Pagosa Springs Youth Soccer.
- Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership.
- Pagosa Adventure — balloon glow.
- The Springs Resort and Spa.
- St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.
- Buckaroos Horse Drawn Rides.
- United Way of Southwest Colorado.
- Humane Society Animal Shelter.
- Our Savior Lutheran Church.
- Chamber of Commerce at the Visitor Center.

• San Juan Outdoor Club — Christmas Camp-out.
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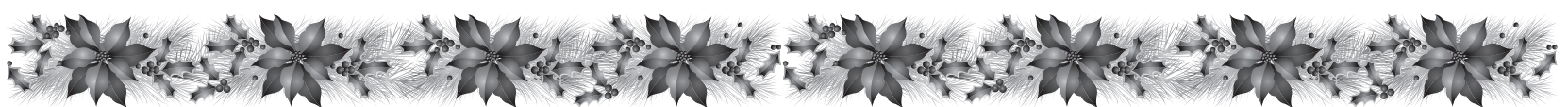
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Actors in rehearsals for Thingamajig's holiday musical

By Carole Howard
Thingamajig Theatre Company

The "Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play" director and out-of-town actors have arrived in Pagosa, and the cast and crew are in rehearsals for Thingamajig Theatre Company's holiday production opening Dec. 15. The play will showcase the skills of four Thingamajig alumni as well as several new faces.

The uplifting holiday classic is the story of a young girl's powerful belief in Santa and all the values he stands for. The family-friendly 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.



Photo courtesy Ursula Hudson

The "Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play" director and out-of-town actors have arrived in Pagosa, and the cast and crew are in rehearsals for Thingamajig Theatre Company's holiday production opening Dec. 15. Tickets are available on the theater's website, pagosa-center.org, or by phoning (970) 731-SHOW (7469). Tickets are \$35. Proof of vaccinations or of a negative test as well as masks will be required for the audience, following Broadway's COVID protocols.

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, Aaron Catano-Saez and Halley Daigle-Saez.

■ See Musical on next page

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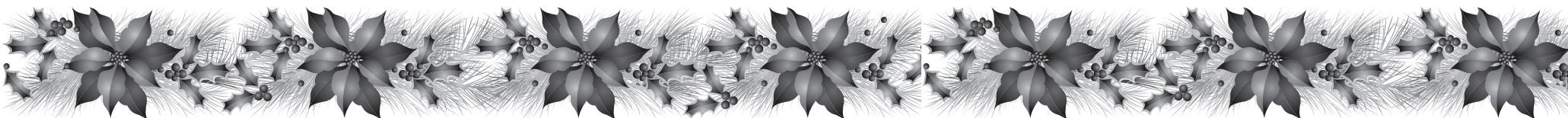
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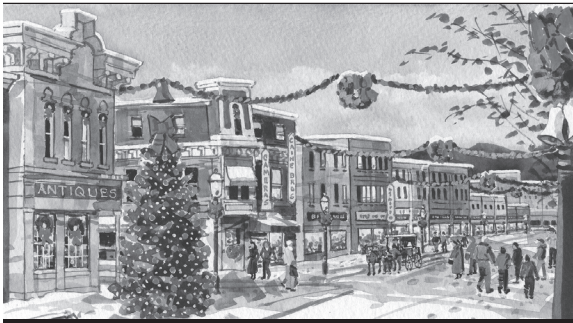
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Musical

■ continued from previous page

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 ■ See Musical on next page

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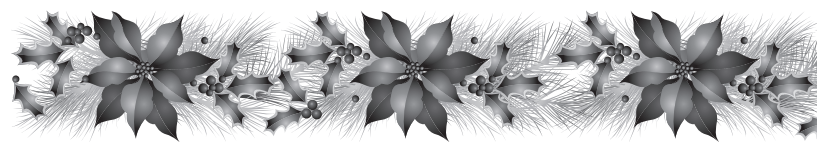
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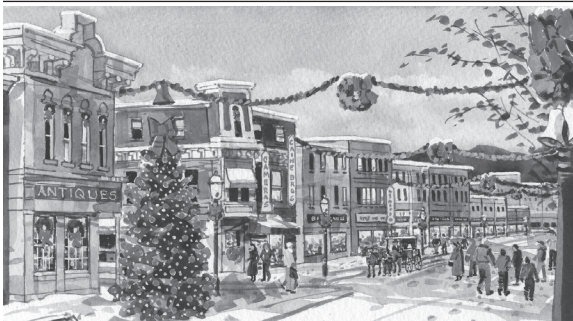
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Musical

■ continued from previous page
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 Wednesday, Dec. 15, and will be performed every day through Thursday, 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, pagosacenter.org, or by phoning (970) 731-SHOW (7469). Tickets are \$35.

Proof of vaccinations or of a negative test as well as masks will be required for the audience, following Broadway's COVID protocols.

Thingamajig Theatre Company 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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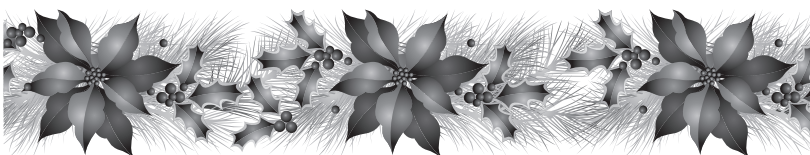
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Season's Greetings





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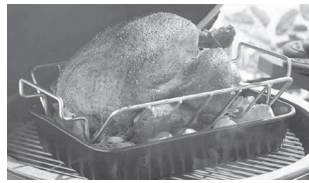
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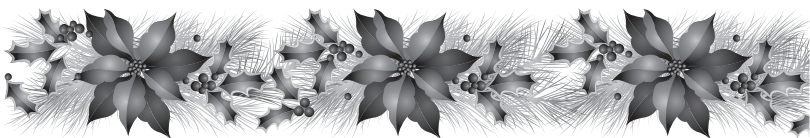
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BroadwayWorld Denver honors Thingamajig with 12 nominations in scaled-back statewide contest

By Carole Howard
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers received 12 nominations for awards in the 2021 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver.

This year's awards were scaled back because of COVID closures, with the pandemic necessitating that Colorado theaters — like those around the country and the world — be closed for more than a year. Thingamajig was closed from March 2020 to June 2021. The theater is housed in the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Thingamajig nominees

Here are the Thingamajig people and productions that made it to the final ballot in this respected competition:

- Best play: "box."
- Best musical: "The Last Ten Years" gala.
- Best performers in a play: Laura Moore, Carl Morrow and Polly Seale in "Sylvia" plus Dennis Elkins in "box."
- Best supporting performer in a play: Rodney Holmes.
- Best direction of a play: Tim Moore for "Sylvia."
- Best direction of a musical: Tim and Laura Moore for "The Last Ten Years" gala.
- Best costume design of a play or musical: Adrienne Young for "The Next Ten Years" and "Sylvia."
- Best choreography of a play or musical: Melissa Firlit for "The Next 10 Years" gala.

Reaction from Thingamajig

Said Tim Moore, producing artistic director and co-founder of the theatre with his wife Laura, executive director, when the nominations were announced: "After 10 years of incredible growth because of our patrons, audiences and other supporters, who could have imagined that our beloved theatre would be dark for 15 months because of a global pandemic.

"This situation made us even more grateful for the opportunity to reopen. Now these BroadwayWorld nominations let us celebrate the amazing talents of the actors, directors and designers who helped us put the lights back on with 'Sylvia,' 'box,' and the two galas this summer."

How to vote

If you want to vote in this awards contest, go to: <https://www.broadwayworld.com/denver/voteregion>.

■ See Contest on next page



Photo courtesy Carole Howard

"Sylvia," the touching canine comedy about a dog and her new owner in New York City, was nominated for six of the 12 nominations received by Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers in the 2021 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver. All four of the actors, pictured above, were nominated for best performer honors. As well, the play is nominated for best director and best costumes. Online voting is underway now. Voting runs through Dec. 31, and winners will be announced in January.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

2021

Pagosa Springs drop site locations to donate toys for local kids:

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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
Ruby M. Sisson Library	811 San Juan Street	970-264-2209
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	225 S. Pagosa Boulevard	970-731-5801
Terry's Ace Hardware	525 Navajo Trail Drive	970-731-4022
The Springs Resort & Spa	323 Hot Springs Boulevard	800-225-0934
The Junction Restaurant	401 E. Pagosa Street	970-264-5729
The UPS Store 5807	135 Country Center	970-731-8771
Williams Creek Angler	190 Talisman Drive, Unit C-6	970-731-2125

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WOLF to host annual winter fundraiser tonight

By Darcy DeGuise
Winter Outdoor Learning Fund

The love of the outdoors and the many activities afforded to us in our small mountain town rank among the reasons to live in southwestern Colorado. From skiing and hunting, to rafting and mountaineering, there is no limit to the fun one can have in Pagosa Springs and the surrounding areas.

Even in these sparse winter months while we pray for snow, understanding the dangers that come with engaging in outdoor activities is paramount. WOLF, the Winter Outdoor Learning Fund's, mission is to educate our community about such dangers while better equipping them for fun, for accidents or even a possible future in the outdoors.

Founded five years ago by Wolf Creek ski patrollers, this nonprofit

organization provides scholarships for wilderness medical training and avalanche awareness courses in the hopes of helping to promote safe practices in the backcountry as well as grooming young people for possible employment opportunities in the future.

Eric Deitemeyer, treasurer and a founding member of the organization, shared, "I wished that I had more exposure to such opportunities when I was a young adult while trying to decide what I wanted to do for a career." An accomplished river guide and head of the Wolf Creek Ski Patrol, Deitemeyer, and the rest of the WOLF board, continue to provide support in making such classes and experiences more accessible to those of Archuleta, Mineral and Rio Grande counties.

Since its inception, WOLF has awarded more than 30 scholarships. Scholarships are awarded in the

amount of \$500, which can be used towards Level 1 Avalanche, Wilderness Medicine courses and other certifications dealing with outdoor education. Applications are available online at www.winteroutdoor-learningfund.com. The application deadline is a rolling one; however, scholarships are accepted and approved in the order they are received.

In order to maintain its scholarship fund, WOLF hosts a winter and a spring fundraiser each year. This year's WOLF winter fundraiser will be held Thursday, Dec. 9, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Tall Pines (formerly Bogie's). The film "Stoke the Fire" by Teton Gravity Research will begin at 7 p.m., and food and drink specials will be available, so arrive prior to showtime for a nosh and a libation. All proceeds ensure that WOLF can continue to host and create outdoor learning opportunities for our local community.

Contest

continued from previous page
cfm. Online voting is underway now. Voting runs through Dec. 31, and winners will be announced in January.

Here are some tips to make the voting easier:

- If the site gets overloaded, it may

Mt. Allison Grange free community breakfast planned

By Larry Corman
Mt. Allison Grange

Mt. Allison Grange is having a free community breakfast on Saturday, Dec 11, from 9 until 11 a.m.

Breakfast burritos will be served that include sausage, ham, eggs, hash browns and green chile. We will also have biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee.

We also will be collecting canned goods and hats and mittens for kids.

We hope to see everyone there.

time you out. If this happens, just log in again and start over from the beginning of the ballot.

- Note there are no Thingamajig nominees in several categories, including streamed productions, which are new to the awards this year. You don't have to vote in every category if you are not familiar with the shows.

- Be sure to fill out the required information boxes at the end of the ballot or your vote will not be counted. Note that not all the information they request is required.

- Very quickly after you finish voting, you will receive an email confirming your vote. You need to click on the "Click Here to Confirm Your Vote" line. Unconfirmed ballots will be discarded.

- If you do not see that email in your new mail, check your spam to ensure your vote is counted.

- Don't be intimidated — it is not as hard as it sounds.

High-caliber competition

BroadwayWorld oversees the largest theater audience awards on

the globe, covering Broadway in New York, the West End in London and many other key artistic locations in the U.S. and worldwide, including in Australia, Austria, Canada, the Philippines and South Africa.

Thingamajig competes in the Denver regional professional theater market, with this year's nominees also coming from Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, Creede Repertory Theatre, Vintage Theatre, Performance Now, Ovation West, Sasquatch Productions, Merely Players and more. This means that the caliber of the competition is extremely high in spite of this year's season shortened by COVID.

Thingamajig Theatre Company 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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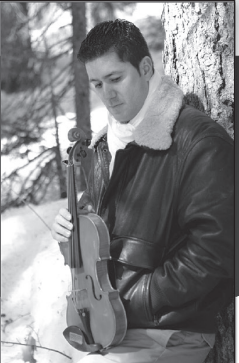
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New Thought topic: ‘New Thinking Inspiring the Spirit of Servant Leadership’

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for
Inspirational Living

The New Thought Center Sunday service will be at 11 a.m. The theme will be “New Thinking Inspiring the Spirit of Servant Leadership” with Shayla McClure.

“In today’s turbulent times, the world needs the kind of leadership we inspire — now more than ever.”
— Inspiring Leadership Campaign.

Upcoming events

Spirit Heart Band practice: Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join our band. Please text Erika at (720) 754-2314 to for band information.

Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Meditation Circle.

Thursday: Lemon Drops Band practice with Erika at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in and bring their own instruments.

Friday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.: Candle-

light service with potluck.

There will be no service on Sunday, Dec. 26.

Friday, Dec. 31: Burning Bowl Ceremony Service, 6 p.m.

Please call/text (970) 510-0309 or (970) 309-6067 for information on upcoming events.

The New Thought Center is collecting new toys for Toys4Tots for the Vets4Vets until Dec. 13. Leave donations on and under the table in front of our doors on the second floor of Pagosa Lodge above the front desk.

About us

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

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, Dec. 12, our theme is holy scriptures.

“The purpose underlying the

revelation of every heavenly Book, nay of every divinely-revealed verse, is to endue all men with righteousness and understanding, so that peace and tranquility may be firmly established amongst them.” — Baha’u’llah.

To learn more about the Baha’i Faith, please visit the official international website of the Baha’i Faith at www.bahai.org. Our local contact is archuletabahais@gmail.com.

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

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*CUSTOM rides may be scheduled based upon AVAILABILITY



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970-731-4081 to reserve your ride!

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Truly seeing Jesus

By Stan Counsell
PREVIEW Columnist

Some 2,000 years ago, there was a man wearing the simple clothing of the working poor who was walking the rugged regions near Jericho on His way to Jerusalem, where He said He would be brutally killed but raised to life three days later.

This man, Jesus, had a rather motley gaggle of followers from much of the Jewish strata. Some women also followed Him, which certainly raised eyebrows in that male-dominated culture.

Jesus claimed to be God in the flesh, yet many questioned His life-style as anything but heaven-sent royalty. For a self-proclaimed royal from heaven, He came from the despised area of Galilee, didn't possess any handsome looks, and His height was just vanilla; He could get lost in a crowd. And, that's God? Really?

If God, Jesus certainly wouldn't be "sandal-walking" about in stifling, dusty heat. He would be wearing the extravagant clothing of royalty, an arresting robe, mounted on a mighty warrior's white horse exhibiting its proud gait. Myriads of angels and prophets would have followed Him, in regal splendor, not this multifarious group of people that He somehow chose.

To many, Jesus was a pathetic fraud. He even had some of His followers forsake Him. Yet, throngs were mesmerized by Jesus. His teachings had incredible authority, unlike the self-righteous religious leaders. He healed many people without any disgusting sleight of hand motions or angles. He raised the dead, turned water into fine wine, and even walked on water during a violent storm at sea.

Still, Jesus continually stirred up the ire and hatred of religious leaders who couldn't find even one pathetic answer to Jesus' pointed questions.

A Matter of Faith

Was this Jesus nothing but trouble to the souls of the Jewish and gentile inhabitants of these regions?

One particular man had heard enough about Jesus that he was determined to know the complete truth about Him. This Jesus was either a genuine grifter or He was indeed the Son of God; there wasn't any logical middle ground.

Why would it matter to him? His name was Zacchaeus. I'll call him "Zac." He was seen as a traitor to his Jewish brethren. He was a chief tax collector for the ruthless Roman Empire, gouging his own people for more taxes than they really owed. He was making a bountiful living ripping off his own people. "Charge more, get more!" could have been his heartless motto.

If that Galilean man, Jesus, was a con artist, Zac could go on cheating his people without any remorse. If Jesus was indeed the Son of God, how could Zac justify his evil deeds and resulting lavish lifestyle? It would be a terrible day of reckoning; the jig would be up. He needed to really know this man named Jesus.

Zac heard that Jesus was entering Jericho (Luke 19:1-10) and reasoned that this was the perfect opportunity to sort Jesus out. When we are confused, doubtful, broadsided by tragedies, hearing differing opinions about Jesus, or feel lost and fearful during these troubling times, do we truly want to see and know the truths about Jesus, the only Son of God? Was He but a good man, nicely religious, one of many good

■ See Faith on next page

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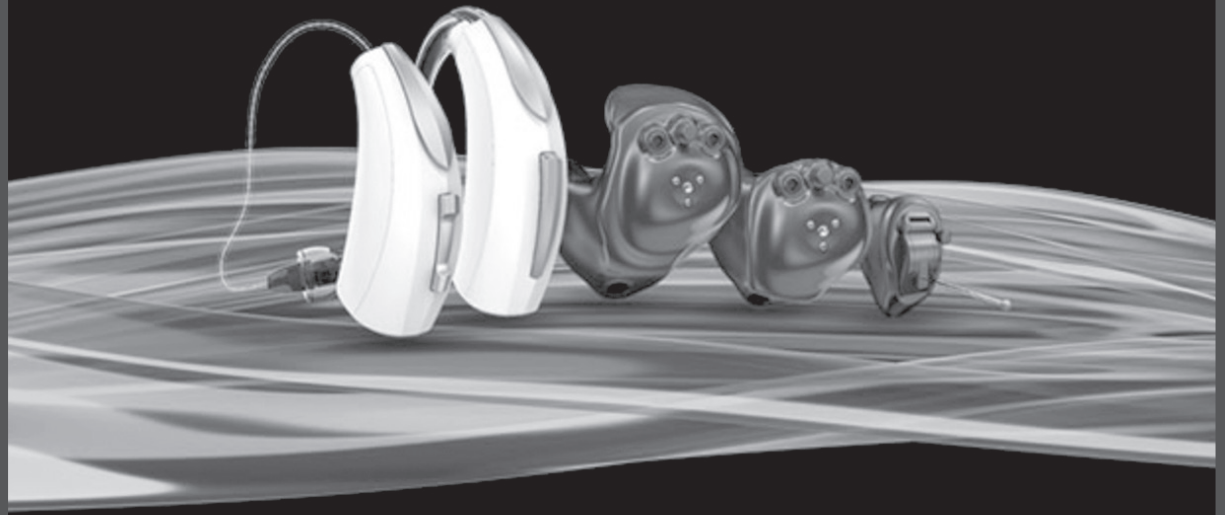
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FSFE-Food Coalition Community Conversation to feature Guidestone Colorado

By Rose Chavez
Food System/Food Equity Coalition

The community is invited to join the FSFE-Food Coalition Community Conversation on Thursday, Dec. 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. when we will virtually meet and chat with Amanda Laban of Guidestone Colorado out of Chaffee County.

Guidestone Colorado is a non-profit organization that is growing a

vibrant agricultural future through education, community building and partnerships. The initiative is founded upon the belief that if individuals are exposed to experiences on local farms and ranches, that exposure results in a growing appreciation for where our food comes from and the commitment and resources needed to produce food locally.

The result of these choices will be resilient local food systems,

healthier communities and a vibrant future for local agriculture. Come learn and discuss how this food system effort can inform the work of the FSFE-Food Coalition to advance nutrition security in Archuleta County.

Please visit the FSFE-Food Coalition website to get access to the Zoom link: <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/community-conversations.html>.

Faith

■ continued from previous page
teachers, just part of the divine, or was He truly the only begotten Son of God, maker of heaven and earth? Zac needed to know, for his lifestyle depended on his careful findings.

It's interesting that the gospel writer Luke records that Jesus made "His way" through town. Note that Jesus didn't take "a way" but "His way." The Greek showed this to be true. For "His way" meant "to come with a purpose." Jesus was on a mission that required a particular goal. He was seeking one of the lost sons of Israel.

In verses 3-4, we observe the earnest desire of Zac to see Jesus. The Greek tells us that the word "see" meant "with eyes wide open, being earnestly sure, a continual inspection." Zac didn't want a glimpse, flimsy idea or brief visual of Jesus walking by; he wanted to see all of Jesus.

But, people crowded the road to such an extent that Zac, a very short man in stature, couldn't see over those hording the street. Isn't it sad that even today many block the view of others wanting to see the real Jesus? Many church people get caught up in themselves; the nearby needs of others are ignored, or not even noticed.

Whereas this would deter many a wandering soul, Zac would have nothing to do with quitting. He immediately climbed a nearby sycamore tree for an unobstructed view. Such a climb, in his splendor of clothing, would not be a modest task. Yet, verse 5 records that Jesus suddenly stopped right below that particular tree and looked up. He looked directly at Zac while the people always looked down on him. Oh, the unfathomable grace of Almighty God!

He called Zac by name. Isn't it joyful to know that He knows our names, too? Jesus made it abundantly clear, "Come down." That was a command that the Greek says meant, "to earnestly urge." In that imperative command, Jesus also said, "I must stay at your house". The proper rendering meant, "it is necessary" or "to remain in one's presence." He wants to remain in our lives, too, not just for an hour on Sunday.

Think of it: Jesus' mission is to be the Lord and Savior of our lives. He wants to love, rescue from sin, lead, teach, reason and fellowship with us; to make us a vibrant new creation in Him (Revelation 3:20-21). When Jesus knocks, He doesn't require our finest guest room dur-

ing His stay. He'll take a basement cot with a worn-out blanket, so humble and lowly of heart.

Will we, like the "good people" of Jericho, piously denounce Jesus for seeking after the lost, actually eating and staying with them? Or, will we also want to enter Zac's house, stay and discover the real Jesus?

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.

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Seeds of Learning transforms into a winter wonderland

By **Danyelle Leentjes**
Seeds of Learning

While it has been hard to tell it is December in Pagosa Country, the halls of Seeds of Learning have been transformed into a winter wonderland.

Children and families are greeted by snowflakes hanging from the ceiling, snowmen and icicles hanging from the walls, signs leading to North Pole, Santa's Workshop and the Polar Express, to name a few. The smell of fresh-baked desserts fills the hallways as teachers and children embrace the spirit of the holiday season.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our community. It is the donations given to Seeds of Learning that make it possible to offer the highest level of education in early childhood development. Over 80 percent of the children enrolled in Seeds are at a reduced tuition rate due to income restrictions. We need your help filling the gap between tuition and the actual cost for a child to attend Seeds. Simply put, we can't do it without you. While Seeds' signature Dancing with the Stars event brings in much-needed funding to the school, it does not fill this gap.

Part of what makes Seeds so extraordinary are the outstanding teachers. It is crucial to recruit and retain the most skilled teachers for our children and at the same time keep tuition affordable for families. Without your help, children of our community will not be able to af-

ford the emotional and educational support they desperately need.

Therefore, we are asking for your support this holiday season. Your donation today, no matter how small, can show a child the path to a brighter future. Will you help them experience a nurturing world that feels safe? Will you be the person to provide them with the confidence to feel that their future is bright and that anything is possible?

Exactly what does your donation mean?

- It means you can prevent a child from starting months or years behind when they reach kindergarten.

- It means you can prevent a child from never catching up to their peers.

- It means a child will learn from her teacher, Miss Ruby, that there are people who really care about her.

- It means for one child, the cycle of poverty that begins with lack of education will be broken.

- It means parents can have the peace of mind that their child is safe.

We need your help today to continue the high standard of programming families have come to rely on. Your gift will create the powerful effect education has on a child, our community and our world.

Please consider donating by sending a check to: Seeds of Learning, P.O. Box 5831, Pagosa Springs CO 81147 or at GrowingSeeds.org.

Seeds of Learning is a not-for-

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Pioneer cemetery project results, Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo and public health session

By **Carole Howard**
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Dr. Ruth Lambert will share results from the recent cemetery research project conducted at the original Pagosa Springs cemetery, known as the Pioneer Cemetery and Old Fort Lewis Cemetery, at a free, in-person event at your library on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon.

During the summer of 2021, the Town of Pagosa Springs partnered with volunteers from the Archuleta County Genealogical Society and Lambert to conduct an archaeological assessment of the cemetery. Using a variety of noninvasive instruments, scans of the cemetery were taken to accurately survey the ground. At the same time, volunteers conducted extensive research to uncover scarce records and learn more about Pagosa's past to give us a better understanding of the historical significance of this old cemetery.

We hope you'll join us to learn more about our local history at this important event.

Save the date for Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo

The hot chocolate is ready, so we hope you'll come to your library next Thursday, Dec. 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. to celebrate winter with us. While you sip, join in the fun with seasonal crafts.

Save the date for next public health session

The next free public health session with representatives from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) will be at the library from noon to 1 p.m. next Thursday, Dec. 16, to discuss the dangers of radon gas in your home and distribute free radon test kits.

The geology of southwest Colorado leads to an increased risk of radon gas here, so this is an important topic for us to understand. In fact, radon exposure is the second leading causes of lung cancer. Take advantage of the expertise of the staff at SJBPH to attend this latest event in their public health series at your library.

Therapy dog visits

Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 10, from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. and again next Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to noon, you are invited to come to the library for a free visit with a certified therapy dog. The visits will be limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi." This activity is for all ages. It's a great way to relax and boost your day.

Legal clinic tomorrow

The free legal clinic this month



is happening by appointment tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. The volunteer attorney can phone you at home or you can come into the library and meet privately via Zoom. To schedule an appointment, at the beginning of the month send an email titled "Sign-up for Free Legal Clinic," with your first name and phone number, to ruby@pagosalibrary.org, or phone or stop by the library. The volunteer attorney's time is limited so it's first-come, first-served. This clinic takes place on the second Friday of every month. Visit <http://checkerboard.co/> any-time to find many legal forms and other legal information.

LEGO Club on Saturday

Kids aged 6 to 12 are invited to bring your imaginations — LEGOs are provided — on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to noon for the free LEGO Club. LEGO challenges also are posted on Facebook.

Spanish conversation

Next Monday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 5 p.m., we will gather in person at the library to practice speaking and listening skills together. There is no minimum skill level required to attend. As an alternative, you can learn Spanish and many other languages using the Transparent Language Learning database available at <https://pagosalibrary.org/online-resources/>.

Ruby's Book Club next Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club meets from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14, to discuss "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christie Lefteri. Copies are available for pickup at your library. This book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles.

Baby brain gym

Next Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 2:30 to 3 p.m., families with babies to toddlers aged 3 and under are invited to bring them to the library for hands-on sensory activities designed just for them to help their brains grow. This is an important session when you consider that their brains are forming millions of connections each second.

Teen advisory board

Next Wednesday, Dec. 15, the teen advisory board meets from 4 to 5 p.m. in the library. Sixth-through 12th-graders are invited to bring your fun and innovative ideas

to help us plan teen programs.

Special science 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. Wednesday, Dec. 15, is STEM with Jessica Walker, where we'll enjoy an experiment or two.

Saturday's all-ages Discovery Times continue on Facebook at 2:30 p.m. with games, art ideas, science experiments, history and more.

■ See Library on next page

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Letters to Santa

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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
or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

Library

■ continued from previous page In-person gaming

Enjoy free all-ages video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect on Fridays from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Dungeons and Dragons

Join us every other Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. for our new in-person Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. The next one is Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Writing challenge

A new all-ages writing challenge was posted Dec. 6 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 based on the book "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.

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. Note there will be no Tech Time Dec. 7 and 9.

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 7 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 se llevan a cabo los martes y jueves de 4 a 7 p.m. Los estudiantes principiantes asisten de 4 a 5 p.m., estudiantes intermedios de 5 a 6 p.m. y estudiantes avanzados de 7 a 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) session take place on Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m., when Mark helps with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Library hours

Most of our programs are hap-

pening 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.

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.

Novels

"The Lacemaker," "Tidewater Bride" and "An Uncommon Woman" by Laura Frantz are romances set in an 18th century Virginia Colony. "A Bound Heart," also by Laura Frantz, focuses on a couple sent across the Atlantic as indentured servants. "Holding the Fort," "The Lieutenant's Bargain" and "The Major's Daughter" are three

books in the Fort Reno romance series set in Indian Territory. "Go Tell the Bees That I am Gone" by Diana Gabaldon is the latest in the epic Outlander historical fantasy series.

Large print

"Clive Cussler's The Devil's Sea" by Dirk Cussler is a Dirk Pitt adventure. "A MacCallister Christmas" by William W. and J.A. Johnstone is a western. "Every Mother's Son," also by William W. and J.A. Johnstone, is the latest in the Jackals western series. "The Joy and Light Bus Company" by Alexander McCall Smith is a No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency mystery. "Chain of Command" by Tom Clancy is the latest in the Jack Ryan thriller series.

Nonfiction

"All American Christmas" by Rachel Campos-Duffy and Sean Duffy traces holiday traditions across the U.S. as told by Fox News hosts. "Atlas Invisible" by the geographer/designer team of James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti offers a look at information that cannot be conveyed by text and numbers alone. "Hear Yourself" by Prem Rawat provides steps to help you find peace in a noisy world. "The Woman All Spies Fear" by historian Amy Butler Greenfield is the biography of a woman from Indiana who became a wartime spy and fighter against the mob. "Act Like

■ See Library on next page



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In The Country Just Outside Bayfield

Price: \$450,000 4 bed/3 bath/35+/- acres

Hunter's retreat with access to the San Juan National Forest. Tree cover screens 180'+ feet of highway frontage provides privacy.

Palm Harbor HUD manufactured home set in 1995.

Wood burning stove warms the living area.

Primary suite with 5-piece bathroom & attached "parents' retreat." The "parents' retreat" offers a wet bar for entertaining or could possibly be a separate playroom or even a hobby room.

The dining room has a place for a large table. The second and the third bedrooms are joined by a Jack and Jill bathroom. The fourth bedroom has separate full bath. Land parcel is varied with an abundance of trees and a pasture for grazing – a portion which is sub-fenced near the hay barn. A total of eight outbuildings includes three sheds, a large AG building with electricity. The well is 480-foot deep, private well permitted to supply water for stock & irrigation. There are two shooting stands with 100-yard & 280-yard targets.



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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.

Take-out meals continue

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 Com-

Senior News

munity 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.

Community Café menu

Thursday, Dec. 9 — Tilapia with tartar sauce, squash, biscuit, milk and salad.

Friday, Dec. 10 — Beef barley soup, roasted zucchini, tomatoes and onions, milk, salad and apple crisp.

Monday, Dec. 13 — Vegetarian pasta primavera, cauliflower, dinner roll, milk and salad.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 — Baked catfish, hoppin' John, cornbread, milk and salad.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 — Ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, milk, salad and cranberry delight.

Thursday, Dec. 16 — Spaghetti with beef meat sauce, roasted cauliflower with red pepper, milk, salad and brownie.

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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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 biennial escolar regular en noviembre de 2023.

Las descripciones legales de los distritos directores están disponibles en 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.

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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 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.

Holiday lights

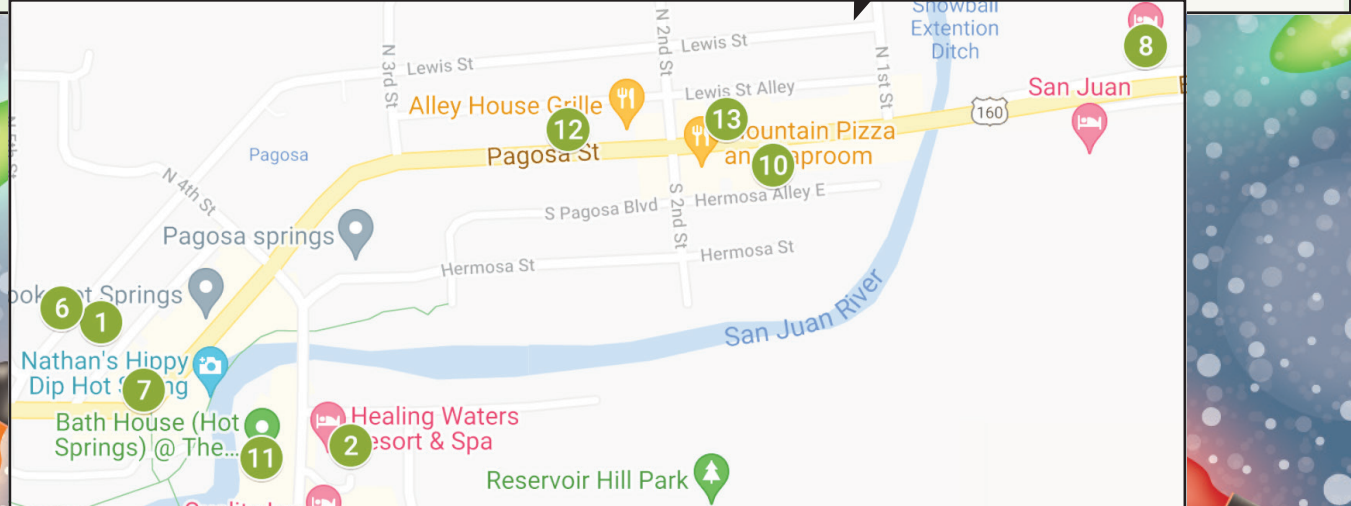
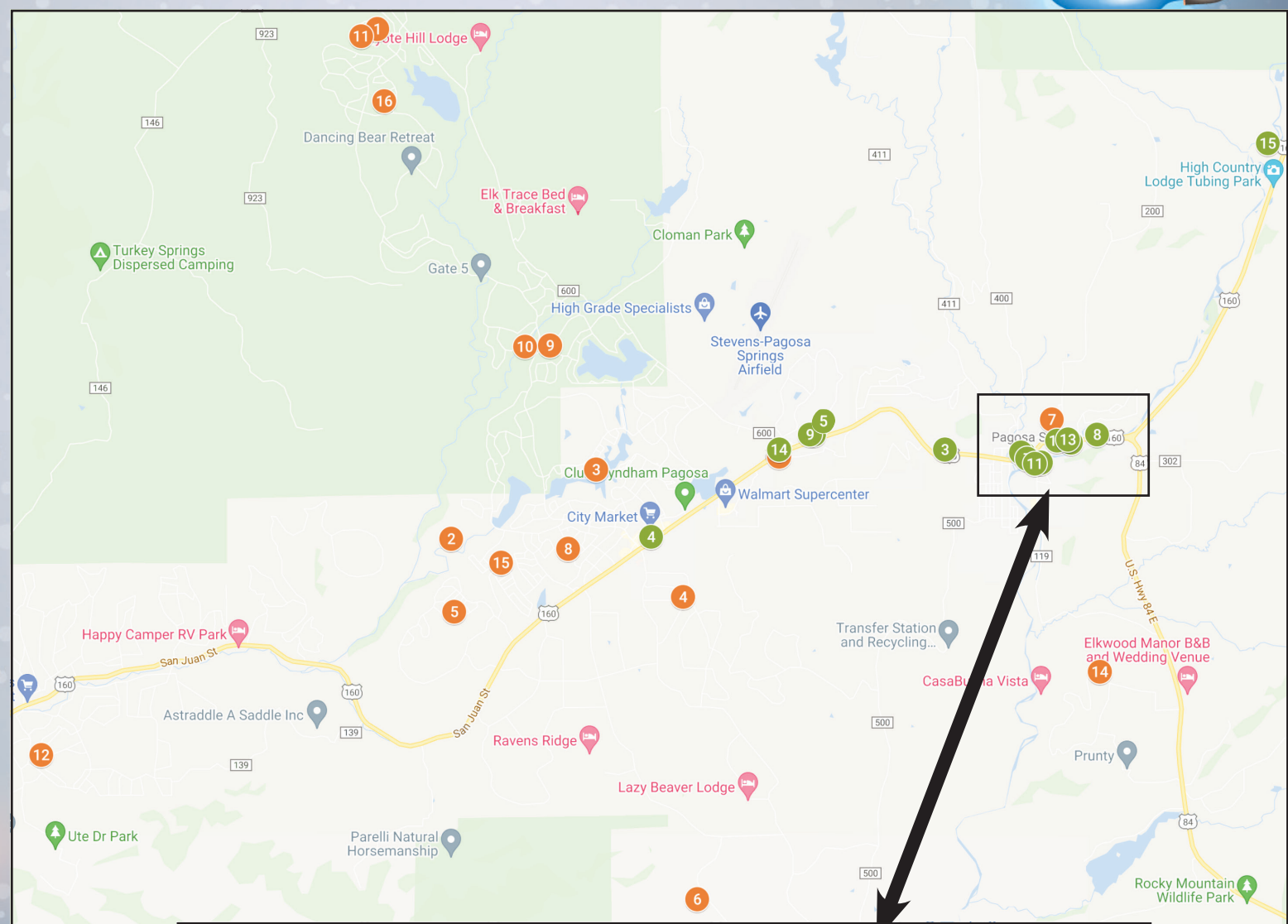
Business contest

- 1 PS Froyo
- 2 Healing Waters Resort & Spa
- 3 Momentum Fitness
- 4 Pagosa Massage and Body Work
- 5 Colorado Dream Homes
- 6 Two Old Crows
- 7 Foot Prints
- 8 RiverWalk Inn
- 9 Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
- 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 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.

Residential contest

- 1 68 Snow Circle
- 2 601 Stevens Circle
- 3 144 Island Place
- 4 344 Capricho Circle
- 5 150 Lassen Drive
- 6 633 Harvard Avenue
- 7 305 Mesa Drive
- 8 256 Lakewood Street
- 9 954 Monument Avenue
- 10 184 Sweetwater Drive
- 11 386 Falcon Place
- 12 163 Dyke Blvd
- 13 35 Harman Park Drive
- 14 585 Shenandoah Drive
- 15 301 Bonanza Avenue
- 16 506 Morrow Circle



Is the American Dream fading in the West?

By Benjamin Waddell
PREVIEW Columnist

I recently spent two days with a Mexican national named Alfredo because his experience and many of his surprising opinions seemed widely shared: America, he's concluded, isn't worth the struggle.

"The last time I crossed into the U.S., we had to walk for seven days under constant rain," Alfredo told me. "I'm glad I never have to do that again."

We were hiking a trail near his home in central Mexico, where rain had turned the land green, with maturing cornfields flanked by rows of beans and squash.

For years, Alfredo, 37, worked as a landscaper and also as a roofer in the American Southwest. These days, though, he stays home. "My land is full of life. I only left my country like everyone else because I had to. I was poor and back then it was a violent place."

Alfredo lives in the state of Guanajuato, which is among the top migrant-sending states in Mexico. Now, roughly 10.9 million Mexican-born residents live in America and the majority came from small towns like the one I was walking through.

I thought of my parents, who left Iowa and Arkansas in the 1970s to head west. In their case, they were fleeing segregation, but like Alfredo, they were in search of opportunity. In 1974, they moved to Telluride, Colo., then a busted mining town aspiring to become another Aspen. That first winter, they lived in the back of a van while they remodeled an old mining shack, which they purchased for \$20,000. Neither had a college education, but in those days a degree wasn't required to aspire to a middle-class life.

My father worked construction and my mom waited tables. Money was tight, but the first ski lift had just gone in and the future looked promising. These days, both continue to work, but they are financially stable in large part because of the equity in a house they owned decades ago.

Today, opportunities in the West are harder to come by. My childhood home in Telluride, although no longer in the family, recently appraised for just over \$5 million, representing a 24,900 percent increase since my parents first purchased it. Wages, in turn, have been stuck in neutral for decades. And while wandering hippies may still show up in vans, few are able to purchase property of their own unless they're packing a trust fund. As the middle class fades away, what's left seems to narrow down to property owners and workers.

If he'd been born a few decades earlier, Alfredo said, he might have tried to stay in the United States.

Writers on the Range

As the middle class fades away, what's left seems to narrow down to property owners and workers.

"But all I did in the U.S. was work from sunup to sundown, and for what? At least here I have my home and my cornfields, I get to see my family every day and I'm connected to the land."

Alfredo's not alone. Today, more migrants are returning to Mexico than are leaving. The outflow back to Mexico is affecting western states particularly hard, because most of the Mexicans who do migrate to this country are settling in southern states like Arkansas, North Carolina and Georgia. Similar trends are evident within

smaller sending countries like El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Guatemala.

According to my research, the migrants returning to Mexico tend to leave states such as Arizona, California, Colorado and Texas. These demographic shifts have contributed to an acute labor shortage.

For generations, Mexican migrants subsidized the expansion of the West by providing cheap workers. Men like Alfredo worked alongside newcomers like my parents and, together, they helped build now-legendary towns like Telluride. Now, just as Mexican migration rates reverse, the cost of construction, housing and basic services in the west are all on the rise.

As we settled into the trail toward Alfredo's hometown of San Martin de Terreros, I asked Alfredo if he planned to come back to the U.S. one day.

"No, señor," he responded without hesitation. "I have everything I need right here."

Benjamin Waddell is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writer-sontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is an associate professor of sociology at Fort Lewis College in Durango. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Come As You Are

"Come to Me, all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

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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 ring-necked duck.

In the early days of ornithology when birds were being cataloged and named, observations were often made on dead birds collected and preserved for later study.

That is how this bird came to be named for a trait that is normally hidden on a live bird: the chestnut-colored neck ring on the male ring-necked duck.

Instead, to many it seems that this bird should be more appropriately named the ring-billed duck for the visible white band behind the black tip of its grayish bill. His bill is also outlined in white where it meets the head. Males are colored an iridescent black on the head, neck, breast and upper parts. Their white sides display a pattern resembling a whale. Both sexes have a peaked head. Females are brown with lighter patches on the cheeks and chin, a white eye ring and darker crown. They are difficult to distinguish from the similarly marked redhead and scaup.

These ducks dive for food, but are often found in shallower water than other diving ducks. Unlike many, they can fly directly off the water without needing long runs and so can inhabit smaller wetland areas. They feed primarily on the leaves, stems, seeds and tubers of submerged plants. During breeding season, they add aquatic invertebrates to their diet.

Ring-necked ducks breed primarily in the boreal forest regions of northern North America. In winter and in migration, they can form huge flocks of up to several thousand birds. As long as there is open water, they can be found in our area year-round.

On the day of last year's Christmas Bird Count, these were the most numerous of the waterfowl species reported. Information for joining this year's count on Dec. 18 may be found on our website.

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

It's Your Right to Know.



SUN

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to restaurants.

L B A E T

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Answer: Table

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Sounds from the meadow
- 5 Cry like a baby
- 9 Word with "gift" or "thrif"
- 13 Cattle breed
- 15 "The Mod Squad" coif
- 16 Fillable bread
- 17 Everybody's opposite
- 18 Fight stopper
- 19 Pasty-faced
- 20 One who etches
- 22 Sofa's cousin
- 24 Nile wader
- 25 Do museum work
- 26 Black currant liqueur
- 29 Fourth-down player, often
- 30 Up in the air
- 32 Anger, with "up"
- 35 Genetic letters
- 36 Part of DWTS
- 39 Atlantic food fish
- 40 Fill beyond full
- 42 Future organ giver's document
- 44 Casual top
- 47 ____ Forge, PA
- 48 Film material
- 50 Gambling game
- 51 Sheiks' bevies
- 52 One of the ancient Seven Wonders
- 56 Chrome alternative
- 57 Glade or green starter
- 59 Renter's document
- 60 Lily plant
- 61 Quarterback's protection
- 62 Hole-boring tool
- 63 Scout groups
- 64 Crumbly cheese
- 65 Pear homophone

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15				16			
17						18				19			
20					21			22	23				
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51						52					53	54	55
56					57	58			59				
60					61				62				
63					64					65			

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DOWN

- 1 Source of misery
- 2 Mysterious by-line, for short
- 3 Keyed up
- 4 Eagles tune "Tequila ____"
- 5 Makes a cake, say
- 6 Way off
- 7 Kind of humor
- 8 Give some slack
- 9 Splash in drops
- 10 Like some fiction
- 11 Survey choice
- 12 Check casher
- 14 Pelican or puffin
- 21 Scenic outlook
- 23 Jersey's time zone
- 25 Altercation
- 26 Cows' mouthfuls
- 27 Tolstoy heroine
- 28 Double-barreled weapon
- 29 Lace edging

- 31 Agassi of tennis
- 33 Old stories
- 34 Water whirl
- 37 Hemingway work
- 38 Snack bar?
- 41 Holds high
- 43 Macro lens shot
- 45 Omelet ingredient
- 46 In and of ____
- 48 On the horizon
- 49 Core members
- 50 Where Hawkeye served
- 52 Dime division
- 53 It's a long story
- 54 "Ruse" anagram
- 55 Dried up
- 58 Compete (for)

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 9

Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Beginner lessons. Loaner paddles will be available.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Serving spaghetti with salad 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.

FSFE – Food Coalition Community Conversation. 2-3 p.m., via Zoom. The community is invited to join in when we will virtually meet and chat with Amanda Laban of Guidestone Colorado out of Chaffee County. Please visit the FSFE – Food Coalition website to get access to the Zoom link: <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/community-conversations.html>.

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.

Free HIV and Hepatitis C Tests. 2:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Rapid test results are available within several minutes. HIV testing is recommended any time you have a new partner. Also, take-home STI kits will be available. Call Ashley at San Juan Basin Public Health with any questions: (970) 335-2015.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second

language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students are encouraged to attend from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Winter Outdoor Learning Fund (WOLF) Winter Fundraiser. 6-10 p.m., Tall Pines Beer and Wine Garden, 23 Pike Drive. The film "Stoke the Fire" by Teton Gravity Research will begin at 7 p.m. Food and drink specials will be available, so arrive prior to showtime for a nosh and a libation. All proceeds ensure that WOLF can continue to host and create outdoor learning opportunities for our local community.

Friday, Dec. 10

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

Therapy Dog Visit. 1:30-2:15 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog; it's a great way to relax or boost your day. Visits with the therapy dog should be limited to 10-15 minutes. In that time, you can pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi."

Free Legal Clinic. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. No registration required. Please check in at the front desk. Everyone will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a

free legal clinic via computer link for parties who have no attorney. Volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for the legal issues in the areas of family law, civil litigation, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, veteran's benefits and civil protection orders. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

■ See Calendar on next page



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2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

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, Dec. 11

Breakfast with Santa. 8:30-11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School, 800 S. 8th St. Sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America. Come join us for a fun-filled morning. A \$5 entry fee (\$20 maximum per family) includes a picture with Santa, face-painting and hand-made ornament. A full breakfast will be served. Small silent auction. All proceeds go toward helping students attend the Future Business Leaders of America national leadership conference.

Mt. Allison Grange Community Breakfast. 9-11 a.m., Mt. Allison Grange, 2622 County Road 329, Ignacio. Breakfast burritos will be served that include sausage, ham, eggs, hash browns and green chile. We will also have biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. We also will collect canned goods and hats and mittens for kids. We hope to see everyone there.

Community Presentation: Pagosa Springs Cemetery Project. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Dr. Ruth Lambert will share information learned from the recent cemetery research project conducted at the original Pagosa Springs cemetery, also known as Pioneer Cemetery and the Old Fort Lewis Cemetery. During the summer of 2021, the Town of Pagosa Springs partnered with volunteers from the Archuleta County Genealogical Society and Lambert to conduct an archaeological assessment of the cemetery. Using a variety of noninvasive instruments, scans of the cemetery were taken to accurately survey the ground. At the same time, volunteers conducted extensive research to uncover scarce records and learn more about Pagosa's past and give us a better understanding of the historical significance of this old cemetery. Everyone is invited to attend this historical event.

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.

Discovery Time. 2:30 p.m. Facebook. For all ages. New videos are posted to Facebook each Saturday. View to explore new games, art ideas, science experi-

ments, history, activities and more. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Monday, Dec. 13

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

Spanish Conversation. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Would you like to improve your Spanish language speaking and listening skills? Join us in person to practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. There is no minimum skill level needed to attend. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Study on Biblical Feasts. 7 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Hosted by Rabbi Gen Dwinell. The subjects/feasts covered will be Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Shavuot/Pentecost, Latter First Fruits, Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles. Other festivals that may be covered: Hanukkah/Feast of Dedication, Feast of Lots/Purim, story of Esther. Are you interested in learning about the Biblical/Jewish festivals that were given by God to teach His people about His relationship with us? These festivals are also deeply connected with Messiah. There is even a parallel in a Jewish wedding. Come join the fun as we study these appointed times mentioned in Leviticus 23 and their connections with Messiah.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

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.

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.

Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles will be available.

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. We will be discussing "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri. Copies are currently available to pick up at your library. For more information, call (970) 264-2900.

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.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students are encouraged to attend from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Girls' Varsity Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa vs. Ignacio.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

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

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

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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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. S.T.E.M with Jessica. For all ages. Join us for an experiment or two at this program presented by Jessica Walker. 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. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For all ages. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog; it's a great way to relax or boost your day. Visits with the therapy dog should be limited to 10-15 minutes. In that time, you can pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi."

Baby Brain Gym. 2:30-3 p.m. For families with children age 3 and under. Babies and toddlers are forming millions of connections in their brains each second. Help your baby's brain grow with hands-on sensory activities designed just

for them. For more information, call (970) 264-2900.

Teen Advisory Board. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join us to help plan library events. Let us know what you think the library should be doing for you. Call (970) 264-2900 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 raptors, plus Christmas Bird Count protocols and review. People attending in person are encouraged to wear masks indoors. For virtual sign-on information, consult www.weminucheadubon.org closer to the first class.

'Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. 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. Tickets are \$35 and are available online at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Thursday, Dec. 16

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Serving ham with cheesy potatoes and vegetable sticks 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.

Public Health Resource Series: Radon Awareness. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Representatives from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) will discuss the dangers of radon gas in your home and distribute free radon test kits. Take advantage of the expertise of the staff at SJBPH to attend this latest event in their public health series at your library. Did you know that the geology of southwest Colorado leads to an increased risk of radon gas in your home? Radon exposure is the nation's second-leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause in people who have never smoked. Take action and join us to get your free test kit and learn how you can address radon gas levels in your home. Call (970) 264-2900 for more information.

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

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Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Beginner lessons. Loaner paddles will be available.

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.

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Come celebrate winter with us. We will have hot chocolate ready. While you sip, join in the fun with some seasonal crafts. Call (970) 264-2900 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students are encouraged to attend from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more! Mark can

help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. PALS will only occur three times in December. Call (970) 2264-2209 for more information.

'Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. 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. Tickets are \$35 and are available online at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Dec. 17

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

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

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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.


'Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. 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. Tickets are \$35 and are available online at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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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The history and care of poinsettias

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

The Aztecs cultivated the poinsettia (*euphorbia pulcherrima*) in Mexico long before Europeans came to the Western Hemisphere. It was cultivated in Oaxatpec, which is now the Mexican state Morelos. The poinsettia was prized by kings Netzahualcyotl and Montezuma and its indigenous name was Cuetlaxochitl.

The Aztecs used the bracts for a reddish-purple dye and the latex to counteract fever. The plant also played a part in midwinter celebrations representing purity and blood sacrifices. It was widely planted in gardens.

Franciscan priests during the 17th century near Taxco observed the plant blooming during the Christmas season. They incorporated the plant into the Fiesta of Santa Pesebre nativity procession. They used the concept of blood sacrifices from Aztec tradition to have the poinsettia represent the blood of Christ to Catholics and Christians. Poinsettias bloom naturally in October, signaling the coming of Christmas.

Joel R. Poinsett, a botanist and the first U.S. minister to Mexico under President James Monroe in 1825, sent some plants to his home in South Carolina. He shared his finds with other plant enthusiasts. Dec. 12 is National Poinsettia Day and recognizes Poinsett's contribution to the holiday season.

Many people have been instrumental in establishing poinsettias as a house plant and holiday tradition. The Paul Ecke Sr. originally

Extension Viewpoints

grew poinsettias as a cut flower in the Hollywood and Beverly Hills area in the 1920s. After moving to Encinitas, Calif., the Ecke family focused on field-grown poinsettia mother plants, which were shipped throughout the country via railroad box cars. Paul Ecke Jr. took poinsettias to the next level in the 1960s through media promotions, specifically the "Tonight Show" and the Bob Hope Christmas specials. This constant effort ensured that poinsettias were as much a part of the holiday season as evergreen trees, Christmas cards and caroling. It was at this time that the Ecke family moved from field production to greenhouse production, which created the need for improved cultivars.

Active breeding of the poinsettia began in the 1950s in an effort to develop cultivars that would retain their leaves and bracts for a longer period. Early breeding efforts included those of Mikkelsen of Ohio (Mikkelsen series), the Heggs of Norway (Hegg series), as well as those of the Ecke family (Eckespoint series). The Fischer family, a German breeder, has also contributed many cultivars to the poinsettia tradition. These breeding programs focused on stronger stems, leaf and bract retention, multiple branching, earlier bloom-

ing and color variation.

Modern cultivars are now bred to last longer in the home, bloom earlier and require fewer resources for production. This translates into more color selections and better-quality plants for consumers. Poinsettias are available in a vast array of colors from red to white, pink to burgundy, and with many variations in between including flecks of color on contrasting backgrounds.

Selection: Poinsettias do well in the home and keep their color until mid-March. The showy red, pink, white, yellow, bi-colored or speckled modified "leaves" are called bracts. With proper light and temperature, they accumulate the anthocyanin pigments that give them their color. The flowers (cyathia) of the poinsettia are in the center of the bracts. Male and female parts are present, along with a yellow-edged nectary with sweet, fragrant nectar.

Poinsettias come in many colors and forms. New selections appear every year. Choose a plant with uniformly dark green foliage. However, cultivars with lighter colored

■ See Viewpoints on page 29



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Viewpoints

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or mottled bracts typically have lighter green foliage.

Plants with pale green, yellow or fallen leaves generally have a root disease problem, have been overwatered, had an excessive dry period or received limited fertilization. Bracts should be well developed with little pollen showing on the flowers.

When outside temperatures approach 35 degrees F, be sure the plant is well-wrapped or sleeved before transporting. Low temperatures, even for short periods, can damage leaves and bracts. Remove sleeves promptly to prevent epinasty, a downward bending of the petioles, which are the slender stalks that attach the bracts to the stem.

Cultural requirements: Poinsettias thrive on indirect, natural daylight — at least six hours a day. Avoid direct sunlight, as this may fade the bract color. If direct sun cannot be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain. To prolong color, keep plants out of traffic areas and protect from cold drafts and excessive heat. Ideal temperatures are 67 to 70 degrees during the day and 60 to 62 degrees at night. Remove damaged or diseased leaves.

Poinsettias require moderately moist soil. Check plants daily and water thoroughly whenever the soil feels dry to the touch. Plants in clay pots require more water, while those in plastic pots are easily overwatered. Apply water until it runs out the drainage hole. However, do not allow poinsettias to sit in standing water. If the container is wrapped with foil, remove it when watering or make a hole in it for drainage. Discard any collected water in the drainage receptacle.

A poinsettia does not require fertilization while it is in bloom. However, to maintain green foliage and promote new growth indoors after the holidays, apply a balanced all-purpose house plant fertilizer once per month. Always follow the directions on the fertilizer label.

Reflowering: To “reflower” poinsettias for the next year, strictly follow these simple steps. After a plant has passed its stage of usefulness, usually by late March or early April, remove the bracts and part of the stem. This cutting back can be done any time through mid-July, depending on the desired final size and shape of the plant. Leave three or four leaves on each remaining stem.

During late spring and early summer, move the plant to the next larger size pot. Use a well-drained potting medium, preferably heat-pasteurized. Use any well-drained soil, such as a blend of equal parts sphagnum peat moss, vermiculite and/or perlite. Thoroughly mix 1 tablespoon of treble superphos-

phate fertilizer (0-46-0) in each gallon of soil mix. Apply a slow-release fertilizer to the soil surface.

Prune tall growth at approximately six-week intervals to keep the plant well-formed. The last pruning or pinch before flowering should occur in late August. The poinsettia is a naturally woody plant that easily can be trained into many shapes during summer pruning. Consider a poinsettia tree, hanging basket or other artistic creation. Just remember to heed the last pinching date and the darkness requirement to achieve your masterpiece by the holidays.

Indoors, place the poinsettia in a bright area where the temperature will remain constant. Water as needed and fertilize with a complete fertilizer every two to three weeks. During the summer, the plant may go outdoors in a partly shaded area. After the danger of frost is past in the spring and minimum temperatures reach 55 degrees, place the plant on the patio or sink it into the ground. It prefers a well-drained, slightly shaded location. Turn the pot once a week to prevent roots from growing through the drainage hole. Bring plants into the house when night temperatures are colder than 55 degrees (approximately Sept. 1 in Colorado).

Poinsettias are short-day photoperiodic plants. This means they set buds and produce flowers as the autumn nights lengthen, blooming naturally during November or December. To flower and develop colored bracts, a poinsettia must receive as much sunshine as possible during the day.

Starting about Oct. 1, it also needs at least 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night at temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees. Stray light of any kind (street lights, pool lights or lamps) could delay or entirely halt the reflowering process. The dark treatment should last until color shows in the bracts (approximately Thanksgiving). Some modern cultivars may show color as much as two weeks before Thanksgiving. Continue fertilizing and watering to encourage good growth.

Disease and pest control: Many pests can infest poinsettias. Wash off insects with mild soap and water, using a sponge or gentle spray. Mealybugs and white flies may require pesticide application or removal of infested plant parts. To remove mealybugs, apply ordinary rubbing alcohol with a cotton swab.

Cold, moist soil temperatures encourage root diseases. If lower leaves start turning yellow and fall off, a root rot condition may exist. Apply an all-purpose fungicide (usually available at garden centers) as a soil drench. The milky sap that exudes from a poinsettia when

damaged is called latex and is not the result of any insect or disease infestation.

Poinsettias are not poisonous: In a 1995 poll funded by the Society of American Florists, 66 percent of the respondents held the false impression that poinsettia plants are toxic if eaten. Research at Ohio State University in 1971 showed that rats fed unusually high doses of poinsettia plant parts were not adversely affected. The POISINDEX Information Service, the primary resource used by most poison control centers, states that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 poinsettia bracts to surpass experimental doses. Based on the rodent tests, accepted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the commission denied a 1975 petition filed by a New York citizen demanding that poinsettia plants carry caution labels that indicate they are poisonous.

Like other non-food items, poinsettia plants are not edible and are not intended to be eaten. Poinsettias are a member of the euphorbiaceae family of plants. Other economically important

■ See Viewpoints on next page



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If you can't beat them, join them

Musical chairs: a familiar game played by young and old alike. The rules are simple. The music starts while players walk a circular path made of removable chairs. The music stops, then each party scrambles as they push and pull their way to be the last man, or woman, sitting. And so, this story goes.

I made such a fuss when my Sweet Al purchased a big, brown leather recliner and brought it home to put in our bedroom. The ugly chair overtook my small pink rocker and my cabbage rose settee. Didn't he realize that his lounge was challenging my bedroom's beautiful décor?

I came home one day and found a new 55-inch television sitting right in front of the ugly chair. The response? "What am I going to look at as I sit in my beautiful chair?"

"Well, you could look at me. Besides, it's our bedroom. You are turning it into a man cave and have ruined the ambiance."

My Sweet Al argued, "A man needs to be the king of his castle."

I learned long ago not to touch that one, but I never thought I would see a throne sitting smack-dab in the middle of our bedroom.

The backstory began years ago when a treasured bootie caught Al's good eye. It was overstuffed and larger than life. It rocked and reclined and had a footrest that spread out nearly 3 feet.

There was a blizzard on the day when Al brought home his new chair. I told him that I would call our son-in-law to help him carry it into the house. But, before I could even get a dial tone, he had pole-vaulted the chair out of the truck and onto the porch.

Like a kid on Christmas morning, cardboard and plastic wrap shot through the air as Al uncovered his pièce de résistance. Then, there was a quiet hush and a hot glow. "It's the wrong chair. The warehouse gave me

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



the wrong chair."

I can't repeat what was said on the subsequent phone call between my Sweet Al and his new ex-best friend, a saleswoman named Stephanie. But, in the blink of an eye, that chair flew across the porch and back into the truck just moments before my big lump of comfort sped off en route to the store.

Yes, I witnessed the whole thing with my very own eyes. By the time my Sweet Al got home with the right chair, I had made up my mind that I would be supportive of whatever the outcome, whether I understood the absurdity of the moment or not.

And now, our sacred room that was once an artist's masterpiece resembles a hunter's lodge where you would expect to see elk and boar head trophies.

My, how things have changed, or perhaps I've changed. For my birthday, I requested a new chair. Of course, I wanted something in soothing aqua to match my hand-painted armoire, throw pillows and shams, but I guess those days are gone.

Today, the family dogs have taken over our bedroom and Netflix is the only entertainment. As the saying goes, if you can't beat them, join them.

A recent trip to Albuquerque caused my eye to wander in the direction of my own overstuffed recliner. I looked at many different chairs, but most were too big or too small. I knew if I searched for the perfect one, I would know it when I saw it. After all, it worked for my Sweet Al.

After visiting several furniture stores, it was as if a halo of light appeared from the heavens. There sat a beautiful brown leather recliner. It had a remote that would animate the chair, allowing it to rise straight up. The lumbar fit against my back like a strong, trusted hand. There was even a USB charger built in and secret pockets to store my midnight snacks.

Like a swaddled baby, I sat in the comfort of my new find. And, with the touch of a button, I was lifted to a standing position, then nearly thrust across the salesroom floor with credit card in hand. I would never have bought a chair like this, but now I find myself bringing up the rear.

Final brushstroke: It is probably best not to go chair shopping when Muzak is playing overhead. It has a way of making a person search for a chair they didn't know they needed. One thing is for certain: I am getting too old for games where I need to fight to cushion my keister, but the end result is comforting.

Readers' comments

Send your comments to betty@bettyslade.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page
species in this family include: The cultivated rubber tree *hevea brasiliensis*, manioc or cassava (manihot), and castor bean (ricinus). With its close genetic ties to the rubber tree, which is where natural latex is derived, those who are sensitive may also be sensitive to the latex from poinsettias. If eaten, parts of all plants may cause varying degrees of discomfort, but not death. Keep plants out of reach of small children.

Although commonly assumed to be poisonous to animals, poinsettia plants are not harmful to household pets unless the leaves and bracts are eaten in very large quantities. Some cats that chew on the leaves may salivate and can vomit if the leaves are swallowed.

Since cats and puppies frequently chew on new plants introduced to the home, it is prudent to place the plants out of reach.

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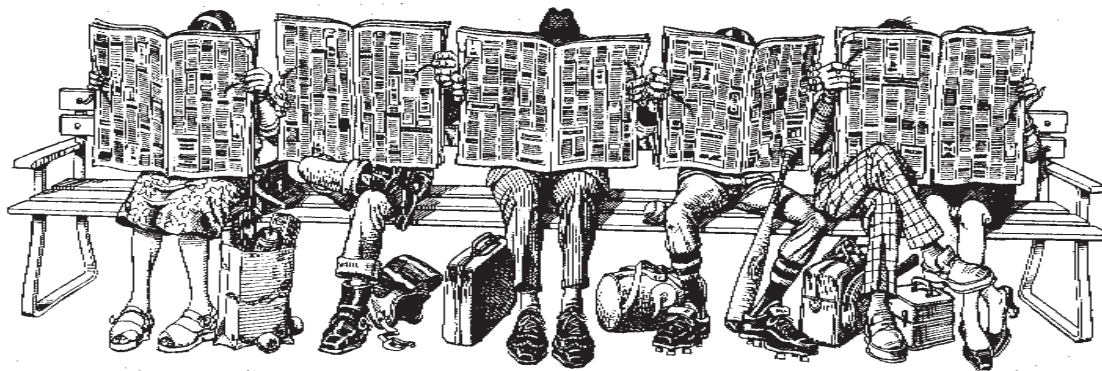
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THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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AA PAGOSA M-F 5:30P.M. Sunday at 10a.m. Noon meetings everyday. Young people's meeting starting 12/11 at 7p.m. 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.

AL-ANON TRADITIONAL FAMILY GROUP. Mondays, 7p.m., Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail. Contact (970)903-9690.

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CALLING ALL COOKS! Make up to \$25/ hour with our shared tips! If you enjoy preparing high-quality food, join us at Pagosa Brewing & Grill. All Team Members share tips! Apply on FB, or email info@pagosabrewing.com, or in-person at 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Cheers!

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS WINE AND LIQUOR hiring part-time clerk. Nights and weekends required. Apply at store. (970)731-5039.

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.

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.

EXCITING PART-TIME OPPORTUNITY! Cook for Loaves & Fishes. Must have high-volume food prep experience and excellent people/communication skills. Must be available to work Wednesday mornings and Thursdays 'til 2p.m. Great pay for the right person! Contact: loavesandfishespagosa@centurytel.net.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

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@pagosason.com.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Looking for a host person 3-4 days a week. 3p.m.-9p.m. Must have good phone skills and be organized. Hourly rate \$14-\$15 an hour. If not vaccinated must wear a mask and be tested weekly. Contact@alleyhousegrille.com.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY HELP WANTED ADS — tinyurl.com/d64dele9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

GET A JOB AT PAGOSA LIQUOR. Hiring a full-time cashier. Nights and weekends. Apply at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HELP WANTED

PERSONAL ASSISTANT AND TYPIST (MAC) for book on complementary health care. (970)264-5564.

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.

OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED for established construction company. QuickBooks, multi-layered scheduling, sales. Please call (970)403-5119 and submit resumes to info@fullertonworks.com.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

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.

SEEDS OF LEARNING is accepting applications for a Child Care Nurse consultant for approximately 3-5 hours per month off site, and 4 on site visits per year. Applicants must be a licensed RN, NP, or Physician. The job will include monitoring all immunizations, on site health concerns and health needs of children. Please call Michelle at (970)264-5513 for more information or email your resume to seedsoflearning@growingseeds.org.

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.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON hiring a Full Time Cashier. Please apply at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

CTELECTRIC IS HIRING licensed electricians. We are hiring a licensed RW or JW for full time, residential, commercial and service work, year round. We offer competitive wages, health insurance, paid vacation, paid holidays and a company vehicle. If you hold a Colorado electrical license and live in or near Pagosa Springs, come join a growing company and take your career to the next level. Email your resume to: pagosa.ctelectric@gmail.com or call (970)444-2303.

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 for complete job description. Email resume to cheryl@riseaboveviolence.org.

CABE'S COLLISION AND CUSTOMS LLC now hiring all positions including automotive refinishing 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.

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.

HELP WANTED

OFFICE HELP WANTED. Apply within Design A Sign, 57 Majestic Drive.

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/ Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 317 Hot Springs Blvd.

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.

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 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.

DEDICATED CLEANERS, UP TO \$17/ hour. Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. Text Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

FULL CHARGE BOOKKEEPER: Sunetha is looking for a very customer service and detail oriented individual responsible for AR/AP, and journal entries. If you have one-two years experience as an advance level bookkeeper, know Microsoft Office, experience with property management software a bonus, please contact Dori at (970)422-1863 or email your resume to dori@sunetha.com.

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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.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO WORK for a company focused on rural community development? Do you love working with a high driven and a fun team? 1st Southwest Bank is looking for a Branch Manager. Offering a strong benefit package and career growth opportunities. For more specific details visit <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/015aff28/OA71M410zUWW9apyoFzLk-g?u=http://www.fswb.bank/who-we-are/>. EOE.

COME JOIN THE COLORADO DREAM HOMES INC. team! Need an enthusiastic employee for bookkeeper position. Full time with benefits. Top pay, paid vacation, paid holidays (5), and bonuses. Must know Excel and Accounting programs (QuickBooks-Sage, construction knowledge helpful). Duties: A/R's-A/P's-Payroll-Employee Record Keeping-Excel Costing and Auditing. Signing bonus. Please call (970)731-3071 for appointment or email resume to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com. Subject: Bookkeeper Position.

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.

DENTAL HYGIENIST: San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to dricmsmithdds@aol.com or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

ESTABLISHED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY hiring All Positions, including Project Manager, reliable transportation a must. Submit resumes to info@fullertonworks.com or call (970)403-5119.

FULL TIME- GENERAL LABOR. Please fill out application with Forest Health Timber Products, LLC, 452 Pagosa Street, Ste. 2A, Pagosa Springs, (970)264-5000.

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.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS Animal Shelter Kennel Tech. Full time available, may include some weekend work. Job requires cross-training in all aspects of the shelter operation, including working with animals and the public. Must adhere to shelter procedures to maintain animal health and safety. Previous animal care experience helpful but not mandatory. Job may include some desk work but also entails standing for periods of time and some lifting. Must be a team player. Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, social security card and background check required. Pick up application and apply in person at the Humane Society Animal Shelter, 465 Cloman Blvd.

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Classifieds

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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.

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).

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.

SEEKING MANAGER. Make up to \$25/ hour with our shared tips! If you know hospitality and can lead a team, join us at Pagosa Brewing & Grill. All Team Members share tips! Apply on FB, or email info@pagosabrewing.com, or in-person at 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Cheers!

PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL has anticipated openings for an assistant food service advisor, food service director, and high impact tutor. Please see our website at www.pagosapeakopenschool.org for more information.

MOUNTAIN EYE CARE, a private optometric practice in Pagosa Springs, is looking for a new team member. We provide full service Vision care with the latest technology available including Contact Lenses and Optical. If you have experience or just have a desire to provide exceptional customer service and are willing to learn, send us your resume. Kderr.mountaineeyecare@gmail.com.

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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.

HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

PEAK DELI IS CALLING on line cooks to join the team. Apply in person or send resume to peakdeli@gmail.com.

PAGOSA PLAY PLACE seeks a Part-Time Director of Operations, 4-5 days a week (approximately 25 hours) to handle daily operations, membership services, program development and social media. If you are an outgoing, technically savvy go-getter wanting to expand your nonprofit experience by working closely with our community's young families our board of directors would love to hear from you! Please email us questions, brief bio, and resume to pagosaplayplace@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED: SUNETHA PROPERTY Management is looking for an experienced Full-Time Administrative Assistant. Must be flexible, customer service oriented, able to work in a fast paced environment, and a little crazy! HOA and Short-term Rental experience are a huge plus! Please send your resume to dori@sunetha.com. Pay depends upon experience.

YARD SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY YARD SALE and FOR SALE AD UPDATES — tinyurl.com/d64deel9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

MOVING SALE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 8a.m. sharp. Adjustable bed, dressers, table, chairs and matching hutch, leather loveseat, Native Ultimate 12' kayak, chainsaw, camping and fishing equipment, hand tools, kitchen items, garage storage cabinets, window AC unit and more. 722 Antelope Ave. Hwy. 160 west, right on N. Pagosa, left on Antelope Ave., House #722. Rain or shine. AEHPAE.

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FOR SALE

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BUNKBEDS For Sale, High quality and good condition \$300. (970)398-9136.

HAND-BLOWN GLASS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS made in Pagosa. \$5 each. Call (970)731-5374.

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2004 WR450F YAMAHA. Might have 1,200 miles, few extras, \$3,500 OBO. (970)264-4324 or (970)903-2297.

FIREWOOD, DRY AND SEASONED PINE. Split, ready to burn, \$185 delivered. (970)731-2902.

AMMO. ARCHERY EQUIPMENT. 2-16" Goodrich A/T tires. 4-17" Dunlop M&S tires. Rototiller. (970)731-3938.

Lucy's Tamales Customers
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ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TAMALES TODAY!!!
 December 23rd Deadline to Order
 Pickup at 335 Rob Snow Road

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY YARD SALE and FOR SALE AD UPDATES — tinyurl.com/d64deel9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

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).

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FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$150/ cord fir. Pick up in Blanco Basin. No deliveries. Contact Jimmy (970)264-9140.

BEAUTIFUL ALPACA PRODUCTS for knitting, crocheting, felting and spinning. Projects for Christmas! Inside San Juan Mercantile, 524 San Juan Street (Hwy. 160).

CLASSIC NAME BRAND WOOLEN CLOTHING ... at reduced price, are the perfect Xmas gifts. Come see my booth (Puja's) for Icebreaker merino baselayers, Pendleton blankets and jackets and hats, Voormi wool clothing, Eddie Bauer jackets and shirts and sweaters. Support your locals and come see our wonderful store, at San Juan Mercantile near the downtown Subway. Each item was chosen with love.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$200 per cord. (970)317-3120.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND HOMEOWNERS. Are you remodeling or tearing down? Call Durango Salvage, we buy and sell building materials. Tom, (970)749-2271, Mark, 749-8235.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

AIRSTREAM 2007 RV CLASSIC LTD. 27', excellent condition, \$42,500. (850)585-5718.

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GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

2005 SUBARU LEGACY GT \$1,700 OBO. 1995 Nissan Pathfinder 4X4 \$1,600 OBO (480)235-9993.

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OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! www.NexthomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

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TOWNHOUSE WITH GRANITE, 2/2, \$1,950 per month. House, granite, 3/2 and 2-car garage, \$2,100 per month. Both available soon. No pets and must pass background check. Call (970)903-3942.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! www.NextHomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

ROOM FOR RENT. \$900/ month. Please call for application (970)317-3902.

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ONE BEDROOM WITH GARAGE and outdoor room with kitchen and separate entrance. \$1,600 per month all utilities included except internet. Available January 1st. Must have references and deposits. Call for appointment (970)946-5119.

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BRAND NEW, VERY NICE AND SPACIOUS ONE BEDROOM Downtown Apartment on riverwalk, with garage and deck. \$1,600 a month includes utilities. Available January 1st. 970-398-9136.

BEST VALUE IN PAGOSA. Newly remodeled 1/1, 2/2 apartment homes. Convenient location, walk to uptown grocery store. (970)946-4773.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH ON 4 ACRES. Three story with loft could be used as fourth bedroom. Close to town, easy access great views lots of space and storage. Fireplace, W/D. Log cabin with modern comfort. N/S, no pets. First, last, deposit, \$2,300/ month. Text (970)582-0148.

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COMING SOON RETAIL/ COMMERCIAL space. \$1,200 per month. This is in a highly trafficked complex. Call for details (970)903-3942.

333 BASTILLE DR., UNITS 1 AND 1.2 1,000 sq. ft. office space opportunities. They are adjoining but can be split. Both have heat and restrooms. Call (405)568-9802.

126 SQUARE FEET (9X14) of newly remodeled office space, \$350, utilities and internet included. 154 square feet (11x14) of newly remodeled office space, \$400, includes utilities and internet. (970)946-0874.

WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR RENT. Approximately 6,700 square feet. Includes bathroom, 2 offices, two garage doors, and loading dock. Contact Angela at (970)317-2151 for more information.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE JANUARY 2022. 275 SF. Downtown at the Metropolitan Hotel. \$460 per month. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

RV OR EQUIPMENT PARKING STORAGE from 20 to 35 feet long. Excellent location in Pagosa Springs. Please contact Sunetha at (970)731-4344.

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MOTIVATED SELLER. D-LOG HOME. Fantastic view of Chimney Rock. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage, horse set up on 3.7 acres. \$745,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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1.3 ACRE LOT FOR SALE. Please email debjeppings@me.com for information.

WILDLIFE COVERED! 79.69 AGRICULTURAL acres with 80 shares of water, 2 ponds and a year-round creek, \$330,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

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1.26 ACRE IN ASPEN SPRINGS. Highway frontage, \$22,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.06 ACRE ASPEN SPRINGS. Highway frontage, \$22,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.



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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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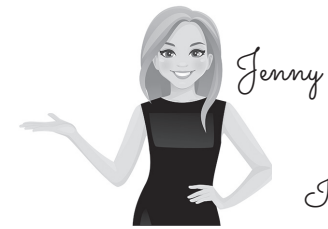
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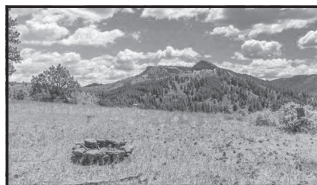
Creek Front and No HOA
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Silverton Gem
5 Eureka Mining District



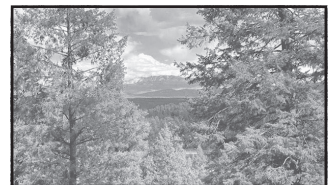
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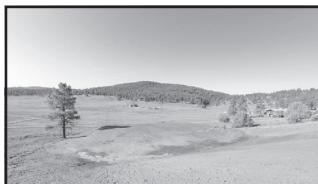
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