



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Lawsuit alleging civil conspiracy, other things filed against county

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A lawsuit has been filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado against current and former members of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office and the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).

A complaint filed Dec. 4 by attorney Donald Lawrence Jr. — of The Law Firm of Lisa Ward LLC — on behalf of the plaintiff, Jason Prescott, seeks a jury trial and alleges civil conspiracy, malicious prosecution, false arrest, extreme and outrageous conduct and deprivation of civil rights.

Listed as defendants in the case

■ See Lawsuit A8

Multiple feet of snow falls over Pagosa Country, more on the way

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

As of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29, a winter storm watch had been issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for the southwest San Juan Mountains, including Pagosa Springs. The storm watch began Wednesday, Dec. 29, at 11 p.m. and will last until Jan. 1, 2022, at 5 a.m.

According to the NWS, heavy snow is possible with up to 12 to 24 inches of new snow accumulation accompanied by wind gusts as high as 40 mph.

Snow began falling around Pagosa Country late last Thursday, Dec. 23, and has continued to fall since.

According to an email sent to The SUN containing weather reports

■ See Weather A8

COVID-19: Antibody treatment availability expanded

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Late last week, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) announced the expansion of monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 at Pagosa Springs Medical Center through help from the state of Colorado.

The press release notes availability is now Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (with the last appointment at 4 p.m.). This expansion will allow for 15 appointments per day.

PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb reported to the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors Tuesday evening that the

■ See COVID-19 A8



SUN photo/Terri House



Photo courtesy Nathanael Ward

Recent snow has led to outdoor adventures for many Pagosa County folks, with a number of folks venturing out for fun and to document the winter wonderland.



Photo courtesy Bryan Looper



Photo courtesy Jason Cox



Photo courtesy Lynn Sauer Robinson



Photo courtesy Sarah Miller



Photo courtesy Dan Wirth

Propane issues leave people in the cold

County sets up call center

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Residents across Archuleta County and northern New Mexico are experiencing difficulties obtaining propane gas to heat their houses and water, among other uses.

Numerous residents have reported their troubles with the various propane services in town to The SUN, while others have taken to social media to make others in the community aware or called local law enforcement.

New Mexico's attorney general is taking legal action against one local propane provider.

On Dec. 23, "following his investigation and consumer advisory on increased cost and unavailability of propane gas," New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas filed a lawsuit against Bob's LP Gas, Inc. for "failure to provide the propane gas it had contracted to deliver to

■ See Propane A8

Want to be on town council?

Candidate packets will be available Jan. 4

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Town residents interested in serving on the Pagosa Springs Town Council can pick up a candidate packet beginning Jan. 4, 2021, for the April 5, 2022, mail-ballot election.

Mayor and three at-large seats will be up for election.

Candidate packets, information and requirements will be available beginning Jan. 4, 2022, at Town Hall, located at 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Nomination petitions must be returned by Jan. 24, 2022.

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.pagosa-springs.co.gov/>.

Index

Opinion	A2
Letters	A3
Obituaries	A5
Maureen (Mo) K. Lynch	
Robert G. Splawn	
Business	A5
Area Agency on Aging receives \$668,994 in American Rescue Plan Act Funds	
Sports	A11
50 years of wrestling in Pagosa: Coaches planning to honor program's early successes	
Public Notices	A12
PREVIEW	
Live Performers	2
Calendar	14
SUDOKU	16
Crossword	20
Word Search	21
Coloring fun	22
Classifieds	24

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Health District Investigative Committee presents findings

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Health District Investigative Committee (HDIC) presented its research and information gathered over the past four months to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) during the BoCC's regular meeting held on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

HDIC Vice Chair Leslie Davis presented a memorandum along with an informational "snapshot chart" containing information related to health care systems for other 3B-ranked counties across the state.

Davis reviewed the committee's goal, which was to "research the feasibility of creating an independent county public health agency vs joining another health district vs remaining with San Juan Basin Public Health," the memorandum states.

According to the county's website, the HDIC held eight public meetings. It also held one work session with representatives from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH).

Davis mentioned that committee members individually interviewed representatives from Archuleta, La Plata, Delta, Grand, Alamosa, Gilpin and Montezuma counties in order to gain information relating to their respective health district or department.

"It wasn't all apples-to-apples, as we found out," Davis said.

She mentioned there are 43 counties in Colorado with their own health district or department.

"Nearly all health agencies interviewed were governed only by County Commissioners serving as the Board of Health (BOH). The challenge raised among some of those interviewed was the need for health expertise among the

BOH members considering the complexity of the issues and topics that need attention," the HDIC memorandum states.

The memorandum also explains that the budgets for the health departments ranged anywhere from \$350,000 to \$2,363,271.

Davis spoke about how local health care providers have picked up services for the community, like administering immunizations, and that SJBPH currently contracts out multiple services.

"Very few things are actually done, compared to what we used to do," Davis added.

Davis then explained that she reviewed the fee schedule for SJBPH and found that SJBPH provides "just about every kind of immunization you want" and medical procedures like biopsies and colonoscopies.

"I was amazed, I didn't realize they did all of this — it was kind of an eye-opener to me about the medical services," Davis said.

She noted that SJBPH also does STD testing.

Davis explained the HDIC performed some informal public outreach as a couple board members "hit the streets" to engage with the public.

"It was definitely mixed messages," Davis said about how the community felt about leaving or staying with SJBPH.

"The interesting thing is, people have their opinion, but when you start asking them specifics, they are like — I don't know, I just like [SJBPH], I like the people, I like what they do here," Davis said, explaining when she would ask what exactly SJBPH does in Archuleta County, the response would be, "Well, I don't know."

Davis noted that a "theme" started to build after communicating with the public.

"I think the public really don't know what San Juan Basin Health does for them," she added.

Davis also spoke about how retaining staff is a concern in health districts across the state.

She went on to explain the HDIC recommends the BoCC request monthly financial reports from SJBPH in order to see exactly what is being spent for Archuleta County.

"That's really going to be important for y'all [the BoCC] to have that information here, which we haven't had," she said.

Davis also mentioned that based on her personal experience, and other members of the committee, they "didn't have the best communication with [SJBPH]" compared to the other counties the committee researched.

She mentioned the county could designate a staff member or a commissioner to be a liaison between the county and SJBPH.

"It's obvious that we are not getting near the amount of services here as they are in La Plata County," she added.

Davis mentioned that it was unclear why that is and spoke more about how SJBPH hasn't been able to provide a clear picture as to what services are provided in Archuleta County.

"It should be a real clear picture, and it's just not," Davis said.

She noted that there is more research to be done in order to determine if the county should break away from SJBPH or not.

Davis mentioned that the committee discussed the possibility of the BoCC conducting a formal public outreach survey.

"The only way to do that is to pay a professional," she said.

Davis concluded her presentation by noting how the committee had many discussions about whether it would advise the BoCC to break away from SJBPH or not.

"The more we dived into this, the more realized, it's not really our decision," she added, explaining that the goal was to provide the BoCC with sufficient information for it to then make that decision.

"In conclusion, we learned

■ See Findings A4

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Letter

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

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

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

but we walk along together". My goodness, so much meaning in those few words. Yes, in America, we are guaranteed our personal freedoms but as Americans we need to join hands and walk along together — United we stand, right? That is the Pagosa I came to love.

Well, a New Year is just around the corner. Yes, a New Year, a new beginning, so to speak, to put our misdeeds behind us, learn from them, and move forward with confidence walking along together with love.

Happy New Year to All.
Patty Tillerson

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'Walk along together'

Dear Editor:
Awhile ago, a song caught my attention. Here it goes:
"You go to church, I go to mine,

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Obituaries

Maureen (Mo) K. Lynch

Durango native Maureen Lynch died Dec. 22. She was 76 years old. Known as "Mo," she was born July 13, 1945, at Mercy Hospital in Durango. She was raised in Pagosa Springs and was the daughter of Ben K. and June E. Lynch.



Mo was a bookkeeper most of her adult life, working for the Durango Herald, Tamarron Resort, LA Wood and Carver Brewing Company. She loved her work and made many friends through the years.

Mo loved her family, friends and critters unconditionally. She enjoyed bird-watching and nature walks on the Florida Mesa. She loved the Beatles, Star Trek, movies and reading.

Mo's summer birthday parties were legendary. Having a "cerveza on the mesa" with Mo and friends was the highlight of summer. Mo gained many friends as she worked and lived in the Durango area. She had a positive attitude, and she was a great listener. She started or ended a conversion with a wonderful positive phrase including:

- "Top of the morning to you"

- "Who loves you, baby"
- "Love and light"
- "Peace"

After losing her fiancé in the Vietnam War, Mo never married and had no children except for her numerous critters. Mo is survived by her brothers, Ben (Judy) Lynch, of Pagosa Springs; Casey (Laurie) Lynch, of Durango; and her sister-in-law, Debbie Lynch, of Aurora. She is also survived by nephews Pat (Kristi) Lynch, of Broomfield; Mike (Neisa) Lynch, of Westminster; Larry (Dana) Lynch and David Lynch, of Pagosa Springs; Grady Lynch, of Durango; Michael (Cora) Lynch, of Kent, Wash.; Christopher (Sarah) Lynch, of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Jack Lynch, of Denver. She is also survived by her nieces, Kelly (Connor) Lynch, of Bellingham, Wash.; Meghan Lynch and Lauren (Sebastian) Lynch, of Broomfield; and Averie Lynch, of San Diego.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by her brother, Jack.

A memorial service is planned for July 1.

Robert G. Splawn

May 19, 1941-Dec. 7

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, Robert "Bob" Splawn, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away of a stroke at the age of 80 years.

Bob was born May 19, 1941, in Santa Ana, Calif., to Floyd and Virginia Splawn. He was raised in Orange County, Calif., and attend-

ed Santa Ana High School. Upon graduation, Bob left California to attend Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz.



Bob left college in 1961 and joined the United States Navy. He was stationed on the USS Fort Marion and served two years working as a storekeeper. Bob received an honorable discharge in 1963 and returned to Santa Ana. Shortly after returning home, Bob started his law enforcement career with the Santa Ana Police Department, where he worked for eight years as a patrol officer and detective. During this time, a fellow officer introduced Bob to Helen Dittman. Bob and Helen began dating and quickly fell in love. They married a few months later and raised two sons, Aaron and Brian.

One of Bob's many passions was flying. Bob obtained his private pilot's license in the early 1970s and was fortunate enough to combine his passion for flying with his career. In 1971, Bob left the police department to become a special agent with the Department of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. He was quickly promoted to the rank of special agent/pilot and went on to log more than 10,000 hours flying

for the ATF and other law enforcement agencies.

In addition to flying, Bob had a strong passion for camping, fishing and historic railroads. These three passions led Bob to southwest Colorado, where he was fortunate to retire in the Rocky Mountains. Shortly after retiring to Colorado, Bob began a second career as a real estate agent, where he specialized in selling ranches and mountain homes to other retirees.

In 2011, after the death of his first wife (Helen), Bob retired a second time and finally began enjoying the things he loved to do. It was during this time Bob rekindled a relationship with his college sweetheart, Carol Moss. Bob and Carol began spending all their free time together and were married in 2013. Bob enjoyed his final years with Carol traveling between Pagosa Springs, Colo., and Carol's home in Casa Grande, Ariz.

Bob was preceded in death by his first wife (Helen), of 46 years, his father (Floyd), mother (Virginia) and his sister (Donna). He is survived by his second wife (Carol) and her extended family, his two sons, two lovely daughters-in-law and multiple grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, which was very near and dear to Bob's heart and his life in Colorado: <https://friendsofcumbrestoltec.org/product/donations/>.

Sixth Judicial District announces District Court vacancy

By Jon Sarche

Colorado Judicial Department

The Sixth Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet via video conference on Feb. 14, 2022, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the Sixth Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties). The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Hon. William L. Herringer. The vacancy will occur on March 9, 2022.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the Sixth Judicial District at the time

of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for this position is \$178,452. The initial term of office of a district judge is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of six years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Carlos A. Samour Jr., 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203; and the office of the court executive, Eric Hogue, 1060 E. Second Ave., Durango, CO 81301. Applications also are available on the court's home page at: <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Judge.cfm>.

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below no later than 4 p.m. on Jan. 20, 2022. Late applications will not be considered. Any person wishing to suggest a candidate to fill the vacancy may do so by letter to be submitted to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, no later than 4 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2022. Under the rules of the Sixth Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission, names of the applicants shall be made public once the application period is closed.

The members of the nominating commission for the Sixth Judicial District are: Kathryn Steelman, Ingrid Alt, Barrie Hedges Newberger King, James Cross and Paul DeBell, of Durango; Albert Northrop, of Pagosa Springs; and John Wright, of Silverton.

Contact information for the nominating commission member:

- Steelman, ksteelmanlaw@gmail.com.
- Northrop, pagosacowboy@gmail.com.
- Alt, ialt@gmail.com.
- Wright, wrightjo@frontier.net.
- Hedges Newberger King, barrie@newbergerkinglaw.com.
- Cross, cross_j@fortlewis.edu.
- DeBell, padebell@fortlewis.edu.

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

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

Findings

Continued from A3
much about the different health structures and services among those that we contacted and those that provided information. There are many more questions to be asked and research to be done," the memorandum states.

The memorandum and other committee research documents can be found online under the BoCC's Dec. 21 meeting agenda at: <https://www.archuletacounty.org/AgendaCenter>.

Later in the day, after the BoCC meeting, SJBPB Executive Director Liane Jollon wrote an email to The SUN in response to Davis' presentation.

Jollon acknowledges the work done by the committee and commended the citizens' efforts.

"In addition, their findings reflect that SJBPB faces many of the same challenges other local public health agencies face, but that through these challenges we have found solutions to provide more extensive programming and services than many similar counties in Colorado," Jollon wrote.

However, she explains that there were "many errors" in the details

provided to the BoCC.

"Much of the information reported on by the committee is publicly available, and has previously been provided to the SJBPB Board, which Archuleta County Commissioner Schaaf is a member of. Commissioner Schaaf is aware of this as a Board member and has reviewed and approved many of the topics included in the committee's memorandum of findings," Jollon wrote.

She also explained the committee did not describe the "extensive COVID-19 response" that SJBPB has been providing for the community.

"To skip past this key role of public health leaves the committee with an incomplete picture of SJBPB and disregards Archuleta County's community members who have heavily relied on SJBPB's pandemic response to stay safe and healthy during

Informative.

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Business

Area Agency on Aging receives \$668,994 in American Rescue Plan Act Funds

By Christina Knoell
San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging

President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on March 11 to combat the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide financial relief to Americans.

Of the \$1.9 trillion package, \$1.43 billion is earmarked for the Older Americans Act (OAA), including nutrition programs, supportive services for vaccination outreach, assisted transportation, in-home and community-based services and evidence-based programs, such as chronic disease prevention and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

To date, more than 51 million coronavirus cases have been confirmed and more than 800,000 lives have been taken in the United States due to COVID-19.

The San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA) — Region 9, located in southwest Colorado and serving Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties, recently received an

ARPA contract from the Colorado Department of Human Service's State Unit on Aging in Denver. The national aging network involves 618 area agencies on aging (AAAs), about 20,000 service providers and 281 tribal organizations, with one Native Hawaiian organization, representing 400 tribes. Colorado has 16 AAAs and Region 9 covers two tribes, the Southern Ute tribe in Ignacio and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in Towaoc.

In Region 9, Christina Knoell, the executive director of SJBAAA, has proposed working with a Pagosa Springs business on a growing dome project to benefit five area senior centers. The first two would be built to support the tribes in Ignacio and Towaoc. Another growing dome would be constructed in Dove Creek for the Pioneer Center. A fourth growing dome would be built in Silverton for its newly opened senior center, with the last one constructed in Pagosa Springs for Archuleta Seniors Inc. For this proposal, Knoell said she thought about how ARPA funds could help her own region

by offering quality food and health benefits for older adults, as well as stimulate the local economy.

After first considering the area tribes, whose members were hit the hardest with COVID-19 cases, Knoell later discovered that the region's network of nutrition program providers was interested in the domes. With access to a growing dome, the senior center meal sites could combat chronic disease management by incorporating healthy local food. The Ute Mountain Ute tribe has already accepted the proposed partnership, and Knoell plans to meet with the Tribal Council in Ignacio in the coming weeks.

Another important part of the growing dome proposal is to hire a master gardener to ensure that the soil and plants thrive in the domes. A full-time master gardener for the first five years would assist in maintaining a healthy plant ecology and help prevent disastrous white fly or aphid infestations.

The OAA and its programs became law in 1965 due to concerns over the lack of community social

services for older adults, age 55 and older for tribal members and age 60 and older for nontribal members. Other priorities are given to older adults who have the greatest economic and social needs. The reauthorization of the Act and its funds occurs about every four to five years to add provisions that strengthen supportive service programs. The most recent reauthorization in 2020 intends to give more flexibility to the aging network for grandparent/grandchildren caregiving programs and to help remove barriers so that the aging network could work more effectively by adopting practical business skills.

Knoell will present the growing dome proposal to the SJBAAA governing board in early January. After that step is completed with approval, she will seek foundation and flatwork contractors to bid on the first phase of the first growing dome project in Towaoc. For more information, the public and interested contractors may contact her at Director@sjbaaa.org or call (970) 403-9744.

County unemployment rate up to 4 percent

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

According to a Dec. 17, press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Archuleta County's unemployment rate for the month of November rose to 4 percent after dropping to a pre-pandemic rate of 3.6 percent for the month of October.

This is just the second time this year the county's unemployment rate went up from the previous reported month.

After the start of the pandemic, the county's unemployment rate rose to 6.2 percent in March 2020, then to 15.1 percent. The county's unemployment rate has declined every other month so far this year, with the exception of June, when it was reported at 5.3 percent after dropping to 4.8 percent in May, and November.

From October to November, Archuleta County's labor force shrunk from 8,006 to 7,724.

For the month of November, there were 7,412 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release. This figure is down slightly from October's report of 7,715 individuals employed in Archuleta County.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

According to the press release, the

county with the highest unemployment rate for November was San Miguel County at 7.6 percent, followed by Huerfano County at 6.8 percent.

Next is Pueblo County at 6.6 percent and Pitkin County at 6.1 percent, then Fremont County at 5.8 percent.

The state's unemployment rate dropped from 5.4 percent in October to 5.1 percent for November.

The state's labor force shrunk from 3,224,401 for October to 3,217,459 in November.

The press release notes, "According to the survey of households, Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell three-tenths of a percentage point in November to 5.1 percent. The national unemployment rate declined by four-tenths of a percentage point to 4.2 percent."

Employers in Colorado added 9,800 nonfarm payroll jobs from October to November, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 2,765,400.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

The private sector added 9,400 nonfarm payroll jobs and the government sector shed 400 jobs.

The press release notes that, over the past 19 months, Colorado has gained back 322,200 of the 375,800 nonfarm payroll jobs lost between

February and April of last year.

"That translates to a job recovery rate of 85.7 percent, which exceeds the U.S. rate of 82.5 percent," the press release states.

Private-industry sectors with significant job gains in October included:

- Professional and business services at about 3,900.
- Education and health services at about 2,000.
- Financial activities at about 1,800.
- Other services at about 1,400.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 1,100.

Significant private-sector job losses over the month occurred in Leisure and hospitality at about 1,700.

"Since November 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 117,500, with the private sector growing by 104,800 jobs and government adding an additional 12,700 jobs," the press release notes.

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

- Leisure and hospitality at about 50,700.
- Professional and business services at about 25,200.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 15,700.

Over the same period of time, the largest private-sector job losses occurred in construction, at about

1,400.

The press release notes that Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 4.4 percent, compared to the U.S. rate of 4.1 percent.

According to the press release, "Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 34.3 to 33.1 hours, while average hourly earnings increased from \$31.27 to \$33.05, over two dollars more than the national average hourly earnings of \$31.03."

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Modern Masterpiece

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In the private community of Eaton Pagosa Estates, easy paved access to 56 Glen Eaton Dr. with paved walking paths intertwining the community, this custom home was built in 2020 and is a visually stunning representation of true craftsmanship amidst Mother Nature's grandeur. This 4496 sq. ft. under roof custom home consists of a beautiful combination of modern organic materials such as wood and metals showcasing a classy color palette of blacks, whites, grays, and chrome accents, offering an expansive layout on this one level. In-floor radiant heat system throughout the home, Marvin windows and doors are stunning, quality standing seam metal roofing, blue spruce trees and seasonal creek which runs at the back of the property in the spring, The clean lines of the kitchen reveal a potpourri of top-of-the-line appliances including a Thermador side by side refrigerator & freezer, 48" down draft range top with griddle, 30" Thermador wall oven, 24" plumbed beverage center, 24" Thermador dishwasher, 30" drawer microwave, custom cabinetry, quartz counter tops. The primary suite in this custom home is roomy in size along with the primary en suite custom tiled bathroom with walk in shower. At the opposite end of the home sits 2 large bedrooms each with its own custom tiled sink and private closet area with shared custom tiled full bath and shower. Oversized 2 car garage. PAGOSA EATON ESTATES PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE PRIVATE LAKE ACCESS AND FISHING DOCK. MLS#788504. \$1,800,000.

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Mark your calendars for WinterFest activities

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area
Chamber of Commerce

The snow is here, more is expected, and we're now ready for WinterFest. This event will take place over the weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022. This year's event is chock full of activities for those that want to participate or just spectate. There are opportunities to raise money, engage the family in participation or just bundle up and watch the festivities.

The Chamber welcomes those hearty hot air balloon pilots on Jan. 21, 2022. We have almost 20 pilots registered. Skis and Saddles will also be welcoming their registrants on Friday evening.

The hot air balloons will be launching on Jan. 22 and Jan. 23, 2022, at around 8 a.m. in the morning, weather permitting, from the west side of town. There is no downtown launch on Saturday. The pilots will stage in areas around the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association recreation center, nearby business parking lots and those areas that don't have an abundance of snow so that they can lay out their balloon envelopes with minimal damage exposure. With all the snow this year, photo opportunities of the snow-capped mountains and lakes should be stunning.

Weekend festivities abound on Jan. 22, 2022. Skijor Pagosa is back with the event's fast and furious pace and they have a new race loca-

tion — the Archuleta County Fairgrounds. With plenty of parking, a new race route, seating and snow, this year's skijoring is expected to really rock. Come and watch teams compete as skilled riders with their horses pull skiers and boarders through a timed obstacle course. It's a fun event you don't want to miss.

Skijoring also continues on Sunday throughout the day. Skis and Saddles will also host a concert Saturday night at 7 p.m. with western musical artist Chancey William. Tickets are available in advance at www.skisandsaddles.com.

The Pagosa Nordic Club will host a Cross-Country Ski Clinic on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Cloman Park. The location could change, so stay tuned in case of any changes.

At 11 a.m., animal lovers can celebrate the winter season with their pets by participating in the Barkus Parade. Dress them up in costume or just warm clothing and head down to the Riverwalk for the parade. Participants are requested to make a small donation and they can also receive a cup of gumbo at The Lost Cajun. Registration applications for this event are not up on the website, but they are expected to be uploaded soon.

For those nonprofit agencies looking to raise a little money, the Penguin Plunge takes place on Saturday with registration around noon and the plunge taking place at 1 p.m. Application and pledge forms for the Plunge are available on the Chamber's website at www.pagosachamber.com under the WinterFest snow globe graphic.

Start raising money now. Please contact the Chamber if your organization is going to plunge so that we can create a list and start marketing for those groups jumping in the frigid San Juan River.

Registration forms for the Sledz on Rez are also available on the Chamber's website. Sledz on Rez is hosted by the Build Pagosa building trades group. Homemade sleds fly down the course on Reservoir Hill. Store-bought sleds are not eligible, but they can be modified. Find out the details on their registration page. This race begins at around 2:30 p.m.

On Sunday, the Pagosa Nordic group is back hosting the annual BB Gun Biathlon. This race is for a range of ages and cross-country skiing ability. There is a 16km race beginning at 10 a.m., a Kids K at 11 a.m. and a 4km Citizens Ski starting at 11:30 a.m. No shooting experience is necessary and participants will have the opportunity to test out shooting at the targets 30 minutes before their scheduled race start time.

Most of the applications for the various WinterFest events, start times, locations and more details can be found under the WinterFest graphic on the Chamber's homepage. As we get closer to the WinterFest dates, more information will be forthcoming; however, mark this fun weekend down on your calendar. Invite your out-of-town friends to come and enjoy a festive, funky and fun-filled weekend in Pagosa Springs. You can contact the Chamber for more information at (970) 264-2360.

\$300,000 in nonprofit recovery funding disbursed to 91 organizations in Southwest Colorado

By Tracy Pope
Community Foundation
serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has disbursed \$300,000 in pandemic recovery grants through the Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to 91 nonprofits across southwest Colorado.

Organizations were eligible to apply during four rounds of granting, which concluded this month. Funding ranged from \$1,000 to

\$10,000 for each nonprofit. Grant amounts were based, in part, on organizational budget size and counties served. The average grant was approximately \$3,300 per organization.

The available recovery funding included \$150,000 designated from donations made by individuals to CERF, as well as a matching gift from an anonymous donor. The \$300,000 infusion into the nonprofit sector will help community organizations manage some of the long-term negative impacts of the

COVID-19 pandemic. Funding was disbursed across Southwest Colorado, including \$38,000 to 12 nonprofits in Archuleta County, \$4,500 to one nonprofit in Dolores County, \$195,000 to 55 nonprofits in La Plata County, \$54,500 to 20 nonprofits in Montezuma County and \$8,000 to three nonprofits in San Juan County. All nonprofits that applied received funding.

These recovery grants bring the Community Foundation's total CERF granting since March 2020

to \$1.2 million. "For almost two years, we have been focusing on relieving some of the burdens facing nonprofits across our region," said Briggan Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. "It has been daunting work at times and the rewards come as we witness the resiliency of many organizations stepping up to the challenges and continuing to meet the needs of our community." To learn more about the CERF, visit swcommunityfoundation.org/cerf.

New safety-focused law prompts change in license plates

By Derek Kuhn
Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles

A new Colorado law aims to improve safety for first responders and motorists by ensuring drivers have reflective and legible license plates.

On Jan. 1, 2022, the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will implement the License Plate Expiration on Change of Ownership Act, which establishes the Centennial State's first license plate replacement program in over 20

years. Under the new program, license plates for Class C motor vehicles will expire upon transfer of the owner's title or interest in the vehicle. However, the owner will retain the priority right to use the same combination of letters or numbers from the expired plates when registering a new vehicle. To do so, the owner must apply for personalized plates. License plates will then be printed and mailed to the vehicle owner like newly issued license plates. Class

C motor vehicles include passenger vehicles, motorhomes and motorcycles.

The license plate reissue program will enhance public safety by ensuring registered vehicles in Colorado have serviceable license plates that are reflective and visible in low-light environments, which will allow first responders to more easily identify license plates. Additionally, all motorists will benefit from the program since license plates are often the only highly reflective element on vehicles, which is critically important for motorists to see a stalled vehicle on the roadside during low-light periods.

While the new program will make driving in Colorado safer, it will also raise registration costs. For most Coloradans, the additional replacement expense will be \$4.73. However, Coloradans who would like to keep the configuration on their current license plate will need to pay a one-time replacement fee ranging between \$68.06 and \$118.06, depending on the license plate. This is in addition to the normally collected

registration fees. Historical license plates, such as the green-mountains, white-sky license plate, are available and will be \$118.06.

For more information about the program, including a breakdown of the new fees, visit: DMV.Colorado.gov/NEW-PL&T.

The DMV offers a growing selection of online services, with more than 40 currently available, including license and ID card renewals, upgrading a permit to a license, vehicle registration renewals, paying a traffic ticket, motor vehicle records, first-time vehicle registration and many more. Coloradans can access the convenient and time-saving features on many Internet-connected devices, including smartphones, computers and tablets.

The DMV encourages Coloradans to "Save Time, Go Online" by using DMV online services. Visit DMV.Colorado.gov/Save-Time for information, direct links and more about DMV online services. Remember, the next time you need to visit the DMV, use DMV.Colorado.gov/Save-Time.

Foster homes urgently needed for stray, abandoned animals

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

With the challenges our community has faced these last two years, we have seen the number of stray or abandoned animals needing a safe haven surpass our capacity at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) shelter. That's why we are making an urgent call for foster homes to temporarily provide the care and attention our homeless dogs and cats need.

As a foster parent, all you will need to provide is shelter, some companionship and the TLC

needed by these wonderful animals. The HSPS will provide food and any needed veterinary care for each animal.

If you are interested in learning more about how to become a foster home, please contact the HSPS shelter at (970) 731-4771 or by email at shelteroffice@humanesociety.biz.

We sincerely thank you for your support; life will be so much better for our amazing animals if foster homes are ready to provide the temporary care they need while we work to find their forever homes.



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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service for two weeks: 443.
 Dec. 13 — Violation of restraining order, Lake Street.
 Dec. 13 — Information only, West Beucler Lane.
 Dec. 14 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drove vehicle when BAC .08 or more, disregarded stop sign at through highways, County Road 600/Ace Court.
 Dec. 14 — Agency assist, South 8th Street.
 Dec. 14 — Agency assist, South 8th Street.
 Dec. 15 — Criminal mischief, Milton Lane.
 Dec. 15 — Unlawful distribution/manufacture/dispensing/sale/possession-opium or derivative sell, unlawful distribution/manufacture/dispensing/sale possess Schedule I or II controlled substance, conspiracy to commit felony, possession of weapons by previous offenders, Harman Park Drive.
 Dec. 15 — Agency assist, Harman Park Drive.
 Dec. 15 — Agency assist, County Road 382.
 Dec. 16 — Illegal possession or consumption of ethyl alcohol or marijuana, Evergreen Drive.
 Dec. 16 — All other thefts, Silver Circle.
 Dec. 16 — Agency assist, 15th Street.
 Dec. 17 — Information only, Solomon Drive.
 Dec. 17 — Warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 17 — Violation of restraining order, violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, North Pagosa Boulevard.
 Dec. 19 — First-degree criminal mischief-theft from vehicle, third-degree criminal trespass, all other thefts, criminal mischief, Colo. 151.
 Dec. 20 — Obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, men-

acing-misdemeanor, criminal mischief, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, resisting arrest, second-degree assault-aggravated-police officer-weapon, disorderly conduct-petty, Dyke Boulevard.
 Dec. 21 — Violation of restraining order, Badger Place.
 Dec. 21 — Information only, Lake Pagosa.
 Dec. 21 — Death investigation, East Golf Place.
 Dec. 21 — Agency assist, Rosita Street.
 Dec. 21 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Prospect Boulevard.
 Dec. 22 — Information only, Turkey Lane.
 Dec. 22 — All other thefts, third-degree criminal trespass, West U.S. 160.
 Dec. 23 — Littering of public or private property, County Road 302.
 Dec. 23 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.
 Dec. 26 — Second-degree criminal trespass, criminal mischief, County Road 500.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service for three weeks: 230.
 Dec. 8 — DUI, expired plates, possessing illegal weapon, San Juan Street.
 Dec. 9 — Criminal mischief, Talisman Drive.
 Dec. 11 — Operated vehicle without insurance, U.S. 160.
 Dec. 13 — Shoplifting, Country Center Drive.
 Dec. 13 — Menacing, South 9th Street.
 Dec. 14 — Missing property, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 14 — Second-degree assault, South Pagosa Boulevard.
 Dec. 15 — Driver failed to yield right of way, hit and run, DUI, Harman Park.
 Dec. 16 — Third-degree assault, warrant arrest, 15th Street.
 Dec. 16 — Second-degree assault, criminal mischief, obstruction of telephone, San Juan Street.
 Dec. 18 — Warrant arrest, Loma Street.
 Dec. 19 — Shoplifting, warrant arrest, trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 20 — Harassment, Pagosa Street.

Dec. 20 — Unauthorized use of dumpster, Eagle Drive.
 Dec. 20 — Motor vehicle theft, Pagosa Street.
 Dec. 20 — Found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 21 — Found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 21 — Found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 21 — Menacing, Rosita Street.
 Dec. 23 — Unauthorized use of financial transaction device, theft, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 23 — Violation of restraining order, violation of bail bond, South 9th Street.
 Dec. 23 — Theft, East Pagosa Street.
 Dec. 23 — Violation of bail bond, violation of restraining order, South 9th Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 7 — Yolanda Salas, animal running at large prohibited, fine and costs — \$55.
 Dec. 7 — Gusman Lucero, animal running at large prohibited, vicious animals prohibited, fines and costs — \$155.
 Dec. 7 — Pierre Roemer, possess or consume alcohol in public place, fine and costs — \$85.
 Dec. 14 — Jenna M. Rhoads, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$291.50.
 Dec. 15 — Seth A. Chavez, driving under the influence, five days jail suspended imposition, 64 hours community service, one year probation, fines and costs — \$2,080.05.
 Dec. 15 — Shane T. Hawkins, driving while ability impaired, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$850.81.
 Dec. 15 — Diana Welles, arson 4-property under \$100 endangered, 36 hours community service, fines and costs — \$249.50.
 Dec. 15 — Geoffrey Paul Alldridge-Duncan, driving under the influence, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$1,320.50.
 Dec. 15 — William J. Sause, assault 3-knowing/reckless cause injury, weapon-prohibited use-drunk with gun, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,339.50.
 Dec. 15 — Megan B. Kelley, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$255.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 14 — Jenna M. Rhoads, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$291.50.
 Dec. 15 — Seth A. Chavez, driving under the influence, five days jail suspended imposition, 64 hours community service, one year probation, fines and costs — \$2,080.05.
 Dec. 15 — Shane T. Hawkins, driving while ability impaired, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$850.81.
 Dec. 15 — Diana Welles, arson 4-property under \$100 endangered, 36 hours community service, fines and costs — \$249.50.
 Dec. 15 — Geoffrey Paul Alldridge-Duncan, driving under the influence, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$1,320.50.
 Dec. 15 — William J. Sause, assault 3-knowing/reckless cause injury, weapon-prohibited use-drunk with gun, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,339.50.
 Dec. 15 — Megan B. Kelley, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$255.

Dec. 15 — Jesse S. Acker Johnson, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Dec. 15 — Maria O. Baltazar, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$200.
 Dec. 15 — Matthew E. Williams, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$185.50.
 Dec. 15 — Jennifer D. Tuggle, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$263.50.
 Dec. 15 — Patricia E. Johnson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$263.50.
 Dec. 15 — David A. Montoya, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$255.
 Dec. 15 — Joel G. Archuleta, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
 Dec. 15 — Shannon Chadwick, careless driving, fines and costs — \$238.50.
 Dec. 15 — Caleb Laverty, alcohol-under 21-possession/consumption, fines and costs — \$91.
 Dec. 17 — Jeremy Lee Bear, obedience to official traffic control device, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$236.
 Dec. 17 — Michael Shawn Willey, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Dec. 17 — Jeremy D. Caler, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$255.
 Dec. 17 — Jeremy Duane Caler, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.
 Dec. 22 — Joseph Anthony Stainbrook, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$185.50.
 Dec. 22 — Philip A. Solomone, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$263.50.
 Dec. 22 — Sean L. Roberts, speeding 10-19 over limit, moving violation in construction zone sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$263.50.
 Dec. 22 — Douglas N. Costa, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$344.50.
 Dec. 22 — Chad Clark, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$200.
 Dec. 22 — Elisabeth Gail Hershey, passing on left improperly, fines and costs — \$135.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

No report.

Births

The following is the November birth with parents from Pagosa Springs as reported by Mercy Regional Medical Center:
 Violet Rain, Sarah and Douglas Martinez, 5 pounds, 4 ounces, 8:35

a.m., Nov. 29.
 Parents are invited to submit photos of their baby and an official announcement to editor@pagosasun.com to be printed in the newspaper.

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 was an unusual and interesting year in Pagosa Country. There was no want for good news, bad news, controversial issues, and no lack of interesting news to keep SUN readers focused on local events, situations and personalities.

Over the next few weeks, The SUN will take a look back at some of those events, selected by SUN staff writers. This week, we look back at January, February and March.

January

The new year started with a bit of fun in the snow, with families taking to area sledding hills (among other activities) to have a bit of fun over the holiday weekend.

2021 also started with continued rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine for high-risk people in Archuleta County, with residents 70 and over eligible to receive the vaccine early in January.

As of Jan. 1, Archuleta County had had 491 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since March 2020.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) announced early in January that it received approval from the Colorado Transportation Commission for a plan to spend \$134 million in federal stimulus for transportation. On the list of approved projects in southwest Colorado was the U.S. 160 McCabe Creek Major Structure Replacement for \$7.5 million.

At its first meeting of the new year, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) thanked Commissioner Steve Wadley for his service by presenting him with a plaque recognizing the time he served as commissioner.

Wadley was first appointed as a county commissioner in April of 2011. Wadley was then re-elected two more times, making him the longest-serving commissioner in Archuleta County's recent history, since term limits were established by the state in 1994.

Wadley was also presented with a bench in his honor that would be placed outside of the county administration building, as well as a couple of cases of Coca-Cola, his

beverage of choice.

At the same meeting, the BoCC voted unanimously to approve a \$35,000 grant to Pagosa Springs' local mountain bike and trail crew organization, DUST2. DUST2 requested funds from the BoCC to be used toward a National Environmental Policy Act analysis. The organization announced it was partnering with the Pagosa Ranger District to evaluate the Jackson Mountain road and trail system for the development of a 30-plus mile single-track trail system, with the potential to connect the trails to downtown Pagosa Springs.

Colorado Open Lands and Southwest Land Alliance announced in early January that they had merged operations, effective 11:59 p.m. Dec. 31, 2020. The two groups have similar missions of permanently protecting Colorado's wild and working lands.

The Wolf Creek summit saw a 9 percent decrease in snowpack levels early in the year, with totals going from 111 percent of median at the end of 2020 to 101 percent of median the next week.

On Jan. 12, 6th Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson administered oaths of office to a trio of the county's elected officials: Ronnie Maez, Warren Brown and Ron Sutcliffe.

Maez was sworn in for his second term as the county's commissioner for District 2, Brown was sworn in for his first term as commissioner for District 1, and Sutcliffe was sworn in as surveyor.

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education heard about two sides of a pandemic-

related coin on Jan. 12: the public health numbers and guidance related to COVID-19 and schools, and the mental toll on students, families and teachers.

During the meeting's public comment period, the board heard from emotional parents, grandparents and teachers who all urged the board to have all students in schools for in-person learning at least four days per week.

At the same meeting, it was announced that Pagosa Springs High School's (PSHS) on-time, four-year graduation rate for the class of 2020 was 92.4 percent.

"That is the highest it's been," ASD Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza told the Board of Education.

It was also announced at the same meeting that ASD was recently notified that it would be receiving \$200,000 in behavioral health grant funding from the Colorado Department of Education for the next five years.

In mid-January, the Town of Pagosa Springs launched an online public engagement website, www.MyPagosa.org, to help facilitate constructive community feedback.

It was also announced in mid-January that David Ashbaugh, a member of Community United Methodist Church Troop 807, earned the Boy Scout Eagle Scout award, the highest award in Boy Scouts, in 2020.

On Jan. 20, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) reported Archuleta County's first death among confirmed cases of COVID-19.

On Jan. 24, two snowmobilers, a father and son, were stranded overnight near Treasure Mountain on Wolf Creek Pass after conditions caused them to become immobilized. Personnel from multiple agencies worked to rescue the snowmobilers around noon the following day.

The PSHS Lady Pirate basketball team opened its shortened season with a 64-21 win on Jan. 26 over the 2A Monte Vista Lady Pirates. Due to COVID-19 protocols, no fans were allowed at the games.

The Pirate basketball team opened its season the same day in Monte Vista with a narrow 43-41 loss.

The Upper San Juan Health

Service District (USJHSD) Board of Directors, which operates as Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), began looking for a new board director following the Jan. 21 resignation of its board treasurer, Dr. King Campbell.

According to PSMC's chief administrative officer, Ann Bruzzese, Campbell submitted his resignation to Board Chair Greg Schulte, stating in part, "Please accept this as my resignation from the PSMC Board. I don't feel that I am doing the Board justice as I seem to have less and less time to review and be present for finance committee and Board meetings."

Campbell's term was set to expire in May 2022.

After months of back-and-forth efforts with multiple agencies, the BoCC received word that a 2020 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) would be amended, with that funding set to be used to add a third courtroom and community room to the new justice facility being constructed in Harman Park. On Jan. 25, the BoCC received a letter from DOLA Executive Director Rick Garcia confirming the total grant amount of \$321,897 to be repurposed.

In late January, multiple water main breaks were reported downtown, leading to schools, businesses and residents being without water while repairs were made by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

PAWSD Manager Justin Ramsey explained that the breaks were due to the age of the water lines, which were installed in the early 1960s. The leaks were fixed via the use of clamps on the pipes.

There were "five or six" breaks reported, Ramsey explained, with the breaks occurring in a stretch from Pagosa Street to the Archuleta County Courthouse.

On Jan. 28, Mary Jo Coulehan, Archuleta County resident and director of the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the Ed Morlan Economic Development Leader of the Year by the Region 9 Economic Development District Board of Directors.

Six Pirates competed at the Colorado state speech and debate tournament hosted by the Colo-

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Sports

WRESTLING

50 years of wrestling in Pagosa: Coaches planning to honor program's early successes

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

This year's Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational is anticipated to include a special ceremony commemorating 50 years of the wrestling program at Pagosa Springs High School, as well as some of the firsts for the program.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained the goal is to honor the first team (the 1971-1972 team), first medalist (Gilbert Perea in 1972) and first team to bring home a state trophy (the 1976-1977 team).

"Fifty years of anything is pretty amazing," said Don Heizer, who coached the 1977 team and started the Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational in the late '70s.

Heizer and Janowsky noted the 50th anniversary and the members of the 1977 team will be introduced and honored during the tournament on Jan. 8, 2022.

Should COVID cause issues, Janowsky indicated the program will look to honor those who contributed to the program later in the season.

"This is 50 years," Janowsky said. "This is really cool."

Janowsky explained wrestling has impacted his life for 50 years and given him something to keep him busy and intrigued, and given him something to enjoy.

The program in Pagosa Springs has done the same for the same amount of time, he indicated, adding that he has "a heart" for wanting to thank everyone who has helped to build the program here.

While reaching out to thank people who have helped the program following last spring's state championship, Janowsky explained he reached out to Heizer, with the two later working to plan the celebration.

"There's a lot of success. A lot of people don't understand the history that Pagosa Springs has in wrestling," he said, noting this is a good opportunity to share that success with the program's current athletes.

Ron Shaw started the program, Janowsky noted, and Heizer elevated it.

A December 1971 issue of The SUN lists members of the inaugural team as including Gilbert Candelaria, Roger Clayton, Duane Ramey, Mark Houser, Dan Branson, Ken



SUN photo

Pictured are members of the 1977 wrestling team, which was the first team in the history of Pagosa Springs wrestling to bring home a state trophy. In back, left to right, are David Rivera, Ron Wedemeyer, Craig Dorsett, Jose Yanez and Anthony Branson. In front, left to right, are coach Don Heizer, Brian Shaw, Russell Martinez, Rick Martinez and assistant coach David Mitchell.

Reese, Leroy Lattin, Keith Reese, Bruce Quintana, Raymond Hise, Jim Olsen, Glenn Hise, Tom Gibson, Henry Espinosa, Mike Peters, Perea, John Gallegos, Terry Lattin and Casey Lynch.

The team was coached by Shaw and Terry Alley.

An ad in The SUN congratulating the 1977 team for coming in second at state lists the 1977 team as David Rivera, Ron Wedemeyer, Craig Dorsett, Jose Yanez, Anthony Branson, Brian Shaw, Russell Martinez and Rick Martinez.

The team was coached by Heizer and David Mitchell.

"We're excited to come back and be able to spend the weekend," Heizer said, indicating that several members of the 1977 team have made plans to attend.

Members of the school's inaugural team are asked to contact Janowsky at (970) 264-4554.

"I believe the upcoming event will be something special for the community, Pagosa Springs High School, and the wrestling family at large. The support for the program has always been a standard for high school programs in general," Heizer shared in an email to The SUN.

randi@pagosahun.com



SUN photo

Gilbert Perea, left, stands with coach Ron Shaw after becoming Pagosa Springs' first state medalist in wrestling in 1972.

CHEER

Pirate cheer squad heads to state

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cheer squad headed to the World Arena in Colorado Springs Dec. 9-11 for the state spirit championships.

The Pirates placed seventh in

the preliminary round for 2A/3A Co-Ed Cheer, scoring 56.35 points with zero deductions.

Three teams advanced to the finals for the event, with neighboring Bayfield finishing second.

Attempts to reach the coach for comment were unsuccessful.

randi@pagosahun.com

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preview

ARTS & LIFE



Traditional New Year's soup

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnists

If you are like me, you like to follow traditions around the holidays.

Now that all the children are grown and Santa makes more of a sentimental visit, the time my family spends together is centered around food. Thanksgiving means making tamales, Christmas means making prime rib and New Year's means making menudo.

As a child, I could never understand how someone could eat it — you know, that special ingredient. However, over the years, I have come to love this traditional Mexican soup. I'm fortunate that I spend holidays in Tucson, where there is no shortage of carnicerias selling plenty of all the ingredients needed for a delicious bowl of menudo, including the fresh tortillas brought in every day from Mexico.

So what is that special ingredient I was talking about? Tripe, or tripas, is the lining of a ruminant animal's (cow, goat, sheep) stomach; in this case, it's a cow. Yes, that is the part I had to get over being a byproduct from the slaughter of the cow. Tripe is an excellent and generally inexpensive source of lean protein and has a chewy texture. There are four different kinds of beef tripe, classified depending on which stomach chamber the product was derived from.

Blanket or flat tripe: This type is made from the first stomach chamber of cows. This smooth tripe is considered the least desirable.

Honeycomb tripe: This variety stems from the second

Extension Viewpoints

stomach chamber and resembles a honeycomb. It's more tender than blanket tripe and has a more palatable flavor.

Omasum or book tripe: Coming from the third stomach chamber, this type of tripe is described as a mix between blanket and honeycomb tripe.

Abomasum or reed tripe: This variety is from the fourth stomach chamber. Its taste varies from strong to mild.

There are many variations of recipes, but I will share my family's recipe with you.

Menudo

1 gallon of water
3 pounds lean beef tripe, cut into pieces

1 green onion for garnish
6 garlic cloves cut into small pieces.

1 bay leaf
2 heaping tablespoons of powdered beef broth

1 pound of fresh or 1 can (14.5 ounces) cooked hominy
Salt and pepper to taste

Other ingredients (optional: red or green chile, oregano, cumin, yellow onion)

In large pot (2 gallons), place the water over medium heat. Add the beef tripe, 6 garlic cloves, powdered beef broth, hominy and bay leaf and

cook for at least 3 to 4 hours. Make sure the beef tripe is tender and not overcooked. Cook until fresh hominy flowers. Salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with green onion. Serve with homemade tortillas.

Menudo is an acquired taste. Mexicans swear that it's a miracle cure for a hangover. I wouldn't know anything about that.

Colorado Building Farmers program

For information on the Colorado Building Farmers program, go to www.buildingfarmers.com or www.facebook.com/ColoBuildingFarmers, or call the CSU Extension office at (970) 264-5931.

Archuleta County Weed and Pest

Archuleta County Weed and Pest will begin accepting requests for the treatment of private properties for the 2022 season on Jan. 1, 2022.

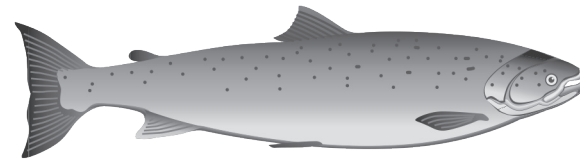
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CPR and first aid classes

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

“ We searched for a place to have dinner that didn't have a long wait and stumbled on Pagosa Brewing Co. & Grill. I started with a fine barrel-aged rye Manhattan, and my husband had a salty caramel stout from its extensive beer list. The food was surprisingly good: a Meat Eater pizza (ham, sausage, pepperoni, bacon) and the best fish and chips I've ever had (wild-caught salmon in its Kayaker Cream Ale tempura batter with house-made remoulade and coleslaw). ”



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The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Joel Racheff, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

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

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Bidding the old farewell

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

This has been some kind of a year. We discussed it as the family gathered at the table for Christmas dinner. How beautiful to hear our children and grandchildren talk about their many blessings, things that easily overshadow what was the prior 358 days of the year.

2021 was certainly a time for the unexpected. We received phone calls telling us three family members had passed away. News on the television pounded at us with fear and unrest. And, then, there was my fall where I strained muscles I didn't even know I had.

If that wasn't enough, a fierce wind came through the Lower Blanco a few days before Christmas. It destroyed two of our garages. Everything was leveled to the ground. Underneath it all, many of my Sweet Al's family heirlooms, his tools and things that were being saved for the family.

We had a limited amount of time to salvage and remove the garage's contents. Other storms were predicted, so we worked for the next few days to clear a mammoth move. Working until Christmas Eve, mixed emotions ran through my heart as I watched two 30-foot roll-offs carry away items from the property.

My Sweet Al, the sentimentalist, viewed it a disaster. My son, the minimalist, called it a Christmas miracle. One of our daughters, the practical one, said it was biblical, referring to the man who built too many barns.

2021 did its job. It revealed where we struggle. It also showed what needs to be changed if we

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



hoped to enter a new chapter on a positive foot. Mainly, finding that a change of our attitudes makes circumstances better. God is still in

charge and everything will be OK.

As I searched for a devotional book for the new year, Mark Buchanan's book, "The Rest of God," caught my attention.

His illustration about change gave me an interesting perspective. Buchanan wrote, "Good practices are both catalysts and incubators for new thoughts. It's like a marriage.

■ See Lane on next page



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The SUN teamed up with Santa and his elves to help deliver letters to the guy in the big red suit, with the promise we could share those Christmas wishes with our readers, as they were written. The following had to be routed directly to Santa before being shared with The SUN to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Dear Santa

All I want for Christmas is a real alto saxophone and a toy rc snow cat! Plese and thank you,

THANKS SANTA!

from:

Noah Allen

thanks agen santa!

T-shirt design contest opens for submissions

By Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We're looking for creative help in designing a T-shirt for this year's Summer Reading Program. The theme will be "Oceans of possibilities." Pick up a flyer at the library or go online to our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org> for details.

The winner will receive a free T-shirt with their design. The winning T-shirt will be worn by staff during the Summer Reading Program and a limited number will be available for purchase.

This contest is open to all ages. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 18.

New Year's holiday closures

We wish you, your family and friends a very happy and safe

Library News

holiday season. We hope your celebrations are able to return to fun festive occasions, and we wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and happy 2022 as well.

Please note that your library will be closed beginning at noon on Friday, Dec. 31, and be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1.

S.T.E.A.M enrichment kits

Participants in this free enrichment program for youngsters aged 5 and up receive a kit guiding you

through science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M) projects. The kits are available all month, but registration is required by calling your library at (970) 264-2209.

Transparent Language tutorial next Monday

Join us Monday, Jan. 3, from 1 to 2 p.m. for a free Transparent Language in-person tutorial. Packed full of pronunciation, speech, grammar, writing and vocabulary-building lessons, Transparent Language is accessible from your computer, smartphone or tablet. This tutorial will help you get started — and you can access this online resource any time on your own at: <https://pagosalibrary.org/online-resources/>.

■ See Library on page 6

Lane

■ continued from previous page

When I married my wife, I had to change my mind about who I was. I was no longer a bachelor. My habits of thought had, for more than 20 years, taken shape around the fact of my singleness."

"I had bachelor attitudes about how to spend time and money, about the ideal color to paint a bedroom, about the best car to drive, about other women. It all had to go through a dramatic shift, in some cases a complete about face. When I took vows, I had to change my mind. But, if I changed only my mind and never changed my behavior, I doubt I'd still be married."

When I read these quotes, I realized that the last few years have changed us to contemplate the negative. Challenges occur and we often aligned with fear or even anger when it takes shape around

us. We became doubters of what God promised us. Life crouched at our front door and looked in our windows and we let it.

In one of the translations of the Bible, the letter of James states, "Embrace all of the various trials as friends, knowing that the testing of our faith produces patience. When patience has its perfect work, we will be complete lacking nothing."

As we grow older, we find change to be hard. Why? Probably because things seem to be changing all around us and in odd procession at that.

Final brushstroke: 2021 didn't feel like a friend on many levels. But, how we walked through it makes me thankful nonetheless. As we bid the old farewell, we know that we are fuller and more complete because of how we will start a new year, where challenges bring new victories through the unexpected.

Readers' comments

Thank you for your comments this year. Your words encouraged me to keep writing and believing we are growing together in our faith, standing on his promises. Send your comments to betty@bettyslade.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Library

■ continued from page 4

Computer class next Tuesday

Next Tuesday, Jan. 4, join Brad from 1 to 2 p.m. for a free lesson on transferring photos and other files from a phone to a computer to free up storage space on your phone. Bring your laptop and phone with you so you can practice.

Teen book club next Wednesday

We invite sixth- through 12th-graders to join the free in-person teen book club next Wednesday, Jan. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m. for a lively discussion of what you've been reading and to help us plan what we'll read in the new year.

Writing challenge

A new all-ages writing challenge will be posted Monday, Jan. 3, on the library's Facebook page. We hope you will challenge your creativity by participating in this free all-ages activity.

Dungeons and Dragons

Join us Tuesday, Jan. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. for our ongoing Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults on Google Meet every other Tuesday. Contact claire@pagosalibrary.org to learn how to join. If you don't have Internet access, contact us anyway — we may be able to accommodate you in the library.

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, Jan. 5, is STEM with Jessica Walker, where we'll enjoy an experiment or two.

Storywalk for kids

Our storywalk theme Jan. 3-15 is based on the book "The Snowy Nap." 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.

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.

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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) sessions 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.

In-person gaming

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

Library hours

Most of our programs are happening in person. Also, our hours have returned to pre-COVID levels — and even more on weekdays:

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the library is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, the library is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturdays, the library is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For those uncomfortable coming into the building, curbside service continues. Phone (970) 264-2209 when you are in the parking lot so staff can bring the items out for you. If you put a hold on

something, please wait for your usual alert (email, phone call or text) before coming to pick it up.

Activities calendars

To be sure you don't miss any of the free library activities available to you and your family, we encourage you to pick up a copy of the events calendar each month. There are three versions — children, teens and adults.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"Silent Parade" by Keigo Higashino is a Detective Galileo mystery set in Japan.

Large print

"Foul Play" by Stuart Woods is a Stone Barrington mystery. "W.E.B. Griffin Rogue Asset" by Brian Andrews and Jeffrey Wilson is a Presidential Agent adventure.

Books on CD

"Revenant" by Alex White is a Star Trek Deep Space Nine adventure.

Other novels

"Chronicles From the Land of the Happiest People" by Wole Soyinka, the first Black winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, is a satire on how power and greed can corrupt the soul of a nation. "The Book of Form and Emptiness" by Ruth Ozeki features a 13-year-old boy who hears voices belonging to things all around him. "Dark Tarot" by Christine Feehan is part of the Carpathian paranormal romance series. "Guild Boss" by Jayne Castle is part of the Harmony paranormal

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ **continued from previous page**
romance series. “Several People Are Typing” by Calvin Kasulke is a satire of the virtual office and contemporary life. “A Certain Appeal” by Vanessa King is a raunchy contemporary retelling of “Pride and Prejudice.”

Nonfiction

“Atlas of the Heart” by Brene Brown is a guide to making your experiences result in meaningful connections. “Out of Office” by technology and culture reporters Charlie Warzel and Anne Helen Petersen explores the transformational potential of working from home. “Messy Minimalism” by Rachele Crawford lays out practical ways to reduce waste, curb consumption and declutter your life. “Tiger King” by Netflix star Joe Exotic is a memoir that exposes the man behind the headlines. “The Clanlands Almanac” by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish is a guide to Scottish legends, traditions, historical and contemporary events. “Glitter Every Day: 365 Quotes from Women I Love” by Andy Cohen offers words of daily inspiration from women as diverse as Madonna and the author’s mother. “For Such a Time as This” by Kayleigh McEnany is an autobiography of the White House press secretary documenting the importance of faith in her life.

Downloadable e-books and audiobooks

We have a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audio books for all ages — children, tweens, teens and adults — in cloudLibrary.

The items in cloudLibrary are purchased separately from physical items, so the books available are different — and it continues to use the consortium’s contributions as well as those that we bought. Select AspenCat Union Catalog when setting up cloudLibrary for use. Email or phone us at (970) 264-2209 if you need our help setting up this service on your device.

Donations

Many thanks to Carol and Roger Sheets as well as Constance d’Angelis for their generous monetary donations, and to Codie Wilson and our anonymous donors for their materials donations.

Please put your materials donations into the drop box at the library — not at City Market, which is reserved for returns.

Quotable quote

“Take a leap of faith and begin this wonderful new year by believing.” — Sarah Ban Breathnach, author, philanthropist and public speaker.

Library foundation

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation to support and enhance your library by raising funds for information resources, programs, services and facilities. Mail checks to P.O. Box 2045, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or

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Website

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



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VA statement on GPO printing and mailing delay

By Raymond Taylor
Archuleta County Veterans Service Office

Due to supply chain and staffing shortages, the vendor contracted by the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to provide printing services for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is experiencing delays in printing and mailing notification letters to veterans and claimants. The disruption may impact the ability of some claimants to meet required deadlines via written correspondence with the VA.

In response to the mailing delays and to protect the best interest of claimants, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is extending its response period by 90 calendar days for claimants with letters dated between July 13, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021.

If a claimant does not reply to a time-limited notification, such as making an election of benefits or services, or reporting for a scheduled compensation and pension examination, the VBA will not take adverse action to deny, reduce or terminate benefits and services unless: 1) the claimant is contacted and there is documentation of their right to respond; 2) the requested information has been received; or 3) the response period has lapsed.

The VA and GPO are proactively working to quickly address the mailing delays. For questions on this matter, veterans and claimants can contact the VA at (800) 827-1000.

Veterans who filed an appeal with the Board of Veterans' Appeals can go online for information specific to board correspondence, scheduled hearings at the board and receiving your board decision.

Happy new year to all. Stay safe this holiday season. Yeah for all the snow!

Dialing procedure reminder

Don't forget the new dialing procedures: Effective Oct. 24, to complete all local calls, you will need to dial area code and telephone number. This means 10 digits for local call. This is required due to the new "988" code for National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

Grant allows Vets4Vets to help local veterans

Vets4Vets of Archuleta County has received a grant from the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. This financial grant is to support veterans in our community through the follow-

Veterans Corner

Raymond Taylor



ing assistance: housing, utilities, mental health counseling, dental services, travel assistance, automobile repairs, gas and food cards, and emergency veteran assistance.

Contact Vets4Vets at <https://vets4vetspsco.org/> or dharps@gmail.com.

Contact information

Veterans: Thank you for your service. Welcome home.

For further information on VA benefits, please call or stop by the Archuleta County Veterans Service Office (VSO), located at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center in the Ross Aragon Community Center on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The office: (970) 264-4013, fax

number: (970) 264-4014, and email is raytaylor@archuletacounty.org. Bring your DD Form 214 (discharge) for applications to VA programs or benefits for which the veteran may be entitled to enroll, and for filing in the Archuleta County VSO. Always leave a message and phone number to contact you.

The following veterans groups meet in Pagosa Springs:

- American Legion Post 108: second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.

- Veterans for Veterans: every Tuesday at 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive, on all but the first Tuesday. Breakfast meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact (970) 799-8387 for more details.

- Combat Veterans PTSD Group: every other Tuesday at noon, Community United Methodist Church, Lewis Street. Contact Gary

■ See Veterans on next page

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One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a new year of prosperity and happiness.

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Alternatives to bigger jails aren't a partisan issue

By Matt Witt
PREVIEW Columnist

If you know someone is a Republican or Democrat, then you might assume you know exactly where they stand on whether local jails need to be expanded.

But, if recent experience in the rural southwest Oregon county where I live is any guide, it's not that simple.

The economy in Jackson County is dominated by mostly low-wage jobs in tourism, health care, agriculture and forestry, yielding a median income 24 percent lower than the national average. Yet the median home price is 9 percent

Veterans

■ continued from previous page

Hanneman at (970) 946-2540.

- Women's Group of Spouses of Veterans: first and third Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., Dr. Carter's office; contact Charlotte at (970) 903-9690.

Important information

- Vets4Vets: (970) 880-VETS, www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.
- Durango VA Outpatient Clinic: (970) 247-2214.
- Farmington VA Center: (505) 326-4383.
- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M.: (800) 465-8262.
- VA Health Care Emergency Notification: (844) 724-7842.

The Veterans Crisis Line offers free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365. Call (800) 273-8255, chat online or text 838255.

Writers on the Range

higher than the national average and one out of three households pays more than half of what they earn just for housing.

Republicans win every county commissioner election and, last year, those commissioners asked voters to authorize a new jail with three times the capacity of the old one. The local newspaper came out in favor, publishing a three-part series and a positive editorial as well.

But voters in this "red" county said no by nearly three to one. How did this happen?

It happened because a broad-based community group of volunteers convinced voters that lockups weren't the only answer. The group did intensive public

outreach, pointing out that a large percentage of what was considered local crime involved mental illness,

■ See Writers on next page

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Happy New Year

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As the holidays near, we remember the year behind us and look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share new memories and endless possibilities with our friends, families and neighbors of this great community.

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MEMBER FDIC

Writers

■ continued from previous page
addiction, homelessness and poverty — all underlying issues that a larger jail couldn't help.

A study they cited by the independent Vera Institute of Justice examined the experience of 77 counties and found that "larger jails often become overcrowded again because expansion fails to address the root causes of an increased (jail) population."

The coalition even brought in police to make their case. They hosted forums, inviting law enforcement leaders from other counties to talk about how they reduced jail bookings instead of expanding jails. In many cases, they said, mental health professionals or social service workers were more effective and less costly than sending in police.

Tad Larson, the jail commander from Marion County, Ore., said his county operates mobile crisis intervention teams that connect individuals with counseling services, alcohol and drug treatment, and peer mentor support.

"Less than 3 percent of calls the crisis teams respond to result in arrests," Larson said, and the county has reduced annual jail bookings by 20 to 25 percent.

A similar program in Lane County, Ore., responds to 24,000 calls per year involving dispute resolution, medical crises, mental illness, substance abuse or homelessness. The program saves \$15.5 million a year by handling calls that would otherwise go to the police. This reduces arrests and diverts patients from emergency rooms, according to program coordinator Tim Black.

The Real Solutions coalition also pointed out that crisis intervention alternatives are supported by a national group called Right on Crime, which was founded by well-known conservatives such as Newt Gingrich, Grover Norquist and Mike Huckabee.

"Research shows that, especially in regards to low-risk defendants, even brief jail stays can increase

the chance of committing another crime in the future," Right on Crime reports.

"When someone who has mental health issues is locked up pretrial, it can compound their situation," Right on Crime adds. "The same can be said for people who display signs of substance abuse."

While crisis response programs save money once operating, many communities need seed money and technical assistance to get started. Federal grants totaling \$15 million have been awarded to 20 states, including California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and Utah, to help local jurisdictions to plan such programs.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Legislature this year set an example by appropriating \$10 million to expand local mobile-crisis programs throughout the state.

In the county where I live, the county commissioners have been silent on this subject since their proposal was soundly defeated. But the voters' decision has prompted

discussions among public agencies, nonprofits and community advocates about establishing a crisis intervention system.

"With continued population growth and with new fiscal challenges as a result of COVID-19, it will be particularly important to find cost-effective alternatives to continually building bigger jails," wrote four city councilors from local communities in Jackson County after voters turned down jail expansion. "We hope Jackson County officials have learned those lessons, too, and we look forward to working with them on constructive and practical alternatives."

That would be an example, increasingly rare these days, of a community finding a solution that everyone — no matter their political leanings — can support.

Matt Witt is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation in the West. He is a writer and photographer in Talent, Ore. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha'i Faith

By Paulette Heber
Baha'i Community of Archuleta County

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

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

A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Jan. 2, our theme is practice.

"Strive thine utmost to become godlike, characterized by His at-

tributes, illumined and merciful, that thou mayest be freed from every bond and become attached at heart to the kingdom of the incomparable Lord." — Abdu'l-Baha.

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

To learn more about the Baha'i Faith, please visit the official international website of the Baha'i Faith at www.bahai.org. 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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New Thought Center topic: 'The Truth Will Set You Free'

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for
Inspirational Living

Sunday Service is at 11 a.m. with Dr. Elaine Harding: "The Truth Will Set You Free."

"When you want to do a big thing, get the mental pattern, make it perfect, know just what it means, enlarge your thought, keep it to yourself, pass it over to the creative power behind all things, wait and listen and, when the impression comes, follow it with assurance. Don't talk to anyone about it. Never listen to negative talk or pay attention to it and you will succeed where all others fail." — Ernest Holmes.

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 for band information.

Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Meditation Circle.

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

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

Jan. 15: Music concert fundraiser for Greg Milioto family. Pagosa Lodge Ball Room.

Please call/text (970) 510-0309.

Library

The New Thought Center has a large library of inspirational and spiritual books. To borrow or donate a book, please come to the New Thought Center prior to Sunday service or Meditation Circle.

About us

The New Thought Center promotes living a spiritually centered life, and promotes

■ See Truth on next page

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Keeping pride at bay

By Helene Smith
PREVIEW Columnist

A misspent youth followed by a life-changing conversion — what a story to tell. Had my life been deep into drugs, thievery and abuse, before I met Jesus, what a powerful message I could share.

Instead, I grew up in a Christian home and went to church every Sunday. My Dad read the Bible every night at dinner and my mother prayed with me at bedtime. I thought of myself as a good kid, blessed and better than others. Pride.

I knew I wasn't perfect, but believed I had less to confess and be forgiven for. I followed directions, obeyed my parents and teachers, was kind, didn't steal, didn't swear and didn't break civil laws. Pride.

The Bible teaches humility, not to think of ourselves as better. "In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble and honor others more than yourselves." — Philippians 2:3.

Making friends and excelling at school and work was easier when I didn't appear full of myself. I seemed humble, but God looks on the heart.

Sin is sin. If perfection is a target, when we take aim and the arrow falls short, we miss the mark. It doesn't matter if it falls an inch or many feet short, it's still a miss. That's sin. I had no reason to be prideful. My arrow didn't hit the target either.

Beating down pride is a continual battle for me. When I believe I am doing a good job of it, that's pride creeping in again.

These weapons combat pride for me.

Seek forgiveness. Every time I mess up, it's time to repent. On

A Matter of Faith

days when nothing comes to mind, I ask the Holy Spirit to point out the missed marks. Trust me, he does.

Seek forgiveness. Every time I mess up, it's time to repent. On days when nothing comes to mind, I ask the Holy Spirit to point out the missed marks. Trust me, he does.

God gives us abilities and talents, strength and wisdom to handle situations in our lives. It's easy to conclude we manage on our own. Thanking God reminds me that the outcomes aren't solely my doing. Praising God diminishes pride.

Give up control. This is a hard one for me. I don't like to fly because everything is out of my control on an airplane. In the movie "Bruce Almighty," the main character is given the power to answer prayers. Bruce grants almost everyone's requests. This results in havoc and mayhem. God knows what's best because he knows everything and sees the big picture. I must remember to also pray: Thy will be done, Lord, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Focus on Jesus. When Peter tried to walk on water, he succeeded as long as he kept his eyes on the Lord. That's where my focus needs to stay also. Jesus left heaven to come to earth in the form of a man. How humbling. When he had every right to be born in a palace, treated royally and to "lord" it over us, he didn't. His humility is an example for us. May we become more and more like him.

Forgive me again and again,

Lord, when I feel pride welling up in me. Instead of focusing on myself, I will praise you for who you are, what you have done, will do and are doing. Amen.

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.

Truth

■ continued from previous page philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. We honor all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine. The vision of the New Thought Center is to empower possibility through revelation of spiritual truth and to have our members experience self-empowerment, inner peace and feeling part of a community. Our mission is to create a world that works for all and to create a joyful life through awareness of a higher power. We are a "Good Vibe Tribe" that connects a collective spiritual journey.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

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

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—Kanaka Perea



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Health department launches Jr Heroes COVID-19 Vax Challenge

By Chandler Griffin
San Juan Basin Public Health

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) is pleased to announce the Jr Heroes COVID-19 Vax Challenge.

This challenge invites local youth to use their unique perspective and an artistic medium of their choosing to engage in peer-to-peer communication. This project aims to share scientific, trustworthy information about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccines, address misinformation and encourage dialogue.

Youth ages 12-17 who reside in Archuleta and La Plata counties are eligible to participate in the Jr Heroes COVID-19 Vax Challenge. Participants can work individually or as part of a team. Participants will receive a \$100 gift card for completing an eligible project. Teams of three or more will receive a maximum of \$300 total in incentives.

Examples of projects include but are not limited to:

- A music video or song with lyrics in support of protecting the community, family members and the vulnerable through vaccination for COVID-19.
- An infographic or poster depicting factual information about vaccine development and safety.
- A video sharing personal experiences with COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine.

The challenge period began on Dec. 28 and will wrap up with exhibitions later in the winter of 2022. Participants will start by identifying a parent or guardian representative and filling out a brief proposal for their project. Proposals will be accepted

through Jan. 19, 2022, or until a maximum number of proposals are accepted. Therefore, participants are encouraged to submit their proposal early.

Final projects will be due via electronic submission by Feb. 4, 2022. Final projects will be shared online through the contestant's social media accounts as well as exhibitions in both counties.

This project is being sponsored by a generous Together We Protect Grant offered by the Caring for Colorado Foundation.

For more information, visit SJBPH's website at sjbpublichealth.org/jrheroeschallenge/. For questions about the Jr Heroes COVID-19 Vax Challenge, please contact covid-19vaccines@sjbpublichealth.org.

As a reminder, youth ages 5 through 17 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Booster doses

of the Pfizer vaccine are now available for 16- and 17-year-olds who are six months past completing their initial vaccine series. It is important that residents verify the Pfizer vaccine is being offered when signing up minors for COVID-19 vaccine appointments or walking into a clinic. Parents and guardians are required to provide consent for minors to be vaccinated. The vaccine is free, and no ID is required.

Families have options and are encouraged to either sign up for a community vaccination clinic, contact their pediatrician or reach out to their preferred vaccine provider. Clinic and provider information is available on the SJBPH website: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/covid-19-vaccine/>.



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This custom home has a European flair with a great room concept and incredible views of Pagosa Peak. A wine cellar with a tasting area is a great way to relax in front of the two-way fireplace. The kitchen is open to the dining and living room areas for easy flow while entertaining. The dining room area has a wall of windows to view the garden area while enjoying meals with friends. As the evening progresses, a stroll to the fire pit will keep you warm and provide a setting for hours of conversation and good times.

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 30

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.

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.

Friday, Dec. 31

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

Monday, Jan. 3

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

Online Resource Tutorial: Transparent Language. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Packed full of pronunciation, speech, grammar, writing and vocabulary-building lessons. Transparent Language provides library users with a complete, language learning solution. This useful resource is accessible from your computer, smartphone or tablet. Join us for in-person instructions and we will help you get started. Access Transparent Language anytime

on your own using the Transparent Language Learning database available at: <https://pagosalibrary.org/online-resources/>. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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, Jan. 4

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.

Computer Class: Transferring Photos from a Phone to a Computer. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Join Brad for this basic computer class that will help you understand the process of transferring photos and other files from your phone to a computer. This skill is useful to know because it will help you free up storage space on your phone or

your phone's limited cloud storage. You are invited to bring your laptop and phone with you so you can practice. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Loan paddles will be available.

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. 4-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-6 p.m., and intermediate students are encouraged to attend from 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 5

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

Family Storytime: STEM with Jes-

■ See Calendar on next page

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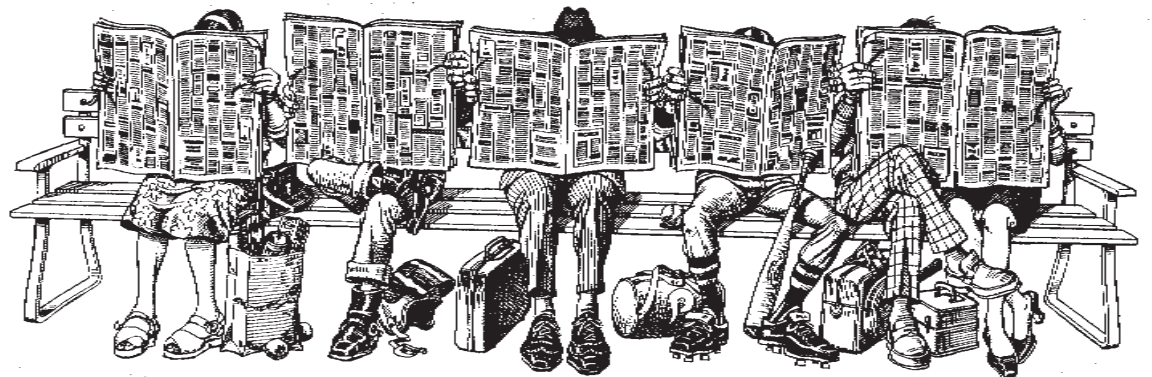
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Preview Calendar

continued from previous page
sica Walker. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Join us for an experiment or two at this program presented by Jessica Walker. Storytime is 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.

Teen Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join us for a lively discussion of what you've been reading and help us choose what we'll read in the new year. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 6

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.

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.

Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Beginner lessons. Loaner paddles will be available.

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.

Friday, Jan. 7

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." Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Wrestling. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Rocky Mountain Duals.

Film Night Series. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A Christian growth film will be shown and will be followed by group discussion. Coffee, tea and snacks provided. Call (303) 828-6386 for more information.

Saturday, Jan. 8

Pagosa Springs Varsity Wrestling. 9 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Call (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Monday, Jan. 10

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

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, Jan. 11

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.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-6 p.m. For teens and young adults. Join us on

■ See Calendar on page 17



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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 Barrow's goldeneye.

This duck was originally described from a resident population in Iceland and named to honor Sir John Barrow, a British promoter of arctic voyages. Outside of small populations in Iceland and eastern Canada, it is mainly a bird of the northwestern part of North America. We are close to the southern extreme of its range and it only stays here for a few months in winter.

When lakes and ponds freeze in their summer range, most Barrow's goldeneyes flee to sheltered coastal areas, but some winter on northern inland lakes and rivers that remain ice-free. Aerators in lakes and the infusion of geothermal water into the river provide this habitat here.

The male Barrow's goldeneye has white undersides and a black back. White spots on his folded black wings have been described as resembling piano keys. His glossy purplish head has white crescent-shaped patches between the eyes and bill. Females are grayish ducks with chocolate brown heads and usually orangish bills with a black tip. Both sexes have a steep forehead, flat crown and short, stubby bills.

Primarily a cavity nester, this duck breeds in northwestern areas with small, forested mountain lakes. Females will reuse nest sites of previous years, often old woodpecker holes 6 to 48 feet above ground, and will also use man-made nest boxes. Within two days of hatching, ducklings jump from the nest in response to the mother's calls and follow her to their brood territory.

On fresh water, aquatic insects provide most of the diet, while mollusks and crustaceans are consumed at sea. Plant material is added in summer and fall.

The opportunity to see these beautiful ducks, often found in the company of related common goldeneyes and buffleheads, is a good reason to take a walk along the San Juan River now.

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

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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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

CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to winter.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 21 = E)

A. 25 16 24 4 10 7 20 5 21

Clue: Individual piece of snow

B. 17 9 23 7 7 26

Clue: Slightly cold

C. 25 4 21 20 22 21 13

Clue: Warm, knitted shirt

D. 25 22 24 13 11

Clue: Bad weather

Answers: A. snowflake B. chilly C. sweater D. storm

Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 15

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.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

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

Thursday, Jan. 13

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.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Serving hot meals 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.

Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Beginner lessons. Loaner paddles will be available.

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.

Friday, Jan. 14

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

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.

Pagosa Springs Girls' Varsity Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa vs. Alamosa.

Pagosa Springs Boys' Varsity Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa vs. Alamosa.

Saturday, Jan. 15

Pagosa Springs Girls' Varsity Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa vs. Bayfield.

Pagosa Springs Boys' Varsity Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa vs. Bayfield.

Monday, Jan. 17

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

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, Jan. 18

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.

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Offer ends 2/28/22

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Come As You Are

"Come to Me, all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Join Us Sunday Morning For Fellowship At:



Where: 1044 Park Ave, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

When: 10:00am - 11:30am

Be prepared: Snowed in

By **Daris Howard**
Special to The PREVIEW

It was only a week before Christmas that year when the big snowstorm came. Once it started, it didn't stop for a long time. A foot of snow dropped that first night. The snowplows quickly cleared it away, disappointing the children who had to go to school. But as the snow kept coming, the snowplows couldn't keep up, and the children were thrilled to get a couple of extra days of Christmas break.

But the excitement wore off as the snow continued, and people grew weary of shoveling. Out in the rural area where we live, some people desperately tried to get out for a last little bit of Christmas shopping. But most didn't make it far beyond their driveways before they had to turn back.

Once the snow reached a depth of about 3 feet, a strong wind kicked up, blowing snow over the roads in drifts that were 10 feet high in some places. The county officials announced that all non-emergency road clearing would be discontinued until after the storm ceased. Authorities suggested that no one venture out unless it was an absolute emergency. Soon power went out and phone lines went dead.

Our family was quite comfortable. Though we usually used electric heat at night, we used a wood

stove during the day. It became our only source of heat and cooking, so we gathered around it and let the storms howl outside. Snow had to be brought in and melted for drinking, washing and bathroom use. The only real challenge was going outside and taking care of the animals, who were all snug in their sheds. I took care of all outside work and came in looking like a snowman.

Since we had already finished most of our Christmas shopping, we decided that what we had done would suffice. We had a fun Christmas. We ate lots of candy, read stories and enjoyed the family togetherness. It was a few days after Christmas when the winds finally stopped. By then everyone had been snowed in for over a week.

The power came back on intermittently, and we learned from the radio that roads were impassible everywhere. The snow was too deep for the conventional snowplows and would initially have to be cleared by the rotary ones. Unfortunately, the county had a limited number of rotary snowplows, and it would take over a week for all roads to be opened.

Over the next few days, the temperature dropped to well below zero. Our family continued on as we had, having limited contact with the outside world. Then one evening, just before New Year's Day, we heard a snow machine. Soon there was a

knock on our door. Everyone rushed to see who would be out in this freezing weather. There stood a neighbor who lived about a mile away.

He held out a \$20 bill. "Can I buy a roll of toilet paper?"

I laughed. "A roll of toilet paper doesn't cost \$20."

He sighed. "I've already been to a couple other neighbors trying to buy some, but it seems like everyone is on their last roll and doesn't want to part with it at any price."

"I grew up out in the middle of nowhere," I said. "And I learned to stock up for emergencies like this, so we have extra."

I retrieved a whole package and brought it to him. "Keep your money and just replace the toilet paper when you get a chance."

He thanked me and left.

A few days later, after the roads were cleared, the neighbor came up to me at church. "I've got your package of toilet paper in my car," he said. "I'll get it for you right after church."

"What I gave you got you through all right, then?" I asked.

He nodded. "Yes, and I've learned my lesson. When summer comes, I plan to insulate my whole house with toilet paper. I'm not ever going to run out again."

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PREVIEW photo/
Terri House

Matt Carpenter brought his son, **Ransom**, to the newspaper office last week to pick up his new Daisy Red Ryder BB gun that the family won at the Old-Fashioned Christmas event earlier this month. The Carpenter family was in Pagosa Springs for vacation when mom Kiki entered the drawing. The family resides in Conway, Ark., where Ransom has been sharing the gun with his four brothers and breaking it in this past week.



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Great Decisions announces 2022 events

By Janice Sheftel
Great Decisions

The Durango Great Decisions International Affairs Discussion Program, now in its 20th year, will begin its 2022 schedule on Jan. 25 at the Durango Public Library, with a facilitator-led discussion on the topic "Russia."

Great Decisions meets every other week thereafter, for a total of nine sessions, on Tuesdays, with one exception, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., at the library. Programs are free of charge and open to the public.

Attendees should be vaccinated against COVID and should wear a mask. Individual students are welcome. The Great Decisions program is sponsored by the library, AAUW and the La Plata County League of Women Voters (LPLWV). In 2019, programs were attended by over 75 thoughtful community members and almost as many attended each Zoom session in 2021.

Timely international affairs discussion topics are suggested annually by the Foreign Policy Association, which prepares a briefing book, a teacher's guide and a DVD on the nine topics. The DVD on the current topic is often shown at each Durango discussion session.

Briefing books on the 2022 topics, until sold out, can be ordered for \$25 from Susan McGinness, 756 East 6th Ave., Durango, CO 81301. Include your check made out to LPLWV and your physical address, email address and phone number. Once these books are all reserved, books may be ordered from the Foreign Policy Association at www.fpa.org or (800) 477-5836 or from online retailers. The library keeps one copy on reserve.

In summary, the 2022 Great Decisions program is as follows (note: The topics are in a different order from those in the briefing book and the last program is on a Thursday, not a Tuesday):

- Topic: Russia, Jan. 25, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Topic: Climate Change, Feb. 8 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Topic: Drug Policy in Latin America, Feb. 22, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45

p.m.
• Topic: Outer Space, March 8, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

• Topic: Biden's Agenda, March 22, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

• Topic: Myanmar and ASEAN, April 5, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

• Topic: Demographics, April 19, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

• Topic: Industrial Policy, May 3, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

• Topic: Quad Alliance, May 12, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Changing Demographics

The world experienced remarkable demographic changes in the 20th century that continue today and have resulted in far-reaching social, economic, political and environmental consequences all over the globe. These consequences are creating mounting challenges to development efforts, security, climate and the environment, as well as the sustainability of human populations.

Facilitator: Holly Vaughn. Vaughn is the senior exercise planner for Summit Training and Exercises LLC. For the last decade, she has created, facilitated and managed training exercise programs based on terrorist scenarios involving radioactive material.

Sponsored by the Department of Energy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, these programs of tabletop exercises are presented to U.S. and foreign civilian and military agencies. She also was the project manager for the National Nuclear Security Administration's counterterrorism exercise program and development team for three years.

Retiring from the U.S. Navy in 2004 as a captain, Vaughn also served over 25 years providing direct operational support to military forces worldwide as a career intelligence officer. Her jobs included the director, Joint Military Intelligence Training Center; and commander, Naval Element, Defense Intelligence Agency. She has an M.S. in national resource strategy from the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, and an M.A. in war studies from the Royal Military College of

Canada. She also has a certificate in terrorism studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Outer Space

The launch of Sputnik I in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space?

Facilitator: Dick White. White is professor emeritus of astronomy at Smith College (MA), where he also developed a public policy course on climate change. He took early retirement in 2002 to become a sustainability and climate protection advocate, moving to Durango in 2003. After serving on several nonprofit boards and citizens committees, he served for eight years on the Durango City Council, including two as mayor. He has since received a climate change professional certificate from the Association of Climate Change

■ See Decisions on next page

*And you will have
joy and gladness,
and many will
rejoice at his birth.*

Luke 1:14



Rejoice

*May all your hopes
and prayers be
fulfilled during this
holy time of year.*

*Our thoughts
and fond wishes
are with you.*

*Thank you for your
generous support.*

*Merry
Christmas*



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Decisions

■ continued from previous page

Officers and started a part-time business, Enduring Green Globe Consulting.

Climate Change

The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But, extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?

Facilitator: Guinn Unger. Unger grew up as an Army brat, living in many different places. He graduated from Frankfurt American High School in Frankfurt, Germany. He then attended Rice University in Houston, Texas, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering.

Unger worked for McDonnell Douglas at the NASA Johnson Space Center for two years on the space shuttle design team. He also worked as a computer software developer, computer consultant and small business owner. He and his wife purchased their house in Forest Lakes in January 2013.

Unger got involved with the Colorado Care Amendment 69 campaign in 2016 and served as the regional coordinator for southwest Colorado. He served as co-chair for the Health Care and Senior Issues committee of Indivisible Durango. He was elected to the Board of Directors for La Plata Electric Association in 2017 and ran (unsuccessfully) for the Colorado State Senate District 6 seat in 2018.

Russia

Russia and the United States have many areas of conflict and some possible areas of mutual interest. Arms control, Russian interference in U.S. elections and support of cyberattacks, the status of

Ukraine, and the fate of opposition politicians in Russia all continue to be concerning. How will the new administration in Washington approach these issues?

Facilitator: Paul DeBell. DeBell is an assistant professor of political science at Fort Lewis College (FLC). His teaching and research interests span political psychology and comparative politics, with particular focus on democratic governance, post-communist politics, the psychology of political division and the role of emotions in political behavior. He has studied and lived in Russia and Hungary, and his dissertation analyzed the link between populist outrage, polarization and the decline in democratic governance in Hungary.

DeBell's current research, teaching and advocacy revolves around the psychology of democratic citizenship in light of 21st century challenges to self-governance. Outside of the classroom, he spearheads FLC's civic engagement and voter education efforts through the FLC Engagement Collaborative and the Community by Conversation series.

DeBell received his doctoral and master's degrees in political science from Ohio State University and he studied government, philosophy, and Russian and post-Soviet studies at the College of William and Mary in his home state of Virginia.

Myanmar and ASEAN

The situation in Myanmar, including the coup by the military in February 2021 and the ongoing human rights crises, coupled with civil resistance by those opposed to the regime, has led to chaos in the Southeast Asian country. How are neighboring countries reacting, and what role will ASEAN play?

Facilitator: Ruth Alminas. Alminas is an assistant professor in

■ See Decisions on page 22

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Slimy garden pest
- 5 Midway, for one
- 10 Future branch
- 14 Pool path
- 15 Part of U.S.N.A.
- 16 Make, as a salary
- 17 White House worker
- 18 City on the Potomac
- 20 The Undertaker, for one
- 22 Unassuming
- 23 Have the throne
- 24 Tasting like venison
- 25 Woodshop tool
- 27 Word with "heavy" or "precious"
- 29 Obey, with "by"
- 33 Remnants
- 35 Whodunit revelation
- 37 Tim of "Rob Roy"
- 38 Hopping mad
- 40 Gasoline brand
- 41 _____ Cup, in yachting
- 43 Lavish buffet
- 45 Louvre locale
- 46 Matter of debate
- 48 Caustic cleaner
- 49 Musher's transport
- 51 Literary device
- 53 Died down
- 56 Place with rides
- 59 Surrender on terms
- 61 Cantina fare
- 62 One's bearing
- 63 Stand-up guy
- 64 King of Siam's visitor
- 65 Metallica hit, "Nothing _____ Matters"
- 66 Campaign button word

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
			23					24						
25	26			27			28			29		30	31	32
33			34				35		36					
37					38	39					40			
41				42					43	44				
45						46		47				48		
			49		50			51			52			
53	54	55					56						57	58
59							60					61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

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- 67 Tobacco pipe part
- 28 Store up
- 30 Not germane
- 31 Waste away
- 32 Cut into
- 34 Killer car of film
- 36 Bring back to life
- 39 Sneak attack
- 42 Speck in the sea
- 44 Working stiff
- 47 TV interference
- 50 Draw forth
- 52 Gyro shells
- 53 Wile E. Coyote's mail-order house
- 54 Leave, slangily
- 55 Clumsy fellows
- 56 Showed up
- 57 Teen affliction
- 58 Rich soil
- 60 Texter's chuckle

DOWN

- 1 Picnic dish
- 2 Animal shelter
- 3 Submerged
- 4 Migratory birds
- 5 Painkiller
- 6 Scout's quest
- 7 Burt Reynolds comedy, "Starting _____"
- 8 Cal. airport
- 9 Alpaca kin
- 10 Toy since 1902
- 11 "Silver" or "soft" ending
- 12 Novelist Johansen
- 13 Buzzing pest
- 19 Itinerant sort
- 21 It waits for no one
- 24 Eat too much
- 25 Subway handhold
- 26 Coffee quality

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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

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

WORDS

- ANORAK
- ARCTIC
- BALACLAVA
- BITING
- BITTER
- BLIZZARD
- BLUSTERY
- CHILLS
- CHIMNEY
- COLD
- DECEMBER
- DRAFTY
- DREARY
- DUVET
- EARMUFFS
- EVERGREEN
- FIREWOOD
- FLANNEL
- FLEECE
- FLURRIES
- GALE
- GLOVES
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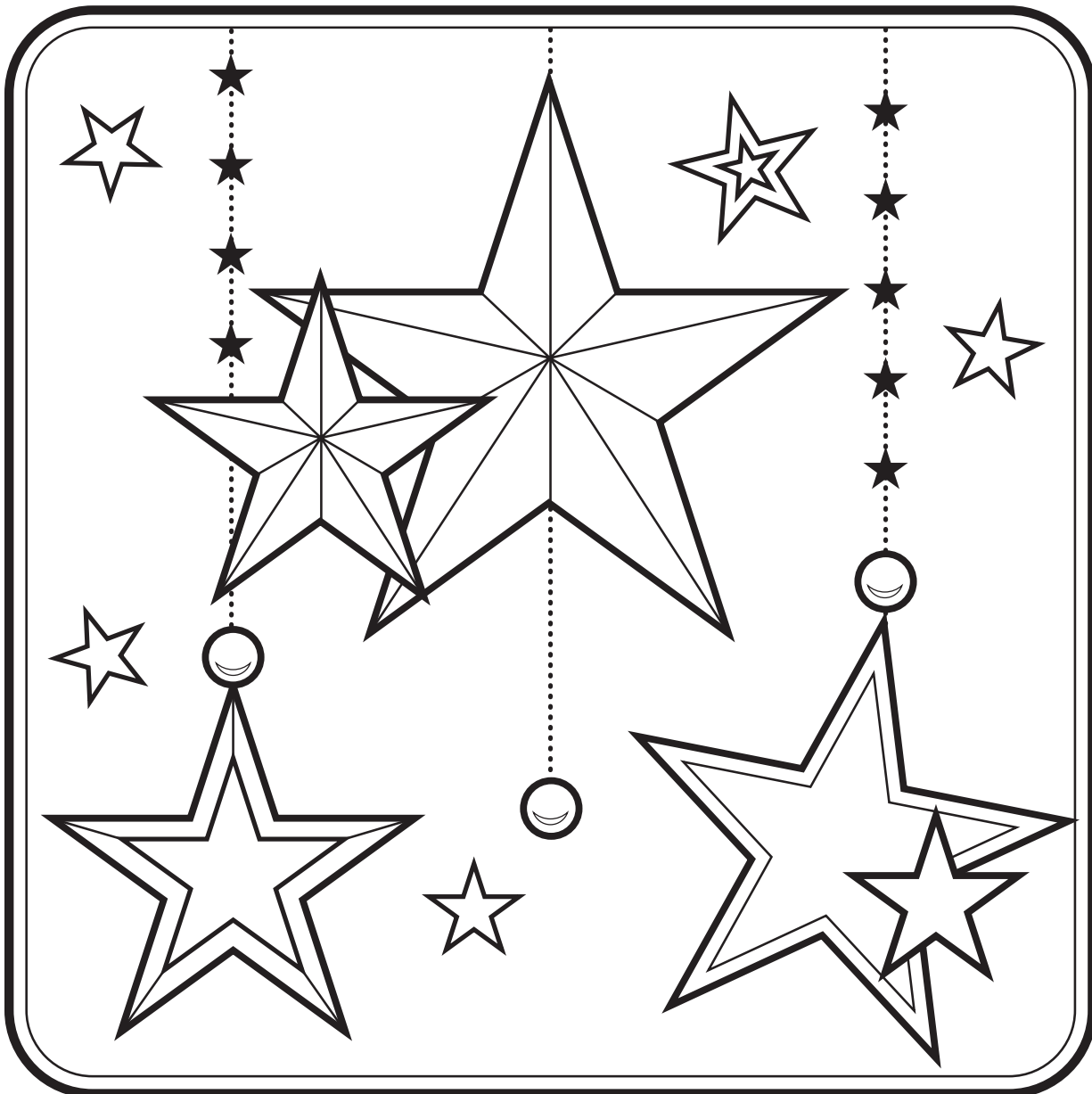
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Decisions -

■ continued from page 20

the Department of Political Science at FLC, where she teaches courses such as international politics, armed conflict and its management, global environmental politics, international political economy and Middle Eastern politics. Her research interests include persons displaced by armed conflict, secession, international law, international nongovernmental organizations and social upheaval. She received her Ph.D. in political science — specifically, international relations with a focus on armed conflict — from the University of Arizona. She received an MA in religion from the University of Chicago and a BA in religious studies from the University of Colorado.

The Quad Alliance

As part of the U.S. pivot to Asia, the United States has been in dialogue with Japan, Australia and India in an effort to contain China.

■ See Decisions on next page



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Decisions

■ continued from previous page

Recently, the Quad countries held joint naval exercises in the South Pacific. How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

Facilitator: Katherine Burgess. Burgess spent more than 15 years overseas in Africa, the Middle East and Europe with the Department of State. She earned her Ph.D. in the humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2006 and taught many humanities courses at the southwest campus of Colorado Community College. After retiring from the State Department, she and her husband, Dwight, were owners and operators of Uptown International Travel in Dallas. They moved from Dallas to Durango in 2004. Burgess has most recently worked as a home-based independent travel agent, forced into retirement by COVID. She also currently serves as the chairman of the City of Durango's Board of Ethics.

Industrial Policy

The current discussion of industrial policy in the United States is not simply about whether or not to support specific companies or industries, but about trust or mistrust of the government and its ability to manage the economy and deal with a rising China. The upheaval in supply chains during the pandemic exposed weaknesses in the international economy. What policies can the United States implement to deal with trade and the economy?

Facilitator: Alex Lemmel. Lemmel is a financial professional and certified public accountant with experience as an auditor, analyst and executive at multinational, manufacturing and consumer goods companies. Through this work, Lemmel has developed a keen understanding of international supply chains, inventory movements, value chains and costing.

Drug Policy in Latin America

The issue of migration to the United States from Latin America has overshadowed the war on drugs, which has been underway for decades with little signs of progress. What are the roots and the bureaucratic logic behind today's dominant drug policies in Latin America? Is it time to reconsider punitive drug control policies that disrupt supply chains and punish drug possession?

Facilitator: Mike Todt. Todt, who retired in 2013, has lived in Durango for five years, with his wife, Tammy Hoier. He is involved in the community with the Boulevard Neighborhood Association, volunteers at the Center of Southwest Studies in the archives and acts as a steward for an ancient Puebloan site in Canyon of the Ancients. His hobbies include biking, hiking and travel, and reading history with a focus on health care and the West.

Prior to coming to Durango, Todt taught U.S., North American (Canada, Mexico, U.S.) and health care history at West Virginia University. Other employment included hospital CEO, international management consultant and private practice psychologist. He has a Ph.D. in history from West Virginia University (2011) and a Ph.D. and M.A. in organizational behavior from the University of Chicago, 1983.

Biden's Agenda

The new administration in Washington promised to reverse many of the policies of the past administration, especially in foreign policy. How will issues such as climate, the pandemic and alliances be treated under the Biden administration?

Facilitator: Laurie Meininger. Meininger has spent her entire adult life in service to her community and country. In November 2017, she "retired" to Durango after nearly 20 years of diplomatic service abroad. She has been honored to lead multicultural teams in Africa, Iraq, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Micronesia. Her last

assignment was as the deputy chief of mission and charge d'affaires (acting ambassador) at the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone. There she led an interagency team of 250 to strengthen that nation in the aftermath of the world's worst Ebola epidemic and 11 years of civil war.

Meininger's career started in social work and community and organizational development, working in fields as diverse as mental health, hospice care and in the design of day care and respite centers and caregiver training programs for people affected by various types of dementia.

Meininger has master's degrees in both social work and public administration; speaks French and Romanian; and is the recipient of numerous professional awards, including the JC Penny Golden Rule Award. In 2018, she was awarded the James A. Baker Outstanding Deputy Chief of Mission Award by the U.S. State Department.

Currently, Meininger is the president of the LPLWV. She also serves on the City of Durango Ethics Commission and keeps trying to find time for long road trips in her camper van.



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Issue of Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022
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INDEX

- Too Late To Classify
- Services
- Help Wanted
- Announcements
- Yard Sales
- Lost and Found
- Pets
- Personals
- Livestock
- Wanted
- For Sale
- Recreational Vehicles
- Autos
- Residential Rentals
- Commercial Rentals
- Commercial Property
- Business Opportunities
- Mobile Homes
- Condos
- Timeshares
- Houses
- Open Houses
- Ranches
- Property

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AL-ANON TRADITIONAL FAMILY GROUP. Mondays, 7p.m., Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail. Contact (970)903-9690.

PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 7p.m. Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail. Contact Charlotte/Ken at (970)903-9690 or Nate (970)507-1004.

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

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.

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).

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP FOOD PANTRY is Open Mondays 11a.m.-1p.m., Wednesdays 4-6p.m. 264 Village Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

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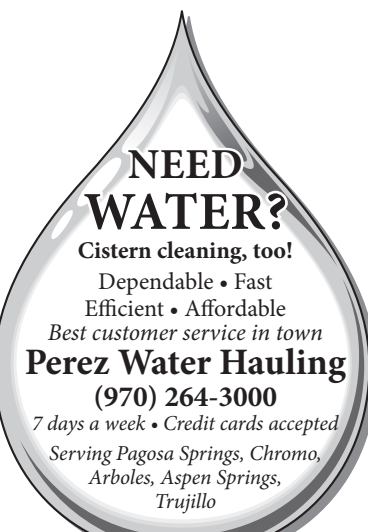
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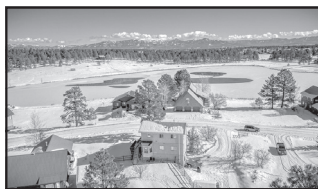


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Cute 2 Bed Cottage w/ Views
25 Brassie Court



Successful Vacation Rental
195 Wilderness Drive



Perfectly Priced Modular
96 Flintlock



Majestic Hunter's Cabin
71 Rocky Ridge 2



Mountain Home on 7+ Acres
465 River Run



Ranch-Style on 4+ Acres
86 Oak Drive



Taxi Business Opportunity!
South Fork to Durango Territory



35 Acres with Chimney Rock Views
X CR 917



Creek Front and No HOA
10200 W Hwy. 160



2 Buildable Lots w/ Seasonal Creek
1061 & 1097 Hurt Drive



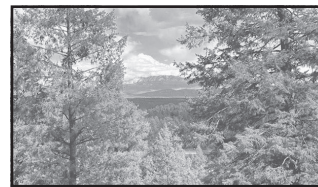
Commercial or Multi-Family
59 Greenbrier Drive



Views of Chimney Rock
941, 975, 995, 1027 Hurt Drive



Several Building Sites
2620 & 2676 Crooked Road



Buildable Wooded Lot with Views
352 Blanca Place



Timberidge Pagosa Peak Views
380 Mariposa Drive



Hatcher Pagosa Peak Views
7302 N. Pagosa Boulevard



Bordering National Forest
43 Marble Court

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Home on 1.3 wooded acres
106 Evergreen



Silverton Gem
5 Eureka Mining District



3.6 Acres in Holiday Acres
75 Dandelion



1 Bed Condo w/Mtn. Views
247 Davis Cup #4226



8.71 Acres in Alpha
633 E McCabe



3 Bed, 2.5 Bath on 6+ Acres
600 Harvard Avenue



Seasonal Stream & Driveway
284 & 340 Oak



Raised Ranch on 3+ Acres
55 Dandelion

Each office is
independently
owned and
operated

