



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 112 — NO. 21, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Preliminary hearing reveals more details in Vista homicide

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At a preliminary hearing on Monday, new details were revealed in the August 2019 homicide of Millie Mestas, 47, of Archuleta County.

Mestas was identified as the deceased female located within a home in the Vista subdivision. The incident is believed to have occurred on the night of Aug. 6, 2019, with the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) receiving a call from a reporting party at 4:45 a.m. on Aug. 7.

According to an ACSO press release that was released at the time of the homicide, the reporting party went to the victim's home to get some personal items and discovered the

victim inside the home.

The press release explains the complexity of the crime scene required the ACSO to request assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI).

Following an autopsy performed on Aug. 8, Mestas' cause of death was determined to be from "multiple stab wounds to the neck and back," the ACSO press release reads.

Due to the nature of Mestas' injuries, the ACSO investigated her death as a homicide, the press release explains.

As the investigation went on, several individuals were interviewed and some suspects were identified, the press release notes.

Also on Aug. 8, information related to the death of Mestas pointed to a suspect who was later identified as Christopher Ross

Maez, 52, of Archuleta County, according to the ACSO press release.

The press release also explains that, on Aug. 8, Maez was interviewed regarding Mestas' death, and at the end of the interview was arrested for unrelated outstanding warrants for failing to appear in Archuleta County and Montezuma County.

Additionally, Maez had an outstanding warrant for violation of bail bond conditions in Archuleta County, according to the press release.

ACSO detectives began compiling information from the investigation, ultimately presenting an affidavit of probable cause to obtain an arrest warrant for Maez from the Sixth Judicial District Court.

On Aug. 9, that warrant was signed by

a judge and served on Maez at the La Plata County Detention Center.

Maez was then booked in on additional charges:

- Murder 1 – after deliberation.
- Murder 1 – extreme indifference.
- Assault 1 – serious bodily injury with a deadly weapon.
- Domestic violence.

Bond was set for Maez at \$1 million.

During a hearing on Aug. 26, Maez was read the charges against him by Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson.

"The complaint states that count No. 1, murder in the first-degree. On or about August 7, 2019, Christopher Ross Maez unlawfully, feloniously and after deliberation, and with intent to cause the death of a person

other than himself, caused the death of Millie Michelle Mestas," Wilson read. "That's a class 1 felony. That's potentially punishable by life in prison without the possibility of parole."

Wilson explained during that hearing that the district attorney could seek the death penalty in this case, but decided not to.

"If you're convicted of first-degree murder, you are looking at a sentence of life without the possibility of parole," Wilson said.

Preliminary hearing

During Monday's preliminary hearing, ACSO Detective TJ Fitzwater explained to Deputy District Attorney Alex Lowe that he received a call on Aug. 7, 2019, pertaining to the homicide.

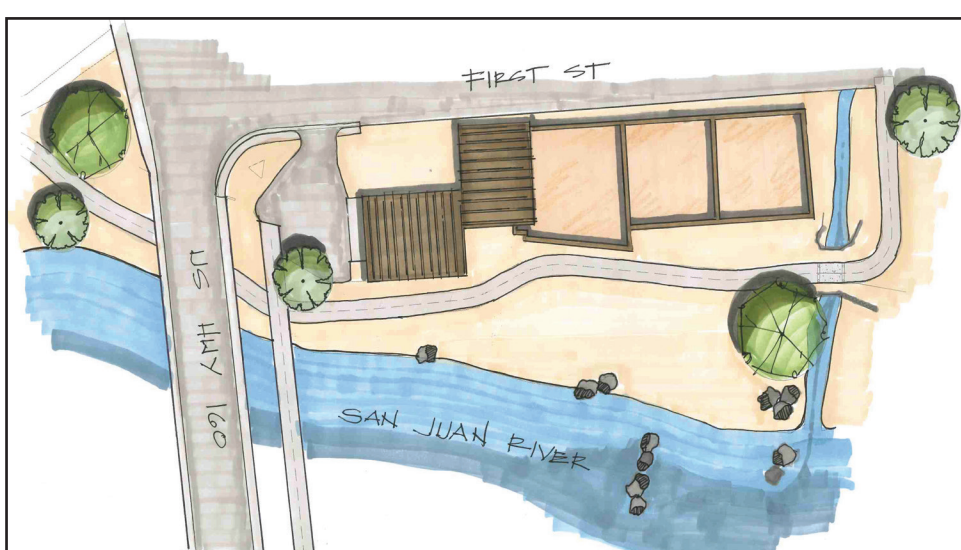
■ See Homicide A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Envisioning the future

On Feb. 5, the Pagosa Springs Historic Preservation Board kicked off the next phase of its process in determining how the town's historic Water Works settlement tanks structure, located at U.S. 160 and 1st Street, could be used in the future. Ideas voiced for the site include an expanded museum, educational space, a natural/sanctuary space and more. The next design vision process meeting will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 19 in the Senior Dining Room in the Ross Aragon Community Center.



Rendering courtesy Town of Pagosa Springs, Reynolds Ash + Associates

School district discusses outstanding balances for student lunch accounts

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Outstanding balances for student lunch accounts were brought to the attention of the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) by Food Service Director Todd Stevens at the board's regular meeting on Feb. 4.

Currently, ASD has a policy that allows families to pre-pay and deposit — and are strongly encouraged to do so — money into students' accounts. The district also accepts cash and checks, Stevens explained.

"If a student account reflects any negative balance, the family receives voice messages, automated and personal, and emails," he said. "The student may charge up to \$13 before receiving an alternate meal for three days. The policy states that after three days, the student is no longer allowed to dine on school-

provided meals until the account is paid."

According to Stevens, federal regulations require a cashier be placed at the end of a lunch line to check students' trays. This results in food service staff not knowing a child has an outstanding balance until the student has gathered food for their meal.

There were enough donations from local citizens and businesses in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years that ASD has not enforced its policy of withholding meals from students since Stevens has been with the district, he noted.

"But, unfortunately, ASD is experiencing an increase in overall totals for student overdrawn food account balances," he said. "Sadly, this appears to be a common trend throughout the country in districts that receive donations."

■ See Lunch A16

Town looking at new car charging station

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Town of Pagosa Springs is looking into the possibility of participating in the installation of an electric vehicle charging station at Centennial Park that the town would ultimately own and operate.

At its Feb. 4 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council directed staff to continue looking into the possibility, which was proposed by ChargePoint.

"The Town was approached by ChargePoint to install a Level 3 fast charging electric vehicle station. ChargePoint received a \$10.3 million grant through the Colorado Energy Office to install 33 Level 3 fast charging sites in major travel corridors around the state. Pagosa Springs was identified as a potential site," an agenda brief on the matter explains.

Town Manager Andrea Phillips

explained to council that Centennial Park has been identified as the best location due to the location of a transformer nearby, which would need to be upgraded.

"There is currently a Level 2 site installed and in use at Centennial Park (near the domes)," the agenda brief further explains. "This equipment was installed by LPEA and is managed by them. There is currently no cost to charge at the site. There would be a charge to the customer with the Level 3 station. The Level 3 station has a bigger footprint and takes about 30-60 min to charge a vehicle, versus a couple of hours with a Level 2 station."

ChargePoint's Rebecca Paruch explained that six corridors within the state were identified for the grant, and all charging stations need to be installed by June 30.

■ See Charging A8

Town focuses on housing at work session

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Spring Town Council's work session last Thursday focused on a number of aspects of housing within the town, with the council identifying a number of housing priorities for 2020.

Those identified priorities include finalizing an incentive package, exploring options for additional land for housing, continuing work with the housing coalition and bringing in the private sector, having continued discussions on short-term rentals and possibly doing an assessment on the buildability of town-owned land.

Town council began the work session by hearing updates from a number of organizations, including Pagosa Housing Partners (PHP), town staff, HomesFund, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and others.

PHP update

PHP's Lynne Vickerstaff and Joanne Whitney told the council about the organization's attendance at government meetings, conference at-

tendance and involvement in projects.

Those projects include participating in the development of the Opportunity Zone Prospectus, work with the housing coalition that began in August, developer advocacy (which Vickerstaff noted has been done primarily by the town), the RoomConnect program, and CommunityTalk outreach events that present information on housing-related topics and topics impacting housing.

Vickerstaff also noted that long-term funding options for housing were presented to council and noted that PHP has received grants and done fundraising.

She outlined that PHP has received \$34,720 from the town, \$500 from La Plata Electric Association in the form of a grant and \$4,200 in private donations.

Goals and ideas for the future presented by the PHP representatives included helping to create and support a long-term funding plan for housing, understanding the initial stages of a community land trust model or shared equity model, and public information and advocacy.

Town council member David Schanzenbaker

asked about the potential for RoomConnect to see more placements, with Whitney having earlier explained they had received five homeowner applications and three renter applications.

Whitney explained that specific requirements (such as a vegan homeowner who won't allow meat to be cooked in the home), timing of inventory and transportation needs making matches difficult.

In response to Schanzenbaker, Whitney acknowledged needing to be more engaged with social media and figure out how to catch the attention of those who could be served by the program.

Vickerstaff noted the program has a low cost since it is already set up and that it is a matter of having the pool of applicants be large enough to make matches.

"Our pool isn't big enough yet," she said, adding that they would like to make 10 matches this year and noting that, even in cities like Boulder, the program can take a while to get going.

Town update

■ See Housing A8

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Opinion

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2/6	34	-5	-	-	-	-
2/7	46	13	-	-	-	-
2/8	46	14	-	-	-	-
2/9	42	19	-	-	-	-
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EDITORIAL

Guest editorial: Proposed land exchange would acquire critical elk and deer habitat

In November, the San Juan National Forest looked to the public for feedback regarding a proposed land exchange on the Pagosa Ranger District.

Land exchanges are a way to acquire land on behalf of the public that has important natural and recreational resources.

The proposed Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange would secure important winter rangeland, a crucial migration corridor for elk and mule deer, and additional public access for motorized use in the Valle Seco area.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe identify the Valle Seco area as one of the most important areas for wintering big game animals in the San Juan Basin. Both routinely document thousands of wintering animals in the area annually as they migrate from high-elevation summer ranges in the San Juan Mountains to low-elevation winter ranges in Colorado and New Mexico. Federal, tribal and private entities share in the management of elk and mule deer habitat.

The USDA Forest Service has been discussing potential land exchanges with former and current owners of the 880-acre private inholding in the Valle Seco area since the 1980s because of its critical wildlife values. Such an exchange would protect a continuous landscape supporting wintering habitat and corridors for wildlife migration. The Forest Service has the authority to purchase land, but only

from a willing seller. In the case of Valle Seco, the land is not for sale and is only being offered as part of a land exchange; therefore, funds appropriated through the Land and Water Conservation Fund cannot be used to purchase the land.

Through the proposed Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange, the Forest Service would acquire a total of 900 acres in two parcels, while 11 parcels of National Forest System land containing a total of 472 acres would be conveyed out of federal ownership. Further information and supporting specific area maps are located at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57154. We are developing an interactive map and frequently asked questions, which will be available on the website.

Providing access to public land and rivers is important. The proposed land exchange preserves existing access to the San Juan River upstream of Pagosa Springs from U.S. 160 and existing access to the Blanco River from County Road 326. None of the parcels in the proposed land exchange include the bed or banks of the San Juan, East or West Forks of the San Juan or the Blanco Rivers. The road that goes through the Valle Seco area would also secure improved access to public land.

The proposal includes the exchange of approximately 26 acres of federal land within two suitable wild and scenic river corridors for 20 acres within one of the same corridors for a net loss of six acres

within one of the corridors. Conservation easements will be placed on the portions of the two federal parcels within suitable wild and scenic river corridors that are being conveyed out of federal ownership to protect the rivers' free-flowing conditions and natural and recreational values.

The proposal also includes the exchange of approximately 176 acres of federal land within Colorado roadless areas on two federal parcels. These acres comprise a total of 0.5 percent of the South San Juan Adjacent Colorado Roadless Area and 0.003 percent of the Turkey Creek Colorado Roadless Area. The parcels are not immediately adjacent to any designated wilderness area. There are existing authorized and unauthorized roads, ditches and fences within these roadless areas, which detract from their roadless character, making them appropriate for conveyance out of federal ownership.

We expect to release a draft environmental analysis document in the coming months. The environmental analysis will be open for public comment and incorporate feedback we have received thus far. In the meantime, we encourage anyone who would like more information about the proposal to contact Becca Smith at the Pagosa Ranger District, 264-1521 or rebecca.smith@usda.gov.

Kara Chadwick
Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service, San Juan National Forest

WHADDYA THINK?

How do you define affordable housing?

Poll results (202 votes)

\$500 per month or less — 31 percent

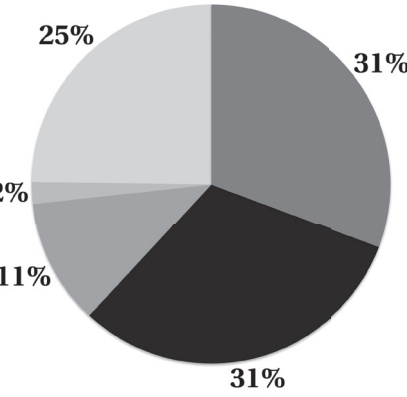
\$501-\$800 per month — 31 percent

\$801-\$1,200 per month — 11 percent

\$1,201-\$1,800 per month — 2 percent

\$1,801-\$2,500 per month — 25 percent

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LOOKING BACK



From the December 18, 1980, Pagosa Springs SUN.

CONTEST WINNERS

— Postmaster Dick DeVore presented three winners in a "Mail Early" poster contest with awards last week.

The winners are students in Paul Henry's art classes at the local school. Left to right: Postmaster DeVore;

1st place, June Palmer;

2nd place, Stacie Trujillo; and 3rd place,

Mike Stoltz.



LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of February 13, 1920

Henry Born came down from Born's Lake Tuesday evening. Buck O'Neal and Robert McNee, who are trapping up there, brought in eight marten hides and one lynx cat, all fine grade. They expect to realize \$400 on the marten catch alone.

The public schools have been closed down for the past week by order of Health Officer Dr. Mary Fisher. The order will also prevail the coming week.

The cases of flu or near-flu in this vicinity are not considered very serious except where pneumonia has developed.

F.A. Byrne and F. Reef Egger, clerk of the district court, made a flying trip to the Piedra Tuesday night to attend to some legal matters desired by the late Ralph Ford. They found the road to Dyke in fair shape, from there on in an almost impassable condition.

Dr. W.D. Milton this week purchased the lot south of the Dave Lowenstein residence on Pagosa street from L.W. Smith of Durango, and will this season erect thereon a modern bungalow.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of February 16, 1945

Mrs. Mary Harman received her commission as the postmistress of Pagosa Springs, Friday of last week. She will take over the local office on March 1st.

The dance at Pine Grove Hall last Saturday night, for the benefit of the new Catholic Church, grossed \$100.00.

This community is eagerly waiting the arrival of Sailor Dick Hardman and Mrs. Hardman this week. Dick has been doing service in the So Pac for many months and this is his first trip home since he enlisted.

Pvt. Phyllis Frost arrived in Pagosa Springs Monday evening from Fresno, Calif., to visit her sister, Mrs. Francis Corrigan, and her father, D.M. Frost during her 15-day furlough. Pvt. Frost is a graduate of the local high school and is now a psychiatrist's assistant. Pagosa Springs salutes you, Pvt. Phyllis Frost, today as one of the few women from this community who is in active service for your country.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of February 12, 1970

Penicillin injections were given last week to 385 grade school students, according to the San Juan Basin Health Unit. This was about 80 percent of the children in the lower six grades. The shots were given after a series of throat cultures showed that about 50 percent of the children were either infected with so-called "strep throat" or were carriers of the infection. In the grades seven through twelve only 39 students had a positive throat culture. Incidence of the infection was first noted in Head Start children and tests were then started on grade school students. This amount of infection is considered epidemic by the state health department, which forwarded the penicillin for the shots. Grade school students weren't too enthusiastic about the process, but all managed to get their shot unless otherwise provided for.

The school board approved a request to change the method of grading in the high school. The system has been one of numbers — 100, 90, etc. — to one of letters, A, B, C, D, and F. This change is effective immediately.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of February 16, 1995

At least two avalanches roared down the western slopes of Wolf Creek Pass Tuesday morning, closing U.S. 160 and briefly trapping one vehicle and motorist. A slide at the "160s" on the northern side of U.S. 160 just east of the upper runaway truck ramp on the Pass covered the roadway. The avalanche left a reported four to six feet of snow in its wake. An unidentified motorist attempted to drive through the "160s" slide, making no negligible progress before her truck was up to the hood in snow. A state highway crew rescued the motorist and reportedly freed the truck before vacating the mountain. The slides followed heavy, wet snowfalls during the previous week. Wolf Creek Ski Area recorded 55 inches of new snow during the seven-day period. Thirty-seven inches of snow fell in the 48 hours preceding the slides and 15 inches of snow fell in the 24 hours before the Pass closed. A report from the Wolf Creek Ski Area Wednesday afternoon indicated skies were clearing, the sun was shining and roadways were improving on the east side of the Pass.

Letters

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

'Trumpism'

Dear Editor:
"If You See What is Right, and Fail to Act on it, You Lack Courage," Confucius (551-479 BC) was a Chinese philosopher and politician. His philosophy, known as Confucianism, is mainly known for personal and governmental morality, the correctness of social relationships, justice, and honesty.

Many of the Senate GOP members privately admitted that Trump was guilty as accused but with exception of one, totally failed their oath of office to protect the Constitution in acquitting Trump. Those Senators are betting that Trump and his supporters, money and the distortion called the electoral college will save them. The next day Donald delivered his message of filth, dirt, mendacity & destruction of patriots ... guess who gloatingly cheered.

Yes, the economy is great but is that all that America is or do we have any values? Was America just a get rich scheme or were we really the world's last best hope for self-governance? The contrivances of his defenders however rationalized always fail to have any integrity, honesty, ethics or morality.

I have always felt that those of us born during and just after WWII won the global lottery regarding opportunity & freedom. Well the Republican party just trashed all that has been crafted, achieved

and sacrificed for our nation. It won't happen overnight but their treacherous action will lead to our nations demise. "Trumpism had become the watchword for American decline," David Blight is Sterling Professor of History of American studies at Yale University.
Dave Blake

'Another new low'

Dear Editor:
In this year's "State of the Union Speech", the con man in the White House, brought the presidency to another new low. In reality tv manner, he awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a racist, misogynistic drug addict. No he didn't award it to himself (surprise, surprise), but to Rush Limbaugh, the patriarch of Conservative hate radio. A man that has spent his life demeaning everyone of color, the poor, and anyone or anything democratic. He has been in the forefront of climate change denial and the effort to undercut scientists and scientific procedures. He, along with FOX has been instrumental in sowing the division and suspicions of the government that has polarized our country today.

I have no sympathy for Rush and his medical problem. He has become rich ridiculing people with disabilities and long term medical issues, including veterans. Since he is a millionaire, he will be able to pay for the care (unlike most Americans), to allow him to live out his life comfortably with what little dignity he has left.

Dave Butcher

'Destroying America'

Dear Editor:
It's a "wow". And thank God. The USA News headline read "ACQUITTED".

Pres. Trump, his whole family, his White House Staff, and the American People, particularly 62+ million who elected him, have been through an evil and horrible three years. This will go down in history as one of the worst things a Congress has ever done against our country. It has been said we have witnessed an attempted "Coo". The lies and the "Unconstitutional" tactics were a disgrace.

But, they lost. Good always overcomes evil.

Pres. Trump's State of the Union speech displayed with grace, class, and dignity, all the great things he has done with one hand tied behind his back. This is phenomenal and it's miraculous. A biggy being what he did with Israel and Jerusalem that is Biblical Prophecy, and a soaring economy that helps every American. Why on earth we want to change that.

The beautiful real American People featured (not like previous President's focus on pop-rock stars and Hollywood elites) were the proof. He's doing a fantastic job and he is standing for "Life" in many ways.

Now enter Nancy Pelosi and her gang has to get some attention. Before the world, in real-time, she rips up the President's speech. By the way, this action is a felony. However, it did send a very clear visual message to Americans. These Democrats are all about destroying America. There it was thrown on the table — America torn into pieces.

Not one of the Democrat candidates running wants to keep America intact and thriving. All of them have Communist-Socialist plans. Baby-Boomers, don't you remember "Americanism versus Communism" back in the day, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's? You do remember what happened with Russia, Cuba, Vietnam? We didn't invite them in. And, right now socialist Venezuela, before our eyes, the People are starving to death, much less have toilet paper. Now, that's the alternative to "Donald Trump as President".

A big thank you to Senator Cory Gardner for his vote to keep Donald Trump on the 2020 Ballot. Real Americans must make sure both win again. Don't cower, the Right is Right.

Our Children and Grandchildren do not deserve to live in a Communist-Socialist country. That's not "Our America".

Just a Note: Many of us believe Nancy P. sealed "the Deal" with her "tearing up tantrum". 4 more years Pres. Trump.

Jan and Tom Carnley

Operation Christmas Child

Dear Editor:
I want to thank Pagosa Springs area residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children around the world. Your generosity resulted in 7652 gift-filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a project of international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse. The Pagosa Springs area filled 2634 of these boxes.

Through shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items — our community brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love and is often the first gift these children ever received.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 18 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories since 1993.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this global project. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Blessings,
Jeannie Faverino
Four Corners Area
Operation Christmas Child

Vote no on wolf introduction

Dear Editor:
Note: the article referenced here appeared in the Grand Junction Sentinel, 2/2/20, as a Commentary titled "Reintroducing wolves into Colorado: A few things to consider..."

A recent article by Anna Janik, wildlife biologist, stated that successful wolf introduction into Colorado (a November ballot issue) needs human tolerance and nonlethal management.

Nonlethal methods include ranchers having: 'livestock guard dogs to alert flock attendants; radio-activated alarm systems to scare wolves away' (and livestock too?); 'temporary electrified corrals to protect sheep at night; alternate grazing strategies; range riders to monitor herds and use nonlethal ammunition; and, cattle grouped in large herds.'

Janik wrote 'several organizations are working with ranchers' in other states to set up these deterrents, but no mention was made of paying ranchers for the time, expense, and enormous trouble of these systems.

Options for funding the program itself include taxpayer funds or hunting and fishing license funds. Program funds could be used to compensate ranchers for wolf-killed stock. However, we've lived in Wyoming and Montana, where ranchers said they could get no compensation for sheep that died from being run to death, and it was sometimes difficult to get compensation for those veri-

■ See Letters A4

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Letters

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be signed by the author, unless emailed
include the author's phone number and address
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7036692, 7036718, 7036726, 7225246 Selection varies by store.

SALE \$17.99 -2 WITH ACE REWARDS CARD*
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16890 Limit 2 at this price. Q1, 16889. SALE \$9.99 -1 With Ace Rewards Card* You Pay \$8.99. Limit 2 at this price.

SALE \$8.99
Ace Black Oil Sunflower Seed, 20 Lb.
81121

SALE \$5.99
Ace 9" x 3/8" Premium Roller Cover 3/Pk.
1309707 NO LIMIT

BUY ONE GET ONE 50% off
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\$44.99
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1046259
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Letters

Continued from A3

fied as wolf-killed. Some years, the program ran out of compensation money.

There was a reason early ranchers eradicated wolves. They'll run through a flock of sheep, hamstringing as they go, and later coming back to eat. Hamstrung sheep that survive often have to be shot.

Eleven wolves put in Arizona and New Mexico became 284 wolves in 21 years. (Some died/were killed, leaving 113.)

Ranchers, learn how wolves can affect you. Everyone, please investigate this issue before you vote. I'm voting no.

Bruce Many Eckert, Colo.

Dale Johnson

Dear Editor:

I want to add my kudos to Dale Johnson for being selected Pagosa Springs' Citizen of the Year. I cannot think of a more worthy recipient. I had the pleasure of working with Dale for ten years as musical director, working with children, young people, and adults to bring musical theater to Pagosa. Dale is devoted to the mission of Curtains Up Pagosa, to mentor our youth through the performing arts. She creates a warm and inviting, safe community to our young people, making theater a fun and worthwhile adventure. Dale has helped many young people who are struggling in the social maze to find a community of people with whom they can be themselves, have fun, and create something special. Through the funds collected by donations and ticket sales, Curtains Up Pagosa has helped to provide scholarships to young people, both in high school and college, who wish to pursue their talents. The great success of this thirty-year-old organization is due greatly to Dale's persistence and undying love. She is certainly worthy of this special honor in appreciation for all her hard work and dedication. Congratulations to this very special lady.

Sally Neel

'Falls Creek Station'

Dear Editor:

I'm reaching out to the historians of Pagosa. I have acquired a sign that appears to be 100 years

old. It reads "Falls Creek Station, San Juan National Forest, Pagosa Springs 42 miles". Those are the three lines on the sign which is 15.5" X 73.5" X 1". The sign shows signs of mounting on the bottom and ends.

I've reached out to the State, Durango, Bayfield, Lake City, South Fork and here at the Forest Service. No one is able to discover the original location of the sign but there is a Falls Creek, North of Pagosa that dumps into Four Mile Creek.

I feel that this Falls Creek is the subject of the sign. Bayfield as well as South Fork are 42 miles from Pagosa. Falls Creek, North of Pagosa, I believe is in Hinsdale County.

The sign is here in Twincreek Village and can be viewed by contacting me at asandoh4@gmail.com. If anyone has any information as to the station please contact me. I would very much like to display a map near the sign with the original location and perhaps some information about the station, which I can only assume was on a stagecoach route or some other route or continuation which included Pagosa.

Sandy Sandoval

Response to Newton

Dear Editor:

Concerning Mr. Charles Newton's response to my letter of 1/23. It would seem that he did not care to read it in its entirety, preferring instead to filter selected words and phrases.

Nowhere in the letter did I approve of the actions of modern day Iran towards the USA. I wrote about the possible reason for those actions. I described the events of 1953, where the American government deliberately interfered with the democratic election process of another country, for the benefit of American oil companies. An account obviously lost on Mr. Newton.

He then makes reference to how democratic elections allow us to choose who we want to lead our country. They certainly do, but in order to achieve that, it's essential that they follow democratic principles. A few definitions for us to consider.

Lobbyists — a person, or group of people who come together, to

give money or gifts to a corrupt politician in exchange for political advantage. This has nothing to do with democracy, it's bribery, it's a crime, and it happens on a daily basis in Washington.

Super PACs — organizations with no limitations on who contributes to them or how much they spend on influencing an election. They were officially endorsed by the supreme court in 2010. A ruling which served only to allow wealthy corporations and unions to have an unfair advantage in electing their choice of candidates to federal office, thereby opening the floodgates to widespread corruption.

Gerrymandering — a practice intended to establish an unfair political advantage for a particular party or group by the deliberate manipulation of district boundaries. The result of such an action is that collectively, millions of votes are rendered meaningless. This is not democracy, it's vote rigging, it's election fraud, and it is allowed to happen right here in America.

Mr. Newton then writes about Iran's recent killing of innocent protesters, and asks, quite rightly, "Is this the kind of country any thinking American could admire". No it isn't Mr. Newton. So tell us as a thinking American, if you were living at the time can you remember where you were on May 4th 1970, when the Ohio National Guard opened fire on unarmed students at Kent State University? Four students were killed, and nine others severely wounded, during a peaceful protest against the bombing of neutral Cambodia by United States military forces.

Finally, with an extremely unfortunate choice of words, he wonders why I continue to live here. I imagined George Washington standing before the Continental Congress explaining the unfair taxation and administrative practices of a despot king living thousands of miles away. Then he would present to the members his solution to the problem. That if anyone had any objection to corrupt practices, indifference, and unfairness, rather than speak up or take any kind of action, they should go and live somewhere else. I think most of us are capable of determining the response he would have received. With the possible exception of Mr. Newton.

Anthony Stevenon

Tipton and climate change

Dear Editor:

Some time ago one of our fellow Pagosans called our attention to H.R. 763 (Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019) as a reasonable means by which our country can begin to deal with the effects of climate change. This bill was introduced to the House of Representative on 24 January 2019. Immediately it was referred to three Committees. The Cmte on Energy and Commerce, on 25 Jan 2019, referred the bill to the Sub-

committee on Energy. (All of this information is publicly available on congress.gov.)

Since 25 Jan 2019, there has been no further progress on the bill. If it does not come to the floor of the House by the end of 2020, then it dies.

Our representative, Scott Tipton, has, as of this writing, not added his name to the list of cosponsors of the bill.

I invited you to watch H.R. 40, (Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act). That bill saw some action in subcommittee in June. Scott Tipton has also not added his name as a cosponsor of that bill.

Emrys Tyler

'False claims'

Dear Editor:

First, let me thank Dave Butcher for his letter calling out the falsehood by Mr Bolland regarding impeachable offenses. In this era of "alternative facts", we need to put a spotlight on false claims when we see them.

In that vein, I must call out a letter by Peg Ellis. She states that our economy was in the toilet after Obama, and that Trump pulled us out. The facts are: Obama inherited a financial catastrophe from George W. Bush, second only to the Great Depression. Unemployment rose to 10 percent in his first year. He lowered that to 4.7 percent by 2016. Trump has only managed to drop it by one percentage point, to 3.7 percent. In the first 3 years under Obama the stock market rose 46 percent. Trump has managed only a 25 percent gain in his first 3 years. She is correct about Trump adding 6 million jobs, but Obama added 8 million in his last 3 years. Under Obama, the deficit went from a high of 1.4 trillion in 2009 down to 585 billion in 2016. The Congressional Budget Office projects Trump's deficit to top one trillion dollars in 2020, a 74 percent increase. Trump was handed an economy that was doing well and he has been riding that wave while taking all the credit for it. I consulted many sources for these figures, including the Congressional Budget Office.

As for Trump not taking a salary, let's consider all the trips he has taken to his resorts to the tune of 109 million taxpayer dollars so far. Some of that money is paid to his properties for housing the Secret Service and staff, which he profits from. Don't worry, "the Donald" is being well compensated.

You can choose to support whomever you like, but don't try to justify it with facts that are not in evidence. Just because you wish it, it doesn't make it true.

Dennis Wyrick

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

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HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MONTHLY GROSS INCOME (60% OF STATE MEDIAN INCOME)
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2	\$3,101
3	\$3,831
4	\$4,561
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6	\$6,021
7	\$6,157
8	\$6,294
For each additional person over 8	add \$137

The Archuleta County Department of Human Services can provide application assistance. Call 970-264-8511 to reserve a spot. Appointments will be held at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St., Pagosa Springs, CO. Applications may also be sent directly to Discover My Goodwill at LEAP, PO Box 39200, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9905.

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Celebration

Earl and Dena Eliason

Earl and Dena Eliason celebrated 70 years of marriage on Feb. 5, quietly doing their "thing" and celebrating "their" way. The magic began in South Dakota those many years ago with no idea where this life would take them. But they had love, communication and each other.

Now, having raised eight chil-

dren and living all over the U.S. and even Guam, these two now call Pagosa home. Many blessings they've acknowledged with family and friends with but one question that seems to resonate as they look to coming years: "Will the Rockies get their pitching staff in gear?"

With love and affection,

The big 8, your grandchildren (with three up above) and great grandchildren

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Welcome Tiffany Martin!

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Tiffany Martin

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Town hires construction manager for maintenance facility

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Town Council voted to hire Alcon Construction to serve as the construction manager/general contractor to construct the town's new maintenance facility.

The town received three bids for the project.

Alcon's bid, noted as "the smallest firm that bid on the project," bid \$462,370, according to an agenda brief on the topic.

Jaynes Construction, noted for its "wide variety of experience," bid \$566,546, according to the brief.

FCI Contractors' bid, noted in the brief as the largest company among the bidders, was \$697,149.

Public Works Director Martin Schmidt said at the meeting that "staff feels very comfortable with the bid that was put forth by Alcon Construction."

Town Manager Andrea Phillips explained that the selection committee comprised her, Schmidt, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis, Planning Director James

Dickhoff and one representative from the project's architectural firm, Reynolds Ash + Associates.

Asked by council member Nicole DeMarco if the vote for Alcon was unanimous, Phillips explained it wasn't, but the group came to a general consensus to hire Alcon.

Phillips explained at the meeting that Alcon's bid came in about \$74,000 lower than what the town has budgeted for the project.

"The one thing that stood out to me versus the other two is that it says Alcon has developed a reputation for meeting budgets and meeting schedules," council member Matt DeGuise said.

Mayor Don Volger expressed that the town has had issues with contractors in the past and noted he was comforted by the firm's reputation of being on schedule and under budget.

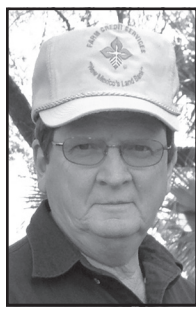
In an email, a representative from Alcon provided the timeline for the project.

"We have a tentative start date of April 6th, 2020 and should be complete by December 31st, 2020," the representative wrote.

Obituary

Frank Ratliff

Frank Ratliff passed away on Feb. 7 at the age of 70. He was born in Fort Sumner, N.M., on Dec. 15, 1949. He graduated from Fort Sumner High School in 1967 and attended Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. He pursued a degree in ag/business.



He began his working career with the city of Albuquerque and surveyed northern Albuquerque, Placitas, Carnuel and Rio Rancho, which was a working cattle ranch at the time. He worked for Bixby Electric and installed the lighting at the Ruidoso Airport. He then bought the family farm in Fort Sumner and farmed for 19 years. Frank moved to Pagosa Springs in 1989 and bought Overhead Door. He started employment at Archuleta County and retired from Archuleta County Weed and Pest after 22 years.

Frank received a Certificate of Recognition from the Colorado Department of Agriculture for demonstrating the highest attributes of public service for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. He was given the Archuleta County Employee Distinguished Service Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to Archuleta County. Frank received a Certificate of Appreciation from the San Juan National Forest, Pagosa Ranger

District for his work ethic, persistence, cooperation and patience in administering the Invasive Species Cooperative Agreement for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest for 2010-2013. He was named Western Slope Weed Manager of the Year for 2001. He was awarded the 2005 Weed Manager of the Year from the Colorado Weed Management Association out of a field of over 350 members. Dec. 21, 2005, was declared Frank Ratliff day in Archuleta County in grateful recognition of his contributions to our community.

Frank was preceded in death by his father, L.C. "Pete," his mother, Jessie May, and his brother, Stephen. He is survived by his wife, Jolene, of Pagosa Springs; daughter, Kara (Ken); and grandchildren Jordan and Trenton of Rio Rancho, N.M.; his brother, Eddie (DeLynn), of Durant, Okla.; and sister, Nancy Crownover (Russell), of Cloudcroft, N.M.

Please consider a donation to Pagosa Springs Medical Center Oncology Department or your favorite charity in Frank's name.

There will be no services at this time at the request of Frank. A private service will be held at a later date at his favorite fishing stream on Wolf Creek.

The family would like to thank Dr. Jordan, Dr. Tjan, Kelly Cesary and the staff of the Oncology Department at Pagosa Springs Medical Center, Mercy Hospice, and Ray and Katherine Luna for their loving care of Frank.

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 over week: 94.

Feb. 3 — Agency assist, Arbor Drive.

Feb. 4 — Warrant arrest, Pagosa Street.

Feb. 4 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, County Road 600.

Feb. 4 — Criminal attempt to commit, menacing-felony-aggravated-weapon, harassment by phone or computer, threaten bodily injury or damage property, Carefree Place.

Feb. 6 — Improper registration, U.S. 160.

Feb. 6 — Under investigation, Steamboat Drive.

Feb. 6 — Death investigation-death investigation, County Road 551.

Feb. 7 — Warrant arrest, County Road 600.

Feb. 7 — Improper registration, County Road 600.

Feb. 8 — Warrant arrest, Park Avenue/Eaton Drive.

Feb. 8 — Agency assist, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Feb. 9 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Bent Grass Court.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service over week: 72.

Feb. 2 — Animal running at large, Lewis Street.

Feb. 3 — No turn signal when required/improper registration/owner operated or permitted operation of vehicle without liability insurance, U.S. 160.

Feb. 4 — Careless driving, East Pagosa Street.

Feb. 5 — Drove vehicle when license

suspended/failed to drive in single lane, Eagle Drive.

Feb. 5 — Warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 6 — Abandoned vehicle, South 6th Street.

Feb. 7 — Abandoned vehicle, South 8th Street.

Feb. 8 — Found property, East Pagosa Street.

Feb. 8 — Animal running at large, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Feb. 8 — Assault, Hot Springs Boulevard.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Feb. 2 — James Raymond McKinnon, controlled substances-possession, driving under the influence, 24 months probation, 75 days jail, 56 hours community service, 24 months probation, total fines and costs — \$4,447.50.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Feb. 5 — James R. Kaye, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$210.50.

Feb. 5 — Chirag K. Patel, speeding 25-39 over limit, total fines and costs — \$512.50.

Feb. 5 — Austin A. Evans, seat belt not used, child restraint not used, total fines and costs — \$245.50.

Feb. 5 — Brandon W. Etienne, speeding 5-9 over limit, total fines and costs — \$192.50.

Feb. 5 — Tyler N. Wilson, driving under the influence, 380 days jail, 48 hours community service, 370 days jail, two years probation, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 10 days electronic surveillance, total fines and costs — \$2,576.84.

Feb. 6 — Sandlin Reed Niccum, violation of permit requirements, total fines and costs — \$173.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Clayton Buchner

No report.

In Memoriam

Clifford E. Lucero

In loving memory of our dad, Clifford E. Lucero, Feb. 13, 2009.

Dad, your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure ... you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure ... we love and miss you.

Eliza; children Alberta, Bernie, Guzman, Madeline, Clifford, Jimmy and Lucille; spouses; grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Veda J. Ortega

In Loving Memory of Veda J. Ortega

When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand. That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand. The angel said my place was ready, in heaven far above. And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love. But when I walked through Heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home. For God looked down, smiled at me. And told me, "Welcome Home." So when tomorrow starts without me. Don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.

From the children, grandchildren and siblings of Veda

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Visiting Angels of SW Colorado Receives 2020 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Excellence Award



Visiting Angels of SW Colorado announced today that it received the distinguished 2020 Best of Home Care –Leader in Excellence Award from Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in quality assurance for home care. The Leader in Excellence Award is the highest recognition awarded by Home Care Pulse and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Excellence, Visiting Angels is now ranked among the top 15% of home care providers participating in the nationwide Home Care Pulse Satisfaction Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angels long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angel's clients and caregivers were interviewed each month

by Home Care Pulse. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, etc. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Home Care Pulse, the Visiting Angel's management team set goals to reach the highest level of excellence possible.

"We once again are so proud of our team, and what hard work it has taken by everyone on the team to receive this award, for three years in a row. We know that it takes our clients, our caregivers, and our management staff to achieve this. We are humbled and appreciative of the level of service displayed to others."- Michelle Johnson, COO.

The Best of Home Care – Leader in Excellence Award highlights the top-perform-

ing home care businesses in the nation. Home Care Pulse believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

"Our goal at Home Care Pulse is to empower home care businesses to reach their goals and deliver the best home care possible," says Erik Madsen, CEO of Home Care Pulse. "It's thrilling to see the efforts that Visiting Angels is making to provide outstanding care and employment. Visiting Angels has worked extremely hard to qualify to provide high-quality care and this award allows them to provide proof of quality to potential new clients and caregivers."

To find out more about Visiting Angels commitment to excellence and services, please visit visitingangels.com/southwestcolorado or call 970-264-5991.



Our beautiful Bath House rejuvenation and upgrade will continue beginning January 6.

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To show our appreciation, join us at the Canteen or Barefoot Grill for Happy Hour from 3 – 6 pm every Monday – Friday.

Enjoy 10% off beer, wine, and cocktails until the rejuvenation is complete!

Election

Special districts seek candidates for May 5 elections

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Several districts have put out calls for nominations for director positions.

Several special districts are seeking nominations for director candidates to be voted on in elections on May 5. In addition, the San Juan Water Conservancy District is soliciting applications for appointment of directors.

The following districts have submitted notice of their elections to The SUN. Details concerning each of these district elections, including how to obtain Self-Nomination and Acceptance (SNA) forms, are summarized below.

Los Pinos Fire Protection District

On May 5, three directors will be elected to serve three-year terms for the Los Pinos Fire Protection District.

Eligible electors of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain an SNA form from the district's Designated Election Official (DEO), Rebecca Flinders, at 275 Browning Ave. Ignacio, CO 81137 or (970) 563-9501.

The office of the DEO is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The deadline to submit an SNA is close of business on Feb. 28.

Affidavit of Intent To Be A Write-In-Candidate (AIWC) forms must be submitted to the office of the DEO by close of business on March 2.

An application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the DEO no later than the close of business on April 28.

Upper San Juan Health Service District

For the Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD), three directors will be elected to serve three-year terms on May 5.

Eligible electors of the USJHSD interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain an SNA form from Heather Thomas, the DEO for the district, at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The deadline to submit an SNA is close of business, 4:30 p.m., on Feb. 28.

AIWC forms must be submitted to the office of the DEO by March 2 at 4:30 p.m.

The office of the DEO is open Monday through Friday between the

hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Applications for absentee ballots may be filed with the DEO of the district at the above address between the hours of 8 a.m. and the close of business, 4:30 p.m., on April 28. All absentee ballots must be returned to the DEO by 7 p.m. on May 5.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

On May 5, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) will be electing three directors to serve three-year terms.

Eligible electors of PAWSD interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain an SNA form from the DEO Glenna Sullivan at 100 Lyn Ave. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or 731-7632.

The office of the DEO is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The deadline to submit an SNA is close of business on Feb. 28. AIWC forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on March 2.

An application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on April 28.

Alpha Rockridge

The Alpha Rockridge Metro District will be conducting an election in which all ballots must be returned to the district's DEO's mailing address no later than May 5.

Three directors will be elected to serve three-year terms while two directors will be elected to serve two-year terms.

For those eligible electors of the Alpha Rockridge Metro District who are interested, an SNA form can be found on the district's website at Alpharockridgeroaddistrict.com.

The district's DEO is Gary Lansdale. SNA forms should be mailed to Lansdale at: 1 Alpha Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. The telephone number is (505) 486-1437.

An SNA form that is not sufficient may be amended once at any time prior to Feb. 28. The deadline to submit an SNA form is Feb. 28. AIWC forms must be received in the mail of the DEO by March 2.

Pagosa Fire Protection District

On May 5, the Pagosa Fire Protection District will hold an election in

which two directors will be elected to serve a three-year term and one director will be elected to serve a two-year term.

SNA forms are available from the district's DEO, Shirley Brinkmann, at 191 N. Pagosa Blvd.

The DEO office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

SNA forms must be filed with the DEO for the District at the above address by Feb. 28.

Applications for absentee ballots may be filed with the DEO of the district at the above address between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5p.m. until the close of business on April 28. All absentee ballots must be returned to the DEO by 7 p.m. on May 5.

Aspen Springs Metro District

The Aspen Springs Metro District will be holding an election on May 5 at the district's building on 216 Metro Drive, designated as a polling place election.

Three directors will be elected to serve three-year terms.

Eligible electors of the Aspen Springs Metropolitan District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain an SNA form from the DEO, who may be contacted by mail, telephone or email: Shane Tuller, 946-8777, or DEO, P.O. Box 488, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, info@aspenspringsmetro.org, or may be obtained on the district website: www.aspenspringsmetro.org.

The deadline to submit an SNA is 3 p.m. close of business on Feb. 28.

Earlier submittal is encouraged as the deadline will not permit curing an insufficient form. AIWC forms must be submitted to the office of the DEO by the close of business at 3 p.m. on March 2.

All Colorado registered voters in the Aspen Springs Metro District will need to cast their votes at the polling place.

All Colorado registered voters owning property in the district, but those living outside of the district can submit an application for an absentee ballot, which can be filed with the DEO no later than the close of business by 3 p.m. on April 28.

Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District

On May 5, the Piedra Park Met-

ropolitan Improvement District will hold an election in which two directors will be elected to serve three-year terms.

Eligible electors of the district who are interested in serving on the board can obtain SNA forms from the district's DEO, Molly Risinger, at P.O. Box 1609 Arboles, CO 81121, 946-0240.

The DEO's office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The deadline to submit an SNA is by the close of business on Feb. 28. Earlier submittal is encouraged as the deadline will not permit curing an insufficient form.

AIWC forms must be submitted to the office of the DEO by the close of business on March 3.

An application for a mail-in ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on May 1, except that, if the applicant wishes to receive the mail-in ballot by mail, the application shall be filed no later than the close of business on April 21.

San Juan Water Conservancy District

The San Juan Water Conservancy District will have two seats on its board expire on March 21.

The district also has open seats for additional directors; those interested in being appointed to the board must submit an application.

For those interested in the expiring seats, applications will be accepted until March 7.

Open seat applications can be submitted at any time.

To be considered, you must have resided within the district for one year and must be the owner of real property within the district. Applications are being received for the open board seats on an at-large basis with the objective to achieve geographical representation of the district.

Those interested can send a letter of interest, a resume and other pertinent information to the Archuleta County District Court, Archuleta County Courthouse, at P.O. Box 148, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

A copy of the application documents are also required to be sent to the San Juan Water Conservancy District, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #5 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. chris@pagosasin.com



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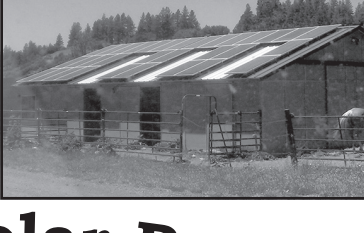
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Berman announces candidacy for county commissioner

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Republican Nate Berman has announced his candidacy for Archuleta County commissioner for District 1.

The District 1 seat is currently held by Steve Wadley, who is term-limited.

In an interview Feb. 3, Berman explained he is running because he wants a "break from the politics-as-usual game" and that he can represent his neighbors and his community.

"I am not confident that the people in my community here in District 1 have been properly represented," Berman said, adding, "I have watched as people have



Nate Berman

struggled under the burdens of higher taxes and overregulation

and lower property rights."

Berman explained that he feels the same group of people are winning elections in Archuleta County.

"I think some of the largest challenges are the close-knit politics-as-usual groups that seem to be able to continually win elections and move the county in what appears to be special interest directions instead of the directions of the people," Berman said.

Berman has been a resident of Archuleta County for about three years and explained he visited the area for about a decade before he chose to move here permanently.

"You come on a vacation entirely not knowing what to expect and immediately fall in love with the people and the culture and the

natural beauty and then there's kind of a race to get your affairs in order so that you can be here permanently," he said.

Berman said his goals if elected are "lower taxes, promoting small business development, improving property rights and personal liberties, and trying to solidify the Colorado that we have all come to know and love."

Berman has been a data analyst and a software engineer for about a decade and explained he's not an entrenched politician.

"I'm really good at taking a look at abstract pieces of information and building real solutions for common problems out of that information," Berman said.

■ See Berman A7

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Champagne running for reelection as Sixth Judicial District attorney

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Sixth Judicial District Attorney Christian Champagne has registered for reelection as top prosecutor in La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan counties.

"It's been the great honor of my career to serve the people of the Sixth Judicial District. I am really proud of the work that we have done so far, but I feel like there's still more things that we can do and more ways that we can improve our criminal justice system, so I'm looking forward for the chance to do that," Champagne said in an interview on Monday.

Champagne became district attorney in January of 2017.

No challengers had registered to run against Champagne as of Wednesday with the Colorado secretary of state.

Since taking the position, Champagne explained that his office has looked into better ways to deal with low-level, low-risk and low-needs offenders that will keep them in the community and turn their lives



Christian Champagne

around.

"While at the same time, recognizing that community safety has to be our No. 1 priority," he said. "I think we've done a good job of treating the serious cases seriously and making sure the dangerous offenders have a high degree of accountability."

Another goal of Champagne's

since his inauguration has been to grow the capacity for resources and supports for those who deserve the chance at rehabilitation, as well as growing capacity to conduct high-level trial work and litigation, he explained.

"I think that we have done that on both fronts," he said.

If reelected, Champagne explained that he wants to continue to grow diversion and rehabilitation programs.

"I think we need to continue to really dig into our work from a statistical analysis perspective," he said. "We've done a lot of work to look at the way that the statistics and the data reflect back how we're doing, but we can do better at that."

Another goal is to refine the ability to assess and treat the individuals who come through the criminal justice system, he noted.

"One of the big things we have to do is make decisions about how to route people, whether we are going to route them towards rehabilitation, whether they are going to be routed towards an extended

jail sentence, and making that call is one of the great challenges of being a prosecutor," he said. "I really hope to be able to systematize that and become more effective at making that decision about which way to route people in the criminal justice system."

Some challenges that still face his office include things such as drug addiction, he noted, specifically drugs such as heroin and methamphetamine.

"We're seeing those things back on the upswing again and all of the consequences that come with that for the person who is addicted to the drugs, but also to the community," he said.

Champagne noted that he feels honored to be in his position.

"I'm hopeful that the people of the Sixth Judicial District will invite me back for another four years," he said. "This is what I can contribute to my community and I feel proud of what we have accomplished. I'm optimistic that I'm going to get another chance for another four years."

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Presidential primary candidate withdraws

By Joel Albin
Special to The SUN

Presidential primary candidate John K. Delaney has submitted a withdrawal form to the Secretary of State's Office.

According to 1-4-1001(1)(c) and

1-5-412(3), C.R.S., votes cast for a candidate who submits a withdrawal form must not be counted. Thus, votes cast for John K. Delaney in the presidential primary election must not be counted.

While we know that several other presidential candidates have

announced the suspension of their campaigns (and we are sure to see more suspensions prior to the election), Colorado statute requires that candidates submit a withdrawal form before action can be taken to withhold counting their votes.

Meeting to address Los Pinos Fire District mill levy election

By Larry Corman
Special to The SUN

An informational meeting regarding the upcoming mill levy election in May will be held at the Mt. Allison Grange hall on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.

For more information regarding the election, please visit lospinos-fire.com/election/ or contact Larry or Trish Corman at 884-4762 for further information.

Democratic Club to hear about Build Pagosa

By John Porco
Special to The SUN

The Archuleta Democratic Club will hold its monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 11:30 a.m. at Pagosa Brewing Company, 118 North Pagosa Blvd. The featured speakers will be Larry Ash and Doug Hershey from Build Pagosa.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Build Pagosa's mission is to provide a skilled workforce for the Pagosa Springs community through public-private partnerships, financial support and workforce training. By providing financial support and a skilled instructor, Build Pagosa was responsible for starting Pagosa Springs High School's building trades construction program.

The program started with two classes and, because of its success, has grown to offer six classes in construction and woodwork-

ing. Virtually every student from the building trades construction program who wanted a construction job over the summer got one. Build Pagosa continues to support this program with the purchase of materials and equipment, as well as OSHA training for all the Building Trades students.

Build Pagosa also supports other career and technical education (CTE) programs at the high school such as the shop mechanics and agriculture classes. Build Pagosa is looking at ways to help other CTE programs at the high school, such as health sciences and business design. Long-term, Build Pagosa plans to be a major source of funding for a new facility at the high school dedicated to CTE. It is hoped that these programs will eventually include postsecondary and adult education.

The intent of the Archuleta

Democratic Club is to provide an opportunity for a dialogue on progressive ideas in an informal social setting. Build Pagosa positively advances the Democratic Party's values of robust public education and economic opportunity for all.

We will begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. to allow some time for socializing, with lunch beginning at noon. There is no admission fee, but all participants will be asked to order lunch. Donations are welcome.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to RSVP to John Porco, first vice chair of the Archuleta County Democratic Party, at jwppagosa@gmail.com or at 946-2684 so that we can provide a count to the restaurant.

The Democratic Party is an inclusive and welcoming organization; everyone is welcome at the lunch regardless of political affiliation.

Rep. Tipton to visit Pagosa Springs

By Deborah Van Gundy
Special to The SUN

Rep. Scott Tipton will be in Pagosa Springs to update the residents of Archuleta County on legislative activities in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Tipton will be the speaker at the Archuleta County Republican Central Committee (ACRCC) meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at noon at Pagosa Brewing Company, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Another distinguished speaker included on the ACRCC agenda is Archuleta County Clerk Kristy Archuleta. Archuleta will explain Super Tuesday, Colorado's first presidential primary since 2000.

This meeting is open to the

public and the ACRCC encourages anyone interested in hearing about the happenings in Washington and the significance of Super Tuesday to join them. Please arrive early and be seated by noon; the speakers are scheduled early in the agenda to accommodate those attending during their lunch hour.

For more information, please contact the ACRCC chairman, Marilyn Harris, at 749-4499 or email her at marlynharris44@aol.com.

Berman

Continued from A6

Berman noted it is important for the next county commissioner to work with the state to ensure local projects for road maintenance and infrastructure are funded.

"I can run for this office and represent my neighbors and my community and the values that we have out here in the county lands at our government level," Berman said.

john@pagosasun.com

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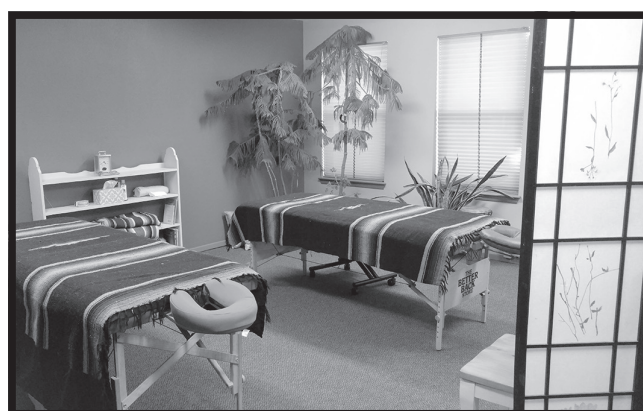
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Homicide

■ Continued from front

Fitzwater explained that he received the call at about 5:30 that morning.

Upon entering the residence, the deceased individual inside the home was identified as Mestas, Fitzwater explained, adding that Mestas was in a second bedroom of the residence, toward the middle of the house.

A thorough search was done of the room that Mestas was found in, Fitzwater explained.

Over the course of the investigation, it was determined that a witness, who is a minor, was in the home at the time of Mestas' death, Fitzwater noted.

It was determined that the minor was present at the home at the time of the homicide via an interview with a relative of Maez.

Fitzwater explained that at about 7:15 p.m. on Aug. 6, Maez came to the relative's home and brought the witness.

Maez confirmed in a separate interview that he had taken the witness to his relative's home, Fitzwater explained.

That relative explained that Maez had been with them "most of the day," Fitzwater noted.

The relative explained that Maez was only gone "about 10-15 minutes," Fitzwater noted, and when he returned, he had the witness.

When Maez dropped the witness off at her residence, the relative explained that Maez then asked for a ride. That relative's boyfriend gave Maez a ride, Fitzwater noted.

In an interview with the boyfriend, Fitzwater explained that Maez had asked the boyfriend of his relative to take him to his house in Aspen Springs.

Fitzwater explained later that there were two separate interviews with the boyfriend that were conducted by the ACSO, one by ACSO Lt. Warren Brown and one with himself.

Before giving Maez a ride to his home, the boyfriend described Maez as being "excited" and "appeared to be heated," according to Fitzwater.

Prior to getting to Maez's house in Aspen Springs, Maez requested that the boyfriend take him to some vacant property that he owned, Fitz-

water explained.

Before arriving on the property, the boyfriend received a phone call from a female on his phone who has asking about a minor and where the minor was, Fitzwater detailed.

Upon receiving that phone call, the boyfriend handed the phone to Maez, according to Fitzwater.

The boyfriend explained that he overheard Maez saying to the female on the phone that the witness did not see anything and he made sure that the witness did not see anything.

After the phone call, Maez became "hysterical" and began crying, Fitzwater explained.

Maez then made a statement to the boyfriend that, "I think I might have done something very bad," Fitzwater described.

Fitzwater noted that, to his understanding, Maez never got out of the boyfriend's truck.

The boyfriend denied any observation of blood on Maez while he was in his truck, Fitzwater added later.

That sequence of events was confirmed by Maez in a separate interview, according to Fitzwater.

After the witness was dropped off at Maez's relative's residence, a text message was sent to one of the witness' grandparents, Fitzwater explained.

The witness was then picked up at Maez's relatives' residence by a grandparent, Fitzwater explained.

According to an interview with the witness' grandparent, the witness had made statements about what they observed, Fitzwater noted. A forensic interview was conducted with the witness, which Fitzwater explained he observed.

The witness was asked if Maez had anything, to which the witness described a knife, according to Fitzwater. The color of the knife was described as being "black."

In an interview with Maez, Fitzwater explained that when Maez got to the house, the door was open and the witness was on the couch.

Maez then went down the hallway looking for Mestas and didn't find her in the back bedroom, but eventually saw her lying in the secondary bedroom.

When asked if Maez had made any admissions to the homicide of Mestas, Fitzwater stated, "Not directly."

"He basically said, through the course of the interview, that 'If I did it, I don't remember that I did,'" Fitzwater said.

As the investigation continued, Fitzwater explained he spoke to a different relative of Maez.

In a phone conversation between that relative and Maez, the relative explained that Maez had allegedly made an admission to her in that phone call, Fitzwater explained.

"On the night of the incident, she received a phone call from Mr. Maez, who basically said he had killed somebody. She subsequently hung up on him and he sent her, I believe a text message, stating that 'This is serious. I need to talk,'" Fitzwater explained.

While Maez was in jail, Fitzwater explained there was also a phone call between that relative and Maez.

This phone conversation was brought to Fitzwater's attention by a district attorney investigator, he explained, adding that he did not listen to the phone calls.

"There was a phone conversation between him and her. During that conversation, Chris Maez referred to 'Frank' he asked her to refer to his letters, put two and two together, ultimately Frank is apparently a multi-personality of Mr. Maez," Fitzwater said. "He made the statement to the affect that 'Chris didn't do it. Frank did.'"

Maez also explained that "Frank" was "in his head," Fitzwater noted.

During the course of the investigation, search warrants were conducted on various devices that Maez was using to communicate, Fitzwater noted.

From Aug. 1 through Aug. 7, when Mestas was discovered, the nature of the communications between Mestas and Maez were described by Fitzwater as an "ongoing argument" via text messages.

"A lot of it had to do with an apparent car sale between the two," Fitzwater said. "And from there things got pretty hostile."

According to Fitzwater, Mestas

was planning on turning Maez into law enforcement.

Fitzwater explained that Mestas had sent Maez a text message on Aug. 6 that explained she was filing a police report because Maez had threatened her and the witness with a gun.

Maez responded to that text message by stating that Mestas was lying and ultimately made a statement of, "What am I going to have to do to stop you," Fitzwater described.

The messages between Maez and Mestas lasted until about 6:39 p.m. on the night of Aug. 6, Fitzwater described.

"They began approximately around Aug. 1 and maybe even prior to," Fitzwater said of the messages between Maez and Mestas. "It was hostile, extremely hostile."

The interview with Maez was conducted by two CBI agents, Fitzwater

Housing

■ Continued from front

Next, Pagosa Springs Planning Director James Dickhoff referenced a three-page list in providing an update to the council on Planning Department and overall town activity; and challenges to housing; possible recommendations and opportunities for town council.

Activity outlined by Dickhoff included rezoning efforts, working on incentives, the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority and its potential to incentivize affordable housing, the Opportunity Zone Prospectus, participating in the housing coalition, initial research into land banking or a land trust, preparation to put the town's Trujillo Road property out for expressions of interest for housing projects, deepening the town's engagement with community housing partners, Archuleta County Housing Authority's (ACHA) upcoming project, research into deed restrictions, and more.

Under the topic of challenges to housing, Dickhoff's update references striking "the proper balance in negotiating with developers"; needing a housing policy or council guidance for staff to help staff work with and provide more certainty for developers and builders; funding of enterprise entities such as the town's sanitation district when fees are subsidized; funding sources; and short-term rentals.

The update also lists under housing, "Housing is a community wide issue and the County's participation will be very important to ensure an encompassing community plan, approach and effort as well as oversight of long term (deed) restricted units."

Dickhoff also presented a number of recommendations for the council, which included:

- Considering increasing the priority of town council's objective on developing affordable housing and establishing a measurable goal to accomplish.

- Identifying existing community organizations that provide housing and/or programming to residents and find ways to support or partner with those organizations or help increase their capacities to serve the community.

- Linking incentives to defined policy outcomes, such as density bonuses or waiving certain fees for housing that targets a certain income bracket for a certain amount of time.

- Considering a density bonus for projects that provide a certain number of affordable units in lieu of an increase in project density. This could be accomplished with a planned unit development.

- Considering the feasibility of tax lien property purchases and apply specific housing goals or objectives to those properties if the town is granted the deed through tax lien default. The properties could go into a land trust.

- Dedicating vacation rental licensing fees to activities that are tied to measurable outcomes or results, such as subsidizing fee waivers.

- Contributing to a "gap funding" mechanism to help potential homebuyers meet down payment requirements.

- Budgeting for sanitation district tap fee subsidies.

- Considering exploring the impact of short-term rentals on housing stock, affordability and availability and exploring policies to limit short-term rentals "while providing incentives to convert" short-term rentals to long-term rentals.

At the end of Dickhoff's report, Schanzbaker praised the organizations that have come together to form the housing coalition.

Other updates

Next, Lisa Bloomquist of HomesFund gave the council an update.

She began by noting the median

explained, adding that he reviewed the audio and transcripts of the interview.

According to Fitzwater, Maez had a minimum of two phone conversations with law enforcement in which he agreed to come talk prior to him coming to the ACSO.

Maez said "multiple times" to law enforcement that he did not do this, Fitzwater noted, adding that Maez referred to potential video footage.

Additionally, Maez said "multiple times" that he really didn't think he would block a crime like this out, Fitzwater explained.

When photos were taken of Maez after the homicide, a scratch was observed on Maez's right forearm, Fitzwater noted.

A search was done of Maez's camper, Fitzwater noted, and another search was done of Maez's truck and the boyfriend's truck.

The weapon that was used was described by Fitzwater as "a sharp object with at least one sharp edge and one blunt edge."

Following a search of Mestas' house, law enforcement found blood on the wall near Mestas' body and, according to Maez's defense attorney, Annie Woods, that blood was sent to CBI for testing.

According to Woods, CBI "definitively excluded Mr. Maez's DNA from that blood stain on the wall."

Fitzwater added later that his assessment was that it would be "highly unlikely" for the assailant to not have a "substantial amount of blood on them."

Following more discussion, Wilson explained that probable cause had been established in the case and that the case will be set over for arraignment on March 9 at 3 p.m. chris@pagosasun.com

Charging

■ Continued from front

The Pagosa Springs location, she informed council, is proposed to be a Tier 2 location, which would include two dispensers and one power block, as well as conduit for two additional chargers in the future.

She also noted Colorado's push towards electric vehicles, including Gov. Jared Polis' January 2019 executive order, titled "Supporting a Transition to Zero Emission Vehicle," and Colorado's rule that at least 5 percent of automakers' new care lineups be electric vehicles by 2023.

Parruch further explained that the town's Centennial Park location would meet the program's requirements for a safe location that provides a good driver experience.

"They want the site to "pass the mom test"-e.g. be safe, well lit, not off the beaten path, and be well maintained. It also should have a restroom nearby," the agenda brief explains. "The Centennial Park site by the domes has been selected by LPEA and ChargePoint as the best location. Other sites considered were the River Center Area, Clock Tower/Adobe Lot, Town Hall and Mary Fisher Park. There is a three phase transformer serving the courthouse at the Centennial Park location and there are restrooms and parking. Although this transformer is not large enough to serve both the courthouse and the EV charger, it could be replaced with a larger transformer. LPEA would only charge the difference in cost between the transformer that is there and the new one."

Parruch told council that ChargePoint would provide \$19,000 in in-kind contribution toward the installation of the station.

The agenda brief notes that the grant would help with \$250,000 of the costs, and Parruch told council that the town's upfront cost would be about \$24,000.

She also noted that Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association would contribute a \$3,000 rebate for the transformer and that La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) estimated that it would be \$17,000 to upgrade the transformer, which she noted is very cost effective.

She added that LPEA has been one of the best power companies to work with.

In the end, the town would own and operate the station, including paying the electric bill and demands charges.

She indicated the town would see payback from the station in a

minimum of six years.

In response to a question from council member Matt DeGuise, Parruch noted that the stations operate at a loss initially because they draw a lot of power and are charged at an industrial rate and with demands charges, though she noted there could be ways to lessen the demands charges.

Phillips explained later that the town was in conversations with LPEA about the demand charge, with a meeting set for later in the month.

Council member Mat deGraaf asked about the risk of the station becoming obsolete before becoming profitable, with Parruch explaining that the stations are modular and scalable.

Phillips also explained that the station would come with a five-year warranty that would then cost \$8,500 per year, to be paid by the town.

The town would get 90 percent of the proceeds from the site, which would have to be operational for at least five years.

Phillips further indicated she would talk to staff about maintenance and paving, and that there would have to be a discussion with the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, which leases land from the town adjacent to the proposed charging site.

Phillips told the council it would have to decide no later than the end of March.

She also noted both excitement and concern, with that concern due to the town's ownership and operation of the site and things such as vandalism.

When questioned about why the station would charge while LPEA is currently offering its charging station at the site for free, Parruch noted that they are different "case uses."

The quicker charger is geared more toward tourists, while cars are left longer at the slower charging stations like LPEAs.

"They're just for different purposes," she explained.

DeGuise noted that while he was in favor, he wasn't sure the economics penciled out, to which Parruch responded that estimates given at the meeting were "quite conservative."

Later in the discussion, council member Tracy Bunning noted he shares some of Phillips' concerns.

He added that while he likes the idea, he hadn't thought about being in business charging cars and brought up insurance.

Council member David Schanz-

zenbaker also opined that he felt it was worth pursuing and asked if it would cost more than the slower chargers.

Parruch explained that you pay for convenience with the fast chargers, which averages about \$15 per charge, compared to about \$1.50 an hour for the slower chargers.

deGraaf noted he is totally in favor and expressed surprise at the fact that 40 percent of the charges at LPEAs charger are for cars based out of Pagosa Springs.

He further suggested the town consider seeking tourism funding to help pay for the installation of the charger.

Mayor Don Volger also voiced support, and Phillips explained to the council that final costs and an agreement would be brought back to the board.

Attorney contract

In other business at the same meeting, the council approved an as-needed legal contract with Bob Cole and Allison Ulmer at Collins, Cockrel and Cole Law Firm.

The firm, and Cole in particular, served as the town's legal counsel for 28 years, but the firm announced recently that it would not be submitting a proposal to the town's request for proposals for legal services, with March 1 being its last day with the town.

The town is currently in the process of choosing new legal services.

Cole explained at the meeting that his firm was not submitting a proposal to continue with the town because it was a good time for transition.

Cole noted that it was a chance for him to free up some time to pursue another opportunity.

He further noted the terms in the contract were the same as in the long-term contract.

Phillips told the council that she sees value in continuing the relationship with the firm and working with the same people, explaining that staff and the new town attorney could need to reach out.

She further suggested the town could opt to use the firm for special projects.

The agenda brief on the topic notes that the costs would be \$390 per hour for Cole and \$365 per hour for Ulmer.

Several of the council members thanked Cole for his time and work with the town.

randi@pagosasun.com

Business

CDC talks new campaign, broadband and economic development

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) Board of Directors is planning a campaign that it hopes will attract more members to the organization.

At its meeting on Jan. 23, the board continued to fine-tune its "Positive About Pagosa" campaign, which was created by and will be partially funded by local resident Mark Weiler.

"In essence, what we're doing is showcasing a Pagosa business each week in a full-page ad in the Pagosa SUN," Weiler told the county commissioners at their meeting on Feb. 4, adding, "What it would do is it would prove to our community that there is vibrance, opportunity, growth here and there's tremendous assets that are not readily apparent."

The proposed campaign will allow local businesses to tell their story and also highlight the benefits of being a member of the CDC.

Weiler was not present at the Jan. 23 CDC board meeting and the CDC board members discussed how to get businesses to commit to the program before they cement the details of Weiler's contribution, which have not been finalized.

Board member Jim Garrett suggested the CDC get 10 or so businesses "to put money on the barrelhead" before finalizing the exact details with Weiler.

At the commissioners' meeting on Feb. 4, Commissioner Ron

Maez, who is also a member of the CDC board, asked Weiler if he'd reached an agreement with the CDC yet.

"I've had two meetings, they've asked me to extend my offer to them until March 1 because they have not been able to get enough commitment," Weiler said.

In an interview Feb. 5, Weiler explained that he adamantly believes the ad campaign should be run as a benefit to CDC members and that the CDC should be required to match his contribution to the campaign.

"The CDC needs to agree to cover half of the program. I don't care where they get the money, I don't care if they get it with a tin cup on the corner of Hot Springs and 160."

At the CDC board's Jan. 23 meeting, the board voted to authorize board members Neal Johnson and Jim Garrett to negotiate the details of the campaign with Weiler.

In an email to The SUN, CDC board president Jodi Scarpa outlined the benefits of being a CDC member.

"Belonging to the CDC supports major improvements in business infrastructure. Our major project right now is expanding and improving the Internet service in our community. Members also enjoy first hand access to knowledge of various business developments in town. In addition, they get to have a voice in what our community needs for positive economic development. If you want to help

Pagosa become a thriving business community, become a member with us," Scarpa wrote.

Broadband project

The board was also updated on the CDC's broadband project by broadband service managers Jason Cox and Eric Hittle.

In a follow-up phone call, Cox said that, through a Department of Regulatory Agencies grant, "we turned a \$125,000 project into a \$717,000 project."

Cox explained what that money will be used for.

"Ultimately, it'll hook up about 3,000 households, some of which already have broadband access," said Cox. "So that one's huge, those will be deployed starting when the snow melts."

Cox explained that the federal definition of "broadband" is Internet service that is 25 megabytes per second through downloading and 3 megabytes per second through uploading.

For context, Cox explained that 4k video streams at about 6 megabytes per second.

Cox explained the broadband project is focused on "covering unserved and underserved areas" like Arboles, Chromo, Middle Piedra near Jack's Pasture, behind Aspen Village and the Piedra area in the northern part of Archuleta County.

Cox explained that any questions community members have about broadband can be asked at the Broadband Forum, being held this evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Economic development coordinator

The board also continued to weigh whether they would hire an economic development coordinator either this year or next.

"We need to decide yes or no on our economic development person," Scarpa said. "If we decide that we do want to go forward with that, we need to decide if we want a full- or part-time person. We need to decide if we want to do it in '20 or '21 and we need to decide if Region 9 would be the organization to oversee it."

Maez explained the 2020 budget for the CDC does not include any money for an economic development person.

Laura Lewis Marchino, executive director of Region 9 and a CDC board member, explained that she needs a commitment from the CDC so she could apply for grants, which would ultimately require a match from the CDC.

Lewis Marchino noted the deadline for the grant she is eyeing is in June and that the CDC could update its budget to include the new position.

She said the minimum award of the grant is \$50,000, which would have to be matched by the CDC.

The board voted to form an economic development coordinator subcommittee to investigate the details of the position.
john@pagosasun.com

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Serving Alcohol More Responsibly training offered

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Special to The SUN

On Thursday, Feb. 27, a Serving Alcohol More Responsibly class will be held.

While this is not TIPS training, this class is conducted by a state of Colorado liquor enforcement investigator, Chris Clements.

The class is offered free to all restaurant and liquor establishments — their owners and employees, nonprofit agency event planners and volunteers, and basically anyone interested in learning how to serve alcohol more safely.

The class will cover topics such as respon-

sible server training, hours of operation for serving alcohol, detecting fake IDs, over serving, criminal and civil liability for a business owner and servers, donated alcohol, purchasing alcohol, alcohol storage, and more. Toward the end of the class, Clements will focus on special events permits and more.

The class is free and will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center in the South Conference room from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Clements is also willing to stay longer should there be more interest and questions.

Proof of attendance indicating staff or volunteers having received some kind of serving

alcohol safely training is important for business and special event insurance coverage. While we want everyone to have fun at our establishments and events, we also want to minimize our liability and make sure that people are behaving responsibly when consuming alcohol.

We would appreciate people RSVPing for the class so that we can set up the room for the correct number of people. Please RSVP to Rick Artis at the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce at info@pagosachamber.com or call 264-2360.

Walk-ins will be accommodated on a space-available basis.

County vacation rental software to be implemented soon

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Archuleta County will soon have new software to help manage its vacation rental permit system.

The county began requiring permits in late 2018 for homeowners who rent their home out for 30 days or less at a time. The permit costs \$400 annually.

In November, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners voted to hire LODG-INGRevs, a Durango firm that has software that will help streamline vacation rental permits and will aggressively monitor homeowners who are renting their homes out for 30 days or less without the required county permit.

The county commissioners discussed the software at their work session Tuesday.

Commissioner Steve Wadley suggested it is time for the county to be more aggressive in enforcing vacation rental regulations.

"We made some rules," Wadley said. "I wanna make sure people are following them and we need to start cracking down instead of talking about it."

"I think it's going to be a very valuable tool," County Attorney Todd Weaver said. "From my perspective on the enforcement side ... It'll be a slam dunk about cases once it starts pulling information. It's gonna be amazing and so much easier to file a lawsuit if we need to."

The implementation costs for the software were about \$4,500 and the monthly fees are about \$2,000.

Wadley explained that he was "leaning" toward putting a limit on the number of vacation rentals in the county, and Commissioner Al-

vin Schaaf noted he wants to wait to see how the new software works out before making a decision like that.

In October, Commissioner Ron Maez made a motion to establish a "possible six-month or 90-day moratorium on accepting new permit applications for short-term rentals," which neither Schaaf nor Wadley seconded, killing the motion.

Asked in a Wednesday interview why he's "leaning" towards capping the number of permits now when he didn't second Maez's motion in

October, Wadley explained it wasn't the right time to cap the number in the fall.

County Administrator Scott Wall explained the new software will make it easier for residents to apply for vacation rental permits, simplify the way the county tracks complaints and will make enforcing the vacation rental rules much easier for the county.

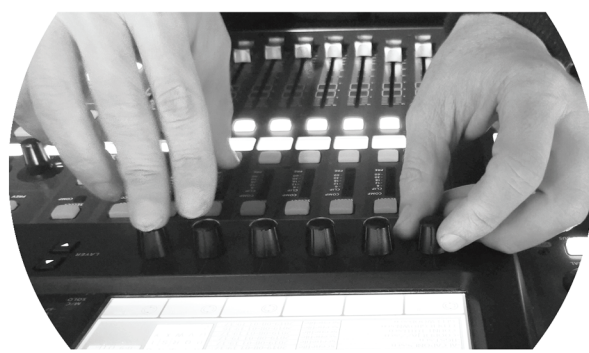
The software is expected to be up and running in the upcoming weeks.
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Sports

WRESTLING

Pirate wrestling beats Cortez, Centauri in pair of victories

By John Finebrock
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestlers added two more victories to their season last week.

The Pirate wrestlers steamrolled the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers 63-12 on Feb. 6 and handily beat the Centauri Falcons 47-26 on Feb. 8.

The Pirates, as of Jan. 31, are

ranked No. 5 in the 3A division.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained how the Pirates' disciplined approach helped them succeed against the lesser-ranked Panthers.

"Wrestling matches like that are potentially a pitfall just because if you don't take them seriously, they'll surprise you," Janowsky said. "I would give our guys credit ... They give their opponents a lot of respect in the way they prepare."

E.J. Monterroso (132-pound weight class), Heath Fulbright (138) and Dylan Tressler (145) began the match with a trio of victories, launching the Pirates to an 18-0 lead right off the bat.

The match against Centauri was Senior Night for the wrestlers. Senior Dustin Clark (160) pinned his opponent in just under four minutes, and senior Tay Barker (152) lost in a match versus a tough opponent.

Clark and Barker are the only two seniors on the wrestling team.

Janowsky explained the two seniors wrestled two of the Panthers' "better guys" on the team.

Pirates Wil Aucoin (170), Trevor Moore (182) and Kaden McKee (195) all picked up forfeit victories in the match against Montezuma-Cortez.

By the time Skyler Hill (220) pinned his opponent in 3 minutes, 32 seconds, the Pirates had a 48-6 lead.

The Pirates picked up a few

more forfeits, Chandler Mazur (120) won by decision and, ultimately, the final score was Pirates 63, Panthers 12.

Two days later, the Pirates faced

David Thomas (126) picked up six points on a forfeit for Pagosa.

Pirate Tommy Barker (132) fell to Centauri's Evan Chavez by technical fall, making the score 12-5 in favor of the Pirates.

From the 138-pound weight class to the 195-pound weight class, Janowsky had all the Pirate wrestlers wrestling up a weight class.

"We shifted everyone up one weight," Janowsky explained. "We did that because we thought it would give us both the best chance to win that dual and also just to boast the tough matches that we would need to prepare for regionals."

The move didn't phase the Pirate wrestlers.

Monterroso (138) pinned his opponent in just over a minute.

Tressler (145) pinned his opponent in just under four minutes.

Janowsky explained that Tressler was facing a top-three wrestler in the 2A division.

"We told Dylan, 'It's a challenge,'" said Janowsky. "He accepted the challenge ... It was a really big match for him, a helpful match for him to build on."

Brae Bergdolt (152) won by major decision.

Cameron Lucero (160) pinned his opponent in just under a minute and a half.

Clark (170) won by major decision 13-5, capping five straight matches the Pirates won consecutively at the dual.

"He went up to 170 and Dustin just keeps wrestling better and better," Janowsky said. "It looks like he's putting some space between him and some of the guys he's wrestled earlier in the year. He has beaten that kid before, but the margins keep increasing ... This was a great match for him to finish his wrestling career in our gym."

Clark made the score 38-5 in favor of the Pirates.

After Clark's match, Aucoin (182) was pinned in less than a minute by Centauri's Adam Chacon.

"[Aucoin's opponent] hit a very well-executed, well-timed throw, we call it a lateral drop in wrestling terminology," Janowsky explained. "It's not a guy that we watch a lot, but he did a great job ... He had us in trouble right off the bat there. I got a lot of confidence in Wil and I thought he could have gotten out of that. I've seen really good guys get caught in that from time to time and that was just one of those things."

The score was 38-11 Pirates after Aucoin's loss.

Centauri and Pagosa traded victories in the final matches of the dual.

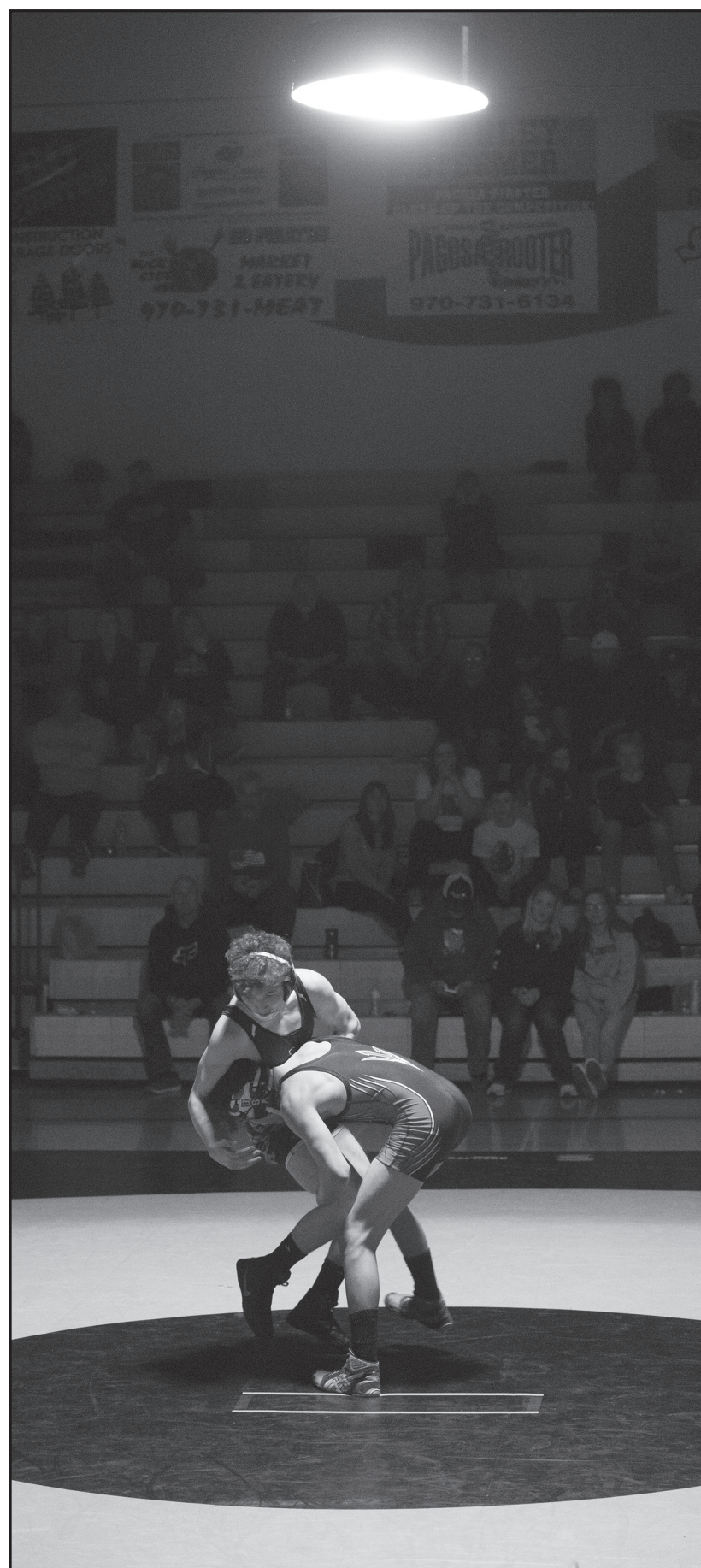
Centauri's Josh Burrola (195) beat Trevor Moore.

Hill (220) won by decision over Centauri's Joseph Morreno.

Pirate Sebastian Prunty was pinned in just over a minute by Centauri's Remi Lucero.

Ultimately, after establishing an early lead, the Pirates won the dual 47-26.

Correction



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Trevor Torrez, no stranger to the wrestling spotlight, faces an opponent during a home match against Durango High School on Jan. 31. Torrez kicked off the event with a victory on the way to the Pirates' 60-15 thrashing of the Demons.

It's a lot of excitement. Kids rise to the occasion and wrestle unbelievably well and occasionally you'll see kids that just tighten up and they don't get their best match out. I feel really good about our kids. If somebody gets the best of us, it'll be because they're wrestling really well, too," coach Dan Janowsky said.

the Centauri Falcons for their last home dual of the season.

Erik Wyman (120) started the event with a pin in 2:30 against Centauri's Robert Coombs, netting six points for the Pirates.

Correction



Photo courtesy Stacey Barker

Pirate Sebastian Prunty looks to finish off an opponent during the Butch Melton Invitational on Feb. 1. Prunty was recently promoted to varsity from the JV team and finished eighth at the event.

Regional tournament

Tomorrow, the regional wrestling tournament begins at the Montrose Event Center in Montrose.

"I think we have five or six guys that can get in the finals, but strange things happen at that tournament," Janowsky said. "It's a lot of excitement. Kids rise to the occasion and wrestle unbelievably well and occasionally you'll see kids that just tighten up and they don't get their best match out. I feel really good about our kids. If somebody gets the best of us, it'll be because they're wrestling really well, too."

The tournament kicks off at 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. The championship rounds are expected to be around 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"It never gets old. Every year it's the same feeling, the same excitement, the same hopes," Janowsky said of the tournament. "I had a coach tell me one time, 'It's all weddings and funerals.' You're super excited one minute then you're just so down if a kid doesn't make it ... You live through them, their feelings are your feelings. It's pretty brutal."

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BASKETBALL

Pagosa to welcome No. 8 Alamosa for Friday rematch

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Ending its five-game road streak, the No. 27 Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team split with the No. 5 Centauri Falcons (15-1 overall, 6-1 in league play) and No. 37 Monte Vista Pirates (6-9 overall, 2-5 in league play) on Feb. 7 and 8.

Centauri

In the second matchup of the season between the two teams, Centauri came out on top and defeated Pagosa 49-38, taking the season series.

After one quarter of play between the two Intermountain League (IML) foes, Centauri held a 12-7 lead over Pagosa.

The second quarter was a lower-scoring affair, but the Pirates outscored the Falcons 9-8 to make the deficit for Pagosa 20-16 going into halftime.

Pagosa struggled in the third quarter, scoring just four points to Centauri's 15.

In the fourth quarter, Pagosa's comeback attempt fell short despite outscoring the Falcons 18-14.

Kyler Hammer led Pagosa in scoring with 11 points. Hammer also added two assists and a steal.

Aidan O'Donnell added 10 points while also pulling down six rebounds and contributing three assists and a steal.

Mitch Lewis finished with seven points and two assists. Ryan Lewis added six points, six rebounds, two steals and a block.

Mason Snarr finished with four points, a team-high nine rebounds, a steal and a block.

Pagosa finished the night against Centauri with a season-high 24 turnovers.

Pagosa converted 60 percent of its free-throw attempts against Centauri, making six out of 10.

In an email to The SUN, coach Randy Sorenson explained that the Pirates played a good game in the first half.

Pagosa's defense was solid in the first half, but the Pirates struggled to score on offense, he explained.

"The third quarter was our downfall. Our defense was not as good and Centauri hit some shots and we only scored four points," he wrote. "Before the game we talked about limiting their possessions but we turned the ball over twenty four times and gave up eleven offensive rebounds. That really hurt us."

Monte Vista

The next night, however, Pagosa got back on track, defeating the Monte Vista Pirates 55-38 and taking the season series from their IML foes.

The first quarter ended with a 10-5 Pagosa lead; the second quarter was even better for Pagosa's Pirates as they outscored Monte Vista 15-1.

Monte Vista fought back in the third quarter, outscoring Pagosa 17-10, but Pagosa held off Monte Vista's Pirates in the fourth by outscoring them 18-15.

Both Mason Snarr and Kyler Hammer finished the night with 14 points.

Snarr added nine rebounds, three assists, two steals and a block. Hammer finished with six rebounds, five assists and a steal.

Ryan Lewis finished with 10 points, a team-high 11 rebounds, three assists and a team-high three blocks.

O'Donnell added eight points and nine rebounds.

Mitch Lewis added four points, four rebounds and two steals.

Wyatt Schuchart added three points and three rebounds for Pagosa.

Pagosa finished with 18 turnovers against Monte Vista.

Pagosa attempted a season-high 45 free-throw attempts against Monte Vista. Pagosa connected on 25 attempts at the charity stripe, good enough for 56 percent.

Monte Vista, despite slowing things down on offense, was unable to stop Pagosa from building a lead, Sorenson noted.

"Our defense was good only giving up six in the first half," he wrote.

At halftime, Sorenson explained that Monte Vista can quickly score the ball and that Pagosa needed to work on extending its lead in the second half.

"We gave up seventeen in the third quarter and that was mainly because we turned the ball over nine times in the quarter," he wrote. "We were able to maintain a lead and put the game away in the fourth. We were not very good from the free throw line and that allowed them to hang around a little bit."

Following both games, Pagosa's overall record sits at 8-9 overall with a 3-5 record against IML opponents.

Pagosa is currently in fourth place in the IML standings, behind Alamosa, Centauri and Cortez.

Last week, Pagosa was fifth in the IML standings.

In the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) standings, Pagosa has gone from No. 28 last week to No. 27 this week.

The RPI standings help determine postseason seeding.

Rematch with Alamosa

Next up, Pagosa will play host to the IML-leading No. 8 Alamosa Mean Moose (13-4 overall, 8-0 in league play) on Feb. 14, with the game set to begin at 7 p.m.

Pagosa previously lost to Alamosa by a score of 57-49 on Jan. 25.

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SWIM

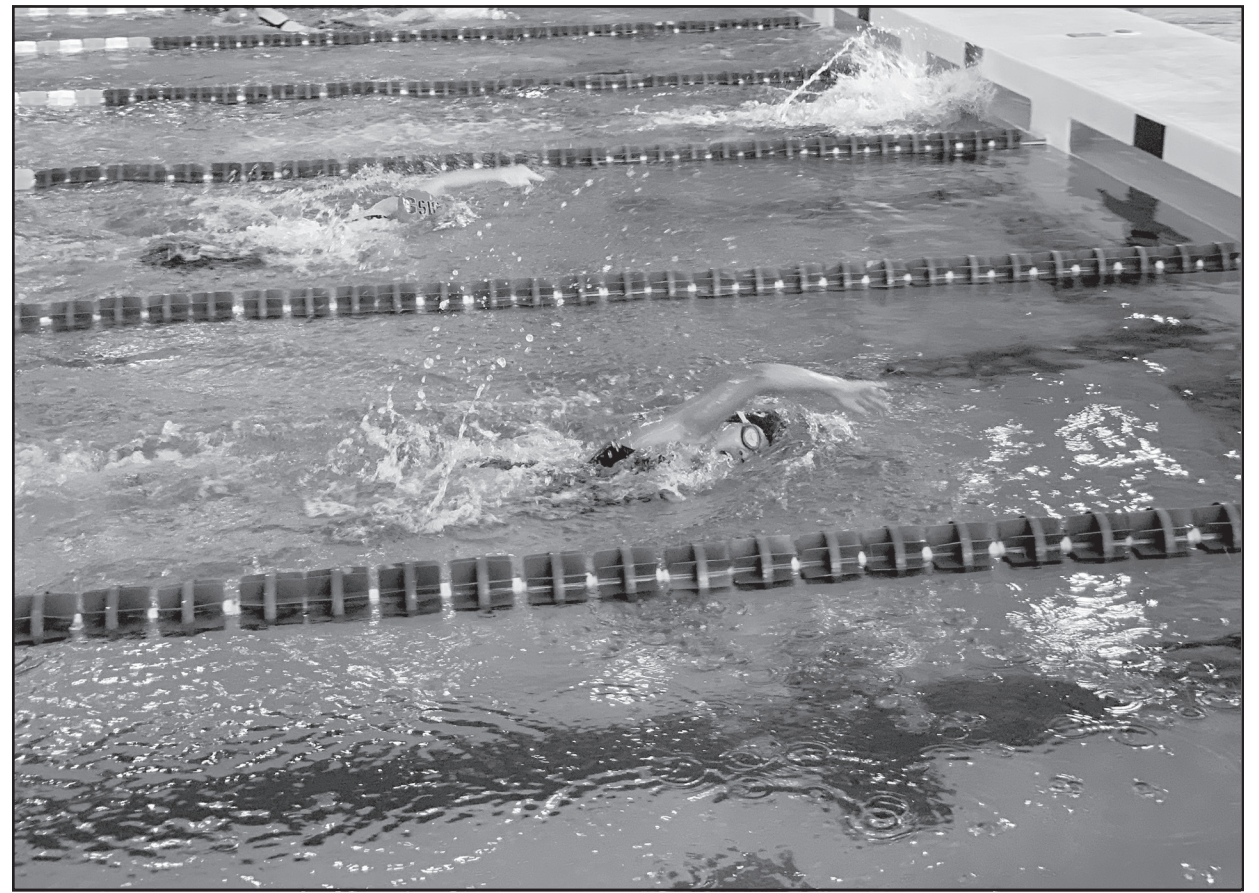


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Ivanna Erne competes in regional freestyle action for the Pagosa Springs High School swim team during the Western Slope Regionals hosted at Colorado Mesa University on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8. Unfortunately, no Lady Pirates qualified for the state tournament this year, despite many swimmers coming close.

Lady Pirate swim team ends season at regionals

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team's season ended at the Western Slope Regionals on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 as no Lady Pirates qualified for the state tournament.

Out of the 11 total teams at regionals, Pagosa took 11th place with 32 points.

Grand Junction took first place at regionals with 425.5 points and Glenwood Springs took second with 394.5 points.

Durango took third place with 394 total points.

Also competing at regionals were Fruita Monument, Gunnison, Aspen, Summit, Montrose, Delta

County and Moffat County.

In the 200-yard medley relay, a Lady Pirate relay team finished 12th out of 15 teams with a final time of two minutes, 14.25 seconds.

That team featured Lynelle Bartz, Megan Greenly, Ivanna Erne and Sierra Liverett.

In the 200-yard individual medley, Bartz took 14th out of 15 swimmers with a final time of 2:43.93.

Erne captured 13th place out of 16 swimmers in the 50-yard freestyle event with a final time of 27.91.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Erne took 15th out of 16 swimmers with a final time of 1:03.27.

Bartz took 12th place out of 16 swimmers in the 100-yard backstroke with a final time of 1:11.33.

A Lady Pirate relay team that featured Liverett, Gantt, Bartz and Erne took 13th out of 16 teams in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a final time of 4:33.73.

In an email to The SUN, coach Heather Miller explained that Erne was .11 seconds away from qualifying for the state tournament in the 50-yard freestyle and 1.25 seconds away from qualifying in the 100-yard freestyle event.

Bartz was 1.02 seconds away from qualifying for the 100-yard backstroke and was 3.3 seconds away from qualifying for the 200-yard medley relay.

"So we got so close we could taste it but we just didn't make it this year," she wrote.

The Lady Pirates did great at regionals, Miller noted, explaining that nearly all of the swimmers had best times and also cut time off of their swims.

"The ladies really stepped it up and gave it their all this last week in practice and in the meet," she wrote. "I am really proud of each and everyone and all that they achieved this year. This year we had 2 relays and 4 individual events get 2nd swims as compared to 1 relay and 1 individual second swim last year which got us 32 points as compared to 7 last year."

This season, Pagosa broke all but one team record, with many of these records being broken multiple times and by 10 to 15 seconds in some cases, she noted.

"Even though we did not get to state this year I am happy with how we performed and I am excited to see what next year brings us!" Miller wrote.

chris@pagosasun.com

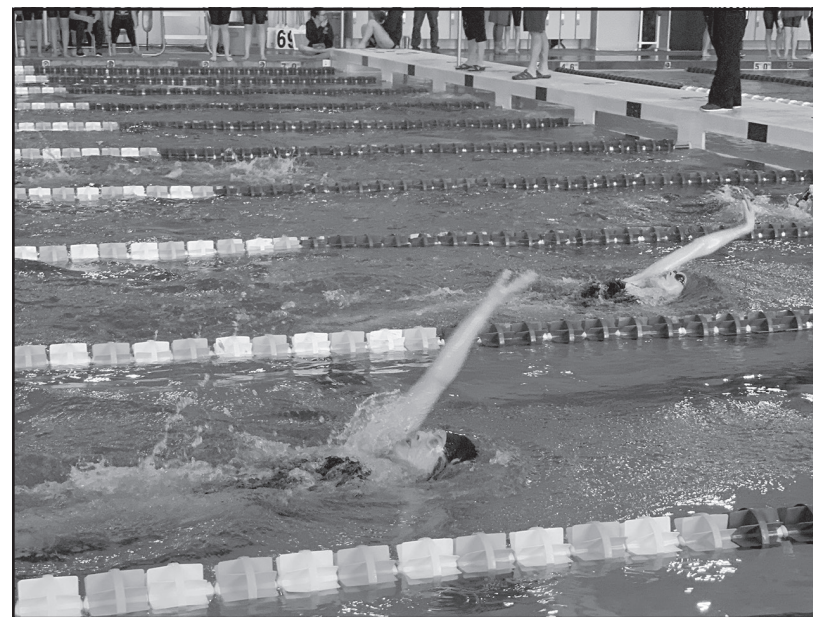


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lady Pirate Lynelle Bartz stays true to form in a backstroke event at the Western Slope Regionals on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8. Pagosa ended its season at regionals, finishing 11th out of 11 teams.

RECREATION NEWS AND COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Adult soccer, tee-ball registration underway

By Darren Lewis
SUN Columnist

The Recreation Department is accepting registration for adult soccer teams through April 17. League will be played during the month of May.

The team registration fee is \$150 and an early-bird registration through April 2 is \$100. Adult soccer games will be held during the

month of May every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

You may register your team for play at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Tee-ball registration ages 5-6

The Recreation Department is accepting tee-ball registrations through April 10.

The cost is \$35 and includes hat

and jersey. Tee-ball season will be held during May every Monday and Wednesday evening.

To register for programs online or learn more about Xpress Bill Pay, visit the Parks and Recreation Department page at www.townof-pagosasprings.com. You may also register at the Community Center.

For more information, call the recreation office at 264-4151, ext. 232.



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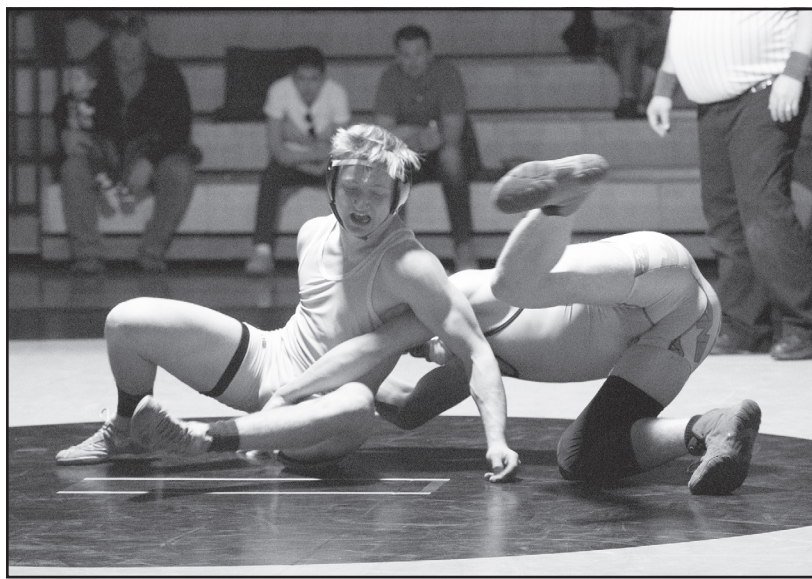
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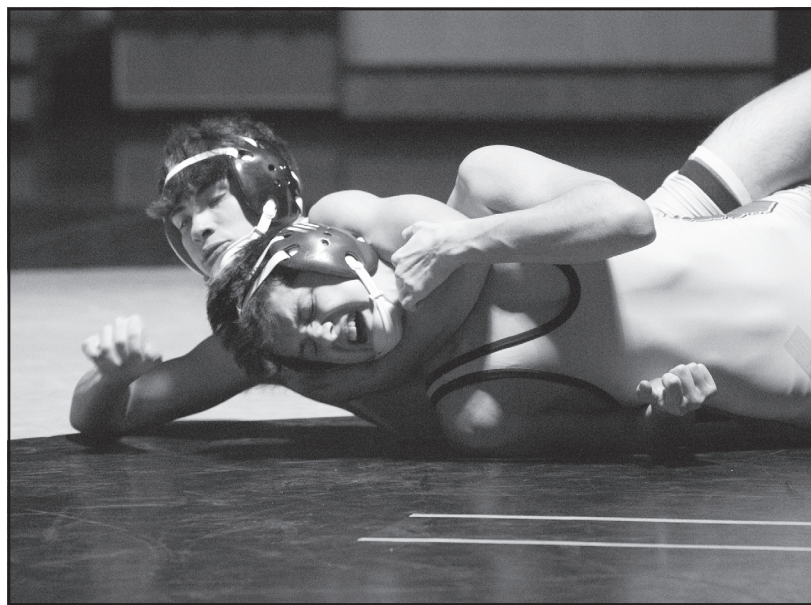
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WRESTLING



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Senior Dustin Clark wrestles during his final home match in the Pagosa Springs High School gym on Feb. 8. Clark beat Centauri's Byron Shawcroft by major decision 13-4.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate E.J. Monterroso spars during a match against Centauri's Ivan Lopez on Feb. 8. Monterroso pinned Lopez in 1 minute, 14 seconds.

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates hand Centauri overtime loss

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team picked up another two wins in the last week, including handing another of the state's top teams its second loss of the season with an overtime victory.

With the wins, the Lady Pirates moved up to No. 3 in the state's 3A girls' rankings and are the No. 6 team in the Ratings Percentage Index (RPI), which helps determine postseason seeding.

First, Pagosa hit the road to La Jara to take on the Centauri Falcons, who at the time were the No. 3 team in the state rankings.

The Lady Pirates outscored the Falcons 16-11 in the first quarter.

"We came out and played pretty well in the first quarter. You know, Centauri played pretty well and we didn't help ourselves out any in the second. The third quarter was pretty even," coach Wes Lewis said.

The Falcons bested the Pirates 14-6 in the second and 8-7 in the third.

"We were down four at the start of the fourth and we were able to make up that difference and get it

to overtime and ... were able to get the win in overtime," Lewis said.

The Lady Pirates tied the game with a 14-10 fourth quarter.

Pagosa outscored Centauri 13-7 in overtime to return home with the 56-50 win and hand Centauri its second loss of the season.

The coach noted the team was able to get to the free-throw line in overtime and make some free-throws, and some Lady Pirates made some big plays.

"It was a good team win. We knew it was going to be a hostile environment, a tough game, and they gave us a heck of a game and we were fortunate to get out of there with a win," Lewis said.

Lewis also noted the Lady Pirates' defense kept them in the game.

"I think our defense kept us around and kept us in it. Our offense, you know we struggled scoring at times, but I thought our defense ... enabled us to hang around," he said.

He noted the team had too many turnovers and gave up too many offensive rebounds, which allowed the Falcons to stay in the game.

"I think if we can clean up those two areas before we play them

again, we'll sure help ourselves out," he said, adding that, while it wasn't easy, it was a good league win.

Centauri swapped with the Lady Pirates in the rankings following the game, with the Falcons dropping to fourth in the rankings this week and the Pirates improving to third.

The Falcons are currently the No. 4 team in the RPI standings.

The next day the Lady Pirates returned to the San Luis Valley to take on the Monte Vista Pirates, returning home with a 69-26 win.

Pagosa bested Monte Vista in all four quarters: 32-9, 15-6, 12-7 and 10-4.

"Monte's down a little bit ... We jumped on 'em early and got after 'em and ... played pretty well. ... After the first quarter, it was pretty much on cruise control," Lewis said.

Stats for the games were not available by press time.

This week, Pagosa will play host to a Valentine's Day matchup against the Alamosa Mean Moose.

The Mean Moose are 5-2 in league action and 13-3 on the season.

The Mean Moose sit as the No.

9 team in the rankings and No. 8 in RPI.

Pagosa defeated Alamosa 35-24 on Jan. 25 in Alamosa.

In preparation for Alamosa, the team will be looking to lessen turnovers and allow fewer offense rebounds.

"We're not looking past them," Lewis said.

With two league games left in the regular season for Pagosa, the Lady Pirates sit atop the Intermountain League (IML) with an 8-0 league record and 14-2 overall mark.

Centauri follows with a 5-2 IML record and 14-2 overall record.

Alamosa sits third in the league standings.

Montezuma-Cortez is in fourth with a 2-5 league mark and 4-10 overall record, followed by Bayfield (2-6 league, 6-10 overall) and Monte Vista (0-7 in league, 2-13 overall).

randi@pagosasun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Feb. 13

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District regular meeting. 5 p.m., 100 Lyn Ave.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation public broadband forum. 6 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Southwestern Water Conservation District grant meeting and teleconference. Time to be determined, 841 E. Second Ave., Durango, or call (605) 475-5618, 797282#.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee meeting. Noon, Pagosa Brewing, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Upper San Juan Library District board meeting. 4 p.m., Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St.

Town of Pagosa Springs Historic Preservation Board Water Works design visioning exercise. 5 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Thursday, Feb. 20

Pagosa Springs Town Council

meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Friday, Feb. 21

Los Pinos Fire Protection District community meeting regarding upcoming mill levy election. 7 p.m., Mt. Allison Grange, 2622 County Road 329.

Monday, Feb. 24

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners lunch and meeting with Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council. 11 a.m. (includes travel time), tribal administration building, 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Joint town/county work session. Noon, Boss Hogg's, 157 Navajo Trail Drive.

Upper San Juan Health Service District regular board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Southwestern Water Conservation District board teleconference. 9 a.m. Call (605) 475-5618, 797282#.

Archuleta County Planning Commission regular meeting. 6 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Feb. 26-28

Archuleta School District Board of Education notice of gathering. Three or more school board members will be traveling to Denver for the Colorado Association of School Boards Winter Legislative Conference.

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

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Education



Photo courtesy Anita Hinger

Members of the San Juan Stargazers Astronomy Club Judith Jubb, Gregg Johnson, Jerry Granok and Pat Hasenbuhler present a check for \$1,000 to Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Chris Hinger for the StarLab fund. StarLab is an inflatable, portable planetarium with a price tag of \$40,000-plus.

Stargazers working to raise funds for StarLab for schools

By Pat Hasenbuhler
Special to The SUN

Teachers Anita Hinger and Debbie Moore have been working over a year to collect funds for the purchase of a StarLab. With contributions from the Archuleta School District, a grant from LPEA and

donations from individuals, the fund is close to reaching 50 percent of the goal.

StarLab allows students to travel through a world of knowledge that includes astronomy, geology, physical geography and more. It inspires students to engage in a better understand-

ing of the world around them. The Pagosa Springs schools have borrowed a StarLab from another school District for the past 30 years. It is a film projector unlike the new StarLab Planetarium that is computer run.

The San Juan Stargazers Astronomy Club is supporting Hinger

and Moore in their fundraising and are seeking donations from local businesses. Individuals wanting to donate can bring their donations to either the middle school or elementary school, or send donations to the Archuleta School District designating the donation for the StarLab fund.

School district, Pueblo Community College discuss potential partnership

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The possibility and feasibility of bringing Pueblo Community College (PCC) back to Pagosa Springs was the topic of discussion following a presentation made by PCC representatives to the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) at a work session held on Feb. 4.

PCC Southwest Executive Dean Dr. Sam Dosumu explained to the board that the goal of this potential partnership is to have PCC Southwest partner with ASD educationally and act as a resource to the community, schools and residents of Archuleta County.

"That partnership basically says it's an opportunity for us to bring educational resources and services to you," Dosumu said.

Opening a PCC Southwest site at Pagosa Springs would be very exciting, Dosumu added.

According to Dosumu, PCC has a wide service area that encompasses the majority of the state, with PCC Southwest campuses being located in Durango and, most recently, Bayfield in the fall of 2019.

"For us, where we try to zero in, this is the area we serve. The five counties of Dolores, Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan

County," Dosumu said. "Our goal is to reach every county in our service area."

Currently, there are about 800 students enrolled in PCC Southwest and, out of those 800 students, about 56 percent are concurrent enrollment students, Dosumu explained.

PCC offers a variety of classes via "guided pathways," Dosumu explained. Some of these courses include manufacturing and automotive, education, technology, science, engineering and math, among others.

"Guided pathways is really a national initiative, but it's a measure to help students to get closer to their completion," he said. "Colleges across the country, the one mission that everybody is really focusing on is completion."

Specifically, guided pathways are intended to get students as close to their degree as possible by eliminating the need for students to take unnecessary classes that don't relate to their specific field of study.

PCC also offers career and technical education classes for students in fields such as automotive technology, law enforcement, health professions and welding.

According to Dosumu, PCC students earn industry certifications

for these professions and not just certificates of completion.

Additionally, PCC offers bachelor's degrees, Dosumu explained, noting that these degrees aren't Bachelor of Science degrees that you would earn at a four-year college or university.

"Because of state regulations, the Department of Ed regulations, we two-year colleges have to not break into the four-year college arena by offering bachelor's of science. That would be competing with them and the state doesn't want that," he said.

What PCC can offer are things such as a bachelor's of applied science or bachelor's of science in nursing, he explained.

Partnership needs

Dosumu noted that, as of last fall, there were 44 PCC students within Pagosa Springs, but the expectation would be to grow the student headcount to 60 or more if a partnership were to take place.

"Right now, we don't have any staff managing that, again, these are classes that Pagosa Springs teachers have been credentialed to teach," Dosumu said.

Under this prospective partnership, there would need to be two staff coordinators or advisors, four classrooms and one workspace that

could be accessed for community members, he explained.

"Everything is still taught at Pagosa," Dosumu said in reference of the partnership.

This idea can start small, but will be able to grow as it is brought into the community, he noted.

Benefits for students and community

"We believe that having a partnership with the school district grants them access to degree pathways to careers," Dosumu said of students.

Other benefits allow students to have credits lined up should they choose to transfer to a four-year college.

There are also benefits in regard to financial savings when compared to four-year colleges, he added later.

According to Dosumu, the average tuition for a four-year school is about \$10,700, while at PCC tuition is just \$4,092.

That total is based on 24 credit hours with the College Opportunity Fund applied and does not include books and fees, he noted.

"From a financial aspect, we think that a partnership such as this will bring a lot of value to the

■ See Partnership on page A14

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Learn about Little Dresses for Africa Feb. 21

By Greg Schick
Special to The SUN

Dr. Greg Schick and wife Dena, with help from Jane Parker, director of Pagosa Family School, will host an educational and informative program about Little Dresses for Africa (LDFA).

Rachel O'Neill, founder and director of LDFA, will present the program at the Archuleta County Extension building at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21. The extension building is located at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds on U.S. 84.

LDFA started as a simple effort to provide dresses for and honor the little girls of rural villages in Malawi, Africa. The program has evolved into so much more. In addition to the distribution of dresses to the girls, boys receive shorts and sometimes baseball caps, which they love. The program has evolved into offering relief to the communities through clean water, new wells, education and food

distribution to the widows who have lost husbands, largely due to the high incidence of AIDs in Africa.

Medical days are held to provide basic health screenings, malaria testing and appropriate medication for those who need it. Money has been raised for 50 wells, two primary schools, one preschool and a girls' hostel. The hostel is for young girls 14-18 years of age who were trapped in childhood marriages. The girls have been removed from those marriages and placed in the hostels, where they can obtain an education.

Visits are also arranged to the overflowing orphanages so that help can be given to the babies in what ever manner may be appropriate. LDFA has a central distribution center to handle the dresses and other material and food that is given out throughout Malawi.

Malawi is not the only country that receives this help as distributions are made to 87 countries throughout the world. More than 6 million dresses have been distributed.

The program started in 2008 and has always been under the direction of O'Neill, who is based out of the Detroit, Mich., area.

In 2011, an NBC special highlighted LDFA on national TV and really gave a boost to the organization. That program is how Dena Schick found out about LDFA.

Dena Schick became involved in 2011 by making dresses for the program and took her first trip to Malawi in 2015. She came home very excited about the mission and told Greg Schick how interesting, educational, sad and uplifting it was and insisted that he go on the next trip. They have since been to Malawi three more times. It truly has been an incredible experience and they would like to share their travels and stories with the community.

Everyone in the community is welcome to attend as we believe it will be an enlightening experience and well worth your time. Refreshments will be served and questions will be answered after the main program and slideshow.

Pagosa Springs Middle School announces second-quarter honor roll

By Anjelica Gallegos
Special to The SUN

The following fifth-grade students made the second-quarter honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Damien Aragon, Kyndyn Armijo, Laykyn Baxstrom, Wyatt Carr, Terrick Carter, David Castillo, Jackson Chaney, Leo Dennis, Nevaeh Evans, Devin Gonzalez, Deegen Hoffschneider, Emma Jackson, Ryder King, Connor Kirkham, Kelly Anne Kubelka, Aki'chita LeftHandBull, Sophie Martinez, Kyle Matyniak, Heaven Murphey, Shantee Murphey, Stetson Osborn, Italia Pereyra, Alyzia Quezada, Barbara Reaza Saucedo, Bryant Sanchez, Quint Santos, Trinity Short, Tia To, Sequoya Tsosie and Stefani Veleta-Echavarría.

The following fifth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Marlie Adams, Bella Adkisson, Nile Bollig, Damian Cardenas, Victoria Currier, Chloe Gantt, Van Halterman, Melissa Hernandez, Adelyn Hittle, Duke Ketchum, Braylon Landry, Anne Lane, Lisette Lescas, Zaiden Martinez, Samuel Munro, Jonathan Rodriguez, Everett Sistrunk, Madisen Stretton, Gwendolyn Tyler and Peyton Yates.

The following sixth-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Samuel Casaceli, Jacob Castaneda, Kylie Chavez, Eden Connor, Milo Ditemeyer, Brenton Dikes, Faith Domingo, Hope Domingo, Benjamin Dozier, Kayla Easling, Liam Gallagher, Matthew Happ, Naima Harrison, Xavier Haynie, Ryann Heilhecker, Alexa Hernandez, Daltin Hoover, Kyleigh Martinez, Marlon Mitchell, Stephen Pair, Lillian Petago, Weston Phillips, Vander Quinn, Chloe Scholer, Eric Segura-Tarango, AmberLynn Snarr, Dayana Tena-Quintana, Aislinn Thomas, Angelina Trillo-Quezada, Aidan Vega, Henry Wyman and Brady Ziminsky.

The following sixth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Reeve Belarmino, Leah Blackman, Izabella Castillo, Alia Hibbert, Jenna Jenkins, Adison Johnson, Luke Kinsley, Kaila Limebrook, Jadon

Martinez, Case Matteson, Anja Narsalla, Jayton Ross, Johnathon Smith, Natalie Talley, Sarah Webb-Yates and Zachery Zuchero.

The following seventh-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Peyton Bishop, Nidia Blanco, Kaylee Clark, Sierra Cowan, Bethannie Daniels-Wesley, Savannah Foster, Princess Grigsby, Naomi Grimes, Bella Gutierrez, Gavin Houston, Nicholas Jones, Cadence Kerns, Olivia Nehring, Cameron Reis, Janice Echavarría-Rivera, Gemma Slingerland, Payton Smith, Honestye Sweet, Sofia Talamante, Lorelei Vining, Nickolas Wilson, Brandt Winther and Natalia Zamudio.

The following seventh-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Rylie Carr, Elizabeth Currier, Isabel Galloway, Neena Gutierrez, Peyton Jackson, James Jolley, Kylie Ketchum, Cedar Liverett, Olivia Mazur, Brisa Montes, Abigail Nehring, Layla Novak, Alexander Pham, Aspen Pitcher, Emily Reynolds, Kaeden Schrader, Ariel Slead, Braden Terry, Trevor Wirth and Seth Zeigler.

The following eighth-grade students made honor roll with 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Karis Blackman, Jeremiah Bradley, Collin Bridges, Elijah Castro, Kadence Chavez, Ethan Chavez-Skok, Alexa Diamond, Jonathan Easling, Elvis Grigsby, Chase Harper, Cole Harper, Nika Hinger, Coral Johnson, Connor Kelly, Dennis Kholostov, Bradley Lamoreaux, Blake Laner, Kynslie Limebrook, Michelle Lujan, Aron Mitchell, Jedy Moreno-Echavarría, Geoffrey Munro, Annie O'Donnell, Hadley Phillips, Guadalupe Rivas, Keaton Robel, Miguel Rodriguez, Bailee Shallenberger, Rylie Smith, Noah Stene, Lucy Taylor, Jaden Tuggle-Reed, Anne-Marie Uhrenbacher, Chase Ward and Colton Wilkins.

The following eighth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Harley Armijo, Daniel Bradley, Chloe Crabtree, Donovan Galabota, Trey Garcia, Jack Hittle, Brooke Huddleston, Nathaniel Kinsley, Colton Lewis, Natalie Mashue, Patrick Matney, Annabelle Parker and Laura Quintero.

Charter school addresses food authority

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At the most recent meeting of the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors on Feb. 10, School Director Angela Crossland gave the board an update on the school's efforts to secure a food authority.

According to Crossland, PPOS has recently purchased some kitchen equipment and the school has also been doing research into what it would take to get a food program for PPOS students next school year.

"I feel like this is a big barrier for enrollment for a lot of our families in our community," she said.

Some avenues that Crossland has looked into include contacting the Pagosa Springs Senior Center about it being PPOS's food vendor, she explained.

Currently the Senior Center produces meals for Seeds of Learning and for the local Head Start program, she noted.

Crossland noted the Senior Center confirmed that it does not currently have the capacity to be PPOS's food vendor.

"With that, we still needed to have a food authority so we could get the reimbursement and the Senior Center didn't do the food authority part," she said. "So, we reached out to a lot of different places and said, 'How do we get this food authority?'"

One option is to go underneath Archuleta School District (ASD), Crossland explained, adding that

she had a meeting with the district last fall.

"With that meeting, I realized that we still needed a full build-out kitchen. I still needed a cook. I still needed people to serve," she said. "If that was the case, then I wanted to have more control over the menu and what we did internally in house."

PPOS would need 200 students to qualify as its own food authority, Crossland explained.

Crossland added that PPOS reached out to GOAL Academy on potentially joining the school.

"We are still pursuing that option as a possibility," she said.

There are currently two food authorities within the state of Colorado that are specifically for charter schools, Crossland explained.

"Charter schools come together for these two food authorities," she said.

One of these food authorities is run by the Charter School Institute (CSI), and Crossland noted that even though PPOS is not a CSI school, that the food authority is willing to allow PPOS to join it.

"That is our biggest hurdle right now, is to find an approved CDE [Colorado Department of Education] vendor that will deliver what we probably have at capacity for the beginning of next year," she added.

Having PPOS go through this food authority rather than through ASD would allow the school to have more autonomy in its food service, she noted.

Currently, PPOS has enough

kitchen equipment that can be installed for a "heat and serve" kitchen, she explained.

"Meaning that the vendor would need to come with food that was ready to be heated and serve to the kids, but not cooked from scratch," she said. "That is the way I would like to start the school year, is to build the kitchen towards that."

The next step is to figure out how to get the kitchen equipment installed into the PPOS building, Crossland noted.

Later in the meeting, Crossland noted that the food authority run by CSI would like to know by spring break what the school's commitment is.

"They'll do a lot of professional development and they'll actually do a lot of the paperwork for a very small portion of the reimbursement that we get," she said.

Next school year, Crossland explained, she wants PPOS to be able to serve meals to its students.

In a follow-up interview on Tuesday, Crossland explained that a food authority submits menus, the qualifiers for the free and reduced lunch program and they also are able to ask for reimbursement from the lunch program.

In other business

The Feb. 10 meeting was also the last for PPOS board member Ashley Wilson, whose term on the board had ended.

Wilson explained in a follow-up interview on Tuesday that her decision to not re-up for the board was

due to other commitments.

"Life is really crazy for me right now with work, so I chose not to re-up my term," she said.

Wilson described her time on the PPOS board as a "journey."

"It was exciting to see the transition and the changes from a startup school to where I feel we're much more established and ready to take on the challenges of what this is going to look like for a K-8," she said.

During the meeting, PPOS Board President Ursula Hudson praised Wilson for her work on the board, explaining that Wilson joined the board in its first year of operation, describing that period as a "very unsure time in our school's beginning."

"We didn't know which direction our academics were headed. We didn't know if we'd have a physical school in a couple of years or whether our director was going to see us through," she said. "Ashley was a key player in taking the lead on several initiatives to solidify our school's foundation."

Wilson helped start the process of PPOS purchasing the Parelli building in which it is housed, led various fundraising campaigns for the school and helped create the school's operational plan, Hudson explained.

"Ashley took the founders' vision and helped make it a reality, and I'm grateful that she stuck with us through the hard times and didn't leave until she knew that we could do it without her," Hudson said.

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Partnership

Continued from A13 community," he said. "Kids won't have to get strapped with a lot of college debt."

Adults within the community can also utilize PCC to earn a credential, industry certification or degree, Dosumu noted.

PCC would also be a resource to the community for personal enrichment classes such as art, he described.

"The goal here is that we are not just bringing our classes; one of the things we will also do is to ask the question, what does the community need? What kind of classes does the community want us to offer?" he said.

The presence of PCC in Pagosa Springs will increase the rate of students going to college through things such as concurrent enrollment, he explained.

Additionally, PCC will increase workforce training and meet industry needs and support economic development in the region, among other things, he described.

Next steps and board thoughts

Right now, the ask is to see if there is a facility available for PCC, Dosumu explained.

"That's where we want to start off," he said. "For concurrent enrollment, specifically at the high school. If we don't offer the classes at the school, which is one good option, we need space to offer classes during the day for citizens."

In the evening, the volume could also go up for people looking to take classes, he added later.

The PCC site in Bayfield is located at Bayfield Elementary School and features three rooms.

Two rooms have technology, while one is an office and there is also a science lab at the site, Dosumu noted.

BOE member Bruce Dryburgh raised a question on what the financial requirements would be from Archuleta County within the partnership.

"If it's a facility, that the school district provides, then that's what they bring to the partnership. That's what we did with Bayfield," he said. "But what we brought into it was the technology, so in the end it actually evened out. And I think for them it was closer to \$100,000."

Depending on the school district, tuition is charged to the school district for high school students; therefore, students do not pay tuition for PCC, according to PCC Regional Coordinator Jennifer

Reynolds.

"As it currently stands with the majority of our school districts, right now is if they are taking a college class on one of our sites, or they are taking it online through us, the students owe fees," she said. "I know Archuleta County covers fees for their students right now, so it is completely free for students in Archuleta County to take these concurrent enrollment classes."

For adult students, tuition is charged, Reynolds noted.

"For the present, it would be really profound to have the space," Dosumu said. "There are some drawbacks or hindrances for the time being. What we plan to do is increase the number of classes we offer, and so that as we get closer, that gives both sides time to find that space."

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Food Security Task Force: Students explore food security in southwest Colorado

By Lexi Bernstein
Special to The SUN

On Saturday, Jan. 25, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Food Security Task Force (FSTF) left Archuleta County to explore how people in southwest Colorado are tackling the problem of food security. The task force is comprised of nine fourth- through sixth-graders who are trying to create change in Archuleta County, starting within PPOS.

The first stop on the trip was in Durango, a local farm with a greenhouse, sheep and a dog named Oakley.

"They were very scientific, but we learned about the shelf life of produce and how hard it is to grow in a 90-day season," said fourth-grader Zaiden.

An emphasis was made on growing root vegetables and eating seasonally.

The next stop was Manna Soup Kitchen, also in Durango.

"The soup kitchen started because a lady died from not eating enough food and they didn't want that to happen again," remembered Amelie, another fourth-grade student.

The tour led the FSTF through a commercial kitchen available to the public, a meeting room, a garden area, a greenhouse, the soup

kitchen, and the many fridges and freezers needed to feed Durango's population.

"The thing I remember most was the room storing all the supplies for the weekend backpack program. There weren't any fresh fruits or vegetables," said sixth-grader Kaylee.

After eating some apple dessert made with commodity apples, the FSTF piled into the van and drove to a bakery in Mancos. As they waited for our food, the owner told the group about why farm to table is important to him.

"The owner used to be a farmer, so he thinks it's important to support people growing food in our area. He also wants us to remember how good we have it here. It's not like Africa, where people barely have anything to eat," said fourth-grader Bella.

The FSTF finished some of the best burgers they had ever eaten and drove the last leg of their journey. As they passed a grocery store in Cortez, they realized the people living in Mancos have to make this drive any time they need groceries.

The last stop on the trip was Spudfest at the Cortez Sharehouse.

Produced by The Good Food Collective, Spudfest was created to celebrate the Potatoes for the People Project. The students ran between stands learning about



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

The Pagosa Peak Open School Food Security Task Force explores how people in the region are tackling the issue of food security. Along their journey, the students enjoyed some dessert at the Manna Soup Kitchen in Durango.

groups like Cooking Matters, the Sharehouse and local farms, eating potatoes and asking everybody in sight, "What does food security mean to you?"

With answers ranging from "locking my food up" to "making sure everybody can access food in a dignified manner," the FSTF realized how many people are working on the problem.

The day was rounded out with a tour of the Sharehouse facilities which houses a community-supported agriculture project, The Good Samaritan Food Bank and an artist studio.

"Maybe if we get people to draw

food very closely, they will appreciate it more," wondered sixth-grader Sarah Joy.

Before the group left, the Good Food Collective emphasized the importance of working together to solve food security and sixth-grader Jessie Elledge won a new backpack.

After going over notes from the trip, the FSTF has decided to create an animation video explaining what food security means to different people and why it is important. The task force also hopes to work with different groups to revamp the backpack program and reduce the stigma surrounding food supplements.

County denies gas station liquor license

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Archuleta County has denied a malt beverage liquor license application for the Speedway gas station on North Pagosa Boulevard.

At the Nov. 12 regular meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), staff from the county's Development Services Department recommended that the BoCC deny the permit.

County staff reported that the state prohibits a license to be issued when a liquor store is 500 feet or less from another one. In this case, the Speedway gas station is about 300 feet door-to-door to another one.

Brian Proffitt, an attorney representing Speedway, explained at November's meeting he was unaware there was a provision that stipulated a liquor store couldn't be 500 feet or less from another one and argued that should have been presented to him prior to the meeting.

Proffitt then made a presentation that focused on another part of Colorado liquor law: the fact that liquor stores cannot operate 500 feet or less from a school.

Proffitt argued that because nearby GOAL Academy is primarily online-based, it should not be considered a school as outlined in the liquor laws in relation to approving or denying a liquor license.

Ultimately, the BoCC voted to table the liquor license decision.

In January, Proffitt returned to the regular meeting of the BoCC to argue that the liquor license should still be granted.

Proffitt argued the state statute that says liquor stores can't be less than 500 feet away from another one had a clause that if a retail store that intended to sell malt beverage liquor was granted occupancy prior to Jan. 1, 2019, that "grandfathered in the store" and made the Speedway still eligible to receive the license.

The BoCC approved the application, contingent upon County Attorney Todd Weaver determining if state law allowed the license per Proffitt's claims.

Ultimately, Weaver determined that state law did not permit granting the license.

"The BoCC conditionally approved Speedway's application contingent on my determination on whether state law and regulations would allow for such approval. I reviewed state law and regulations issued by the State Liquor Enforcement Division and determined that it was not permissible for the BoCC to approve the application," wrote Weaver in an email to The SUN, adding, "... since the checks submitted with the application have expired, Speedway's application is now incomplete and the County has not received any response to its requests for new checks. So, the current status of Speedway's application is that it has been denied."

According to county staff, the license application fees were \$1,792.50 to the state of Colorado and \$1,075 to Archuleta County.

County staff noted it is unclear if the county will ever collect the money.

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Tuesday 911 outage hits area landlines

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Landline telephones with a phone prefix of 731-were unable to dial through to 911 for the majority of the day Tuesday.

It's unclear exactly when the issue began, but Emergency Communications Director Kati Harr explained she was notified of the outage around 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

The problem was resolved Tuesday evening.

The outage impacted 1,436 landlines with the 731- phone prefix, according to Harr.

In an email to The SUN, Harr wrote that the issue stemmed from a CenturyLink error of "unknown origin" and that a CenturyLink tech came to the Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Center to troubleshoot on Tuesday.

"Thus far, CenturyLink is under the impression the outage is due

to their equipment, not ours, but this has yet to be confirmed," Harr wrote during the outage.

On Tuesday, around 4:30 p.m., the Archuleta County Office of Emergency Management sent the following notification: "911 Outage for 731-XXXX prefixes has been resolved. Full functionality has been returned. Thank you for your patience regarding this matter."

The notification was sent through Nixle, which offers notification services for government departments. To sign up for Archuleta County's emergency mass notification system alerts, visit www.archuletacounty.org/569/Citizens-Alert.

On Wednesday, Harr wrote in an email that she learned that CenturyLink replaced a card in its equipment to help fix the problem on Tuesday.

Harr did not receive clarification on what a "card" was or what equip-

ment was repaired.

In an email from Linda M. Johnson, a representative from CenturyLink, Johnson wrote on Wednesday, "We understand that the local public safety answering points were and are fully operational at all sites."

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Goals & Accomplishments

Archuleta County Commissioners

SUN staff asked representatives of publicly funded agencies in Archuleta County to individually answer a trio of questions relating to the goals and accomplishments of themselves and their agencies at the turn of the year.

Answers are printed as received and are not edited.

Ron Maez, Commissioner, District 2 - Board Chair



What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2019?

1. We passed a certificate of participation to enable funding in order to move forward with building a county jail, which Archuleta County is required to have by state statute.
2. We purchased the Harman home and five acres next to the property where the county jail is being built. The home will be renovated to house the Archuleta County Sheriff's Department and possibly space for the Dispatch Center.
3. We filed an application and provided a presentation to the Courthouse Facility Commission for grant money to help in funding the building of a county courthouse. This court-

house will be constructed where the county jail is being built. Archuleta County was awarded \$1.91 million, which we are very grateful for. Archuleta County is required to have a courthouse by state statute.

What are your three top goals for 2020?

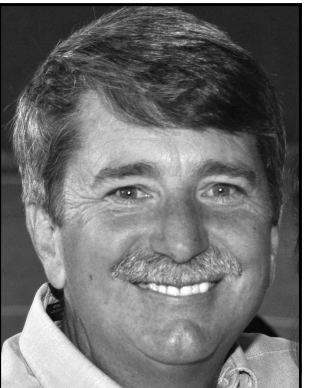
1. Continue to seek the additional funding needed to build a courthouse for the citizens of Archuleta County.
2. Reestablish a stronger working relationship with the town to see how we (the town and the county) can move forward in addressing both capital facility and other needs. The citizens of the town and county deserve to benefit from our joint decisions.

3. Look to the future to see about a facility for the County Clerk, Assessor and Treasurer and explore other possibilities or uses that the old county courthouse building could generate for the people of Archuleta County.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

As I've stated in previous years, goals and decisions do not get implemented on a singular level. All of the community's goals as well as the decisions to implement them occur through a majority consensus. In the future, I will continue to collaborate, communicate and make the necessary compromises that will move us forward as a whole community – making good decisions that will benefit all of the majority.

Steve Wadley, Commissioner, District 1



What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2019?

1. Jail. We selected a general contractor and began construction of a new jail. The project is on schedule to be complete this summer. We anticipate some growing pains with staffing and managing a new facility.
2. New county manager hired. We conducted a national search for a county manager. I am proud of our selection of Scott Wall. Scott brings a wealth of experience to a key position in the management of Archuleta county.
3. Archuleta county was successful in obtaining a low income tax credit project for a 34 housing units along with a 9800 square foot Social services building. Former commissioner Clifford Lucero and myself went to Denver and made a pitch

for our community's project. It was a great win for Archuleta county to be chosen in very competitive process.

What are your three top goals for 2020?

1. New courthouse funding.
2. Broadband.
3. Recycling.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

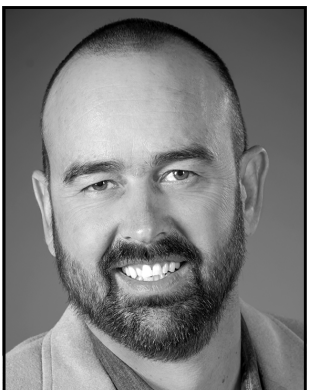
1. We desperately need to replace our current Courthouse. The 6th Judicial district left building 2 years ago. A structural study left no doubt the current location was not suitable to remodel. A new Courthouse needs to be built on property the county owns in Harmon Park. All 3 commissioners went to Denver last month and were successful in obtaining a grant of

over 1.9 million to start construction. The bad news is a new facility will cost almost 7 million. Every year we delay costs more money. We will go to DOLA to seek help, but at some point we have to a new source of revenue.

2. We will continue to fund a joint effort with the Town of Pagosa Springs to improve high speed internet connectivity in our county. Broadband in a key ingredient to attracting new businesses to our county.

3. We need to find a way to purchase a glass crusher to aid in our recycling effort. If we can crush the glass and make it available to use as road base it will keep the glass out of the landfill. Our landfill is very expensive space to replace some we need to be mindful of any affordable ideas to increase the lifespan of our current landfill.

Alvin Schaaf, Commissioner, District 3



What are your three top goals for 2019?

The BOCC was able to obtain funding through Certificate of Participation and started construction on a new county jail, as well as work on several other capital improvements to include solutions for a new court house, Sheriff's office building and a possibility for a new location for The Archuleta Combined Dispatch Center.

- Adopted the Model Traffic Code.
- Adopted the 2015 Building Code.

What are your three top goals for 2020?

Continue to seek and obtain funds to complete payment for new court facilities.

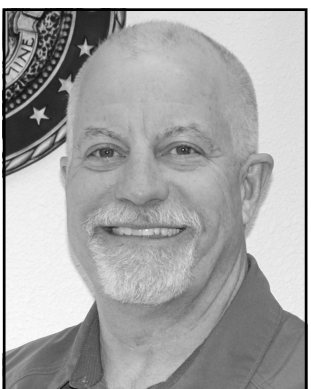
Find a solution for building needs for the Archuleta County Clerk, Assessor's, and Treasurer's office.

Continue to look for new ways to address and support solutions for the growing housing needs of Archuleta County.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

Being open to new ideas and embracing change, it is critical to listen, understand, plan and prepare for the ever changing dynamic of leading the County responsibly and successfully, now and into the future.

Scott Wall, County Administrator



What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2019?

A. As the new County Administrator, a priority was getting acquainted with the elected and appointed officials in the local and state government. It has been a great experience meeting elected county, town and state leaders, as well as appointed officials. I have been impressed by the depth of talent and experience with folks that serve the Town and County.

B. Streamlining and improving our communications with our County Commissioners and staff has been a success. We provide monthly updates with our Administrative Activity Reports that have contributions from all departments to better

keep all elected and appointed leaders updated on important activity throughout the County.

C. Implementing the construction of the County Detention Center, purchasing land for the Sheriff's Offices, and beginning the process of renovating the Harman House for the Sheriff's team has been a big accomplishment in 2019, along with making a plan for funding a building for the new Courthouse with State grants.

What are your three top goals for 2020?

- A. Completing the Detention Center construction.
- B. Acquire DOLA funding for the Courthouse building.
- C. Ensure that all County employees are safe and without any accidents.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

A. Working with the construction team and financial team to complete the project on time and within budget, which includes working with the Architect, Contractor, Sheriff's team and Finance Department to meet this goal.

B. The County has submitted the first of two grant applications for DOLA grant funding and will continue our dialogue with the DOLA staff and the Judicial Team to acquire grant funding.

C. Ensure that County employees receive the training and equipment to perform their jobs safely and mitigate accidents, which will save our County Citizens tax dollars with safety-oriented performance of our job responsibilities.

Lunch

Continued from front

In 2017-2018, \$1,337 was paid through donations. In the 2018-2019 school year, \$4,462 was paid through donations.

"Currently, this year, it is at \$6,547 that has not been paid today via donations," he said.

In order to prevent students from accruing balances, ASD Food Service Clerk Leticia Olson works to notify students and families about the free and reduced lunch program the district offers, Stevens explained.

This is done via letters, emails and notes to home via students, as well as statements with applications for the free and reduced lunch program, he added later.

"While we were successful at getting quite a few families assistance, it does not remove any prior balances prior to them getting in the program," he said.

The free and reduced lunch program application process takes place yearly and expires every year 30 school days after the start of the new school year, he explained.

That constitutes about one-third of the dollar amount currently in ASD's books, and despite efforts to get families signed up for the

program, the balances continue to grow, he added later.

"The policy of alternate meals, or withholding meals, is quickly falling out of favor in many states and legislation to prevent it has been adopted in some," Stevens said, adding that the term "food shaming" has been applied to that process due to the alternate meal being obvious compared to the other meals that students receive.

"In some cases, students were humiliated by taking the tray of the regular meal and replacing it with an alternate in plain sight of the student body," he said.

However, Stevens noted that the district has not enacted a policy of providing alternate meals or withholding meals.

School districts work with limited resources and receive the majority of the consequences from federal regulation for government policies, Stevens explained.

To combat the outstanding student balances, some school districts have done things such as reduce or cancel students' access to food service, write off charges against the food service budget, send the accounts to collection companies or require parent meetings with the

principal after the account goes over a certain dollar amount, Stevens described.

If charges were to be written off and charged against the food service budget, Stevens noted that this would reduce funds that would be available for better-quality foods that the district is trying to provide its students.

Other ways to try and solve the problem that other schools have enacted are sending home letters to parents that allow them to donate unused portions of their students' accounts to others, he explained.

"Some schools have tried to pay off certain grade levels versus the entire district," Stevens said, while others have tried to solicit external donations.

Stevens added that it has been a while since this policy was amended, and explained that it might be best for the BOE to review the policy.

"Quite honestly, when I started I didn't realize the policy said at some point you stopped serving the child. So, I thought the board may want to look at that as well," he said.

The current unpaid balance of \$6,547, when looked at across all grade levels of ASD, looks to become smaller as students get older,

Stevens explained.

"Is there an awareness of this among the other two-thirds that they're taking advantage of this? Or is it just kind of ignorant negligence?" BOE President Brooks Lindner asked.

In response, Stevens explained that there are some families who might be struggling to make it in Pagosa Springs, but their income isn't low enough to apply for the free and reduced lunch program.

Stevens explained the personalized calls to families can be successful, but not always.

"I think one of the biggest challenges for me, personally, is that I just want to make sure that whatever we do that we're not having a kid have a challenge based on something that I feel like a parent is responsible for," he said.

BOE member Dana Hayward raised the question on whether or not the highest accrued balances could be paid off first.

"I don't think we're allowed to do that. That's part of the deal. You can't discriminate; you have to find a way that's somewhat just across the board," he said. "I think we just wanted to create awareness because it is kind of a challenging dilemma

and dynamic."

Serving up a solution?

In a follow-up interview, both Stevens and ASD Assistant Superintendent Laura Mijares explained the situation further.

According to Stevens, an alternate meal for students might be something such as a peanut butter or sun butter and jelly sandwich with fruit and a milk.

"Usually, you have to have certain components in that to meet the criteria for a reimbursable meal," he said. "But they would definitely be to other students, if we did it, visibly different."

Mijares noted that there has been a private citizen who is trying to promote a fundraising effort to pay off the outstanding lunch balances. That effort has raised about \$750, according to Mijares.

"As that started hitting social media or different venues, we wanted to make the board aware of the entire scope of the problem," she said. "We haven't pursued a district venue other than the tools that we already have."

At this point, Stevens noted that he is researching and looking at what other districts have done and

are doing in regard to outstanding student accounts.

Specifically, Stevens explained he is looking for more positive solutions that have less of an impact on students.

"I also want to look and see potentially what other countries are doing and see how they handle feeding their kids," he said.

Schools are also put in a position of enacting policies that were legislated at the state level and sometimes getting negative feedback.

"But the reality is, the schools don't legislate the rules that they have to follow," he said. "If we try and do what we've been told to do that affects kids or parents that aren't on the free and reduced program, then the school gets shamed and crucified on public and social media."

Citizens can submit donations to ASD at the district's administration office located at 309 Lewis St. or by mailing it to P.O. Box 1498, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

"It needs to be designated for lunch reimbursement and we provide a donation letter stating that no goods or services were received for that donation," Mijares said.

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County seeks exemption to speed up courthouse construction

By John Finerock
Staff Writer

County Administrator Scott Wall is working to get an exemption from the Department of Local Affairs (DoLA) and the Colorado Underfunded Courthouse Facilities Commission's procurement policies so the county doesn't have to solicit proposals for the new courthouse plans.

Wall wrote in an email Wednesday the exemption will expedite the courthouse project, "thereby saving tax dollars for architect services and construction costs."

"We prepared a letter to go to [the underfunded commission] to ask if we could bypass their stipulation of having to go to procurement for an architect," Wall told the county commissioners at their

work session Tuesday. "So, we're asking them for an exemption on that because they already have over \$100,000 spent on an architect and [the plans are] 40 percent done. We're hoping they give us an exemption."

In December 2018, the underfunded commission gave Archuleta County a \$200,000 grant to provide structural analysis on the county courthouse at 449 San Juan St. and to draw up preliminary plans and price points of what a new courthouse could cost.

In an interview Wednesday, Commissioner Steve Wadley explained the results of that study convinced him the courthouse at 449 San Juan St. wasn't suitable to be used for the courts anymore.

"We tried to make the old courthouse work. It doesn't, it really

doesn't," he said. "We can't make that argument anymore. With a straight face, I can't make that argument."

After receiving the \$200,000 grant, the county solicited proposals, according to Wadley, and ultimately hired the firm Reynolds Ash + Associates (RAA) to do the analysis on the courthouse on San Juan Street and draw up preliminary plans for a new one.

RAA is about 40 percent done with the courthouse plans. The county is seeking the exemption so it doesn't have to solicit proposals again and start the process from the beginning.

"We've already paid state taxpayer money to do part of the work already, so to do it again doesn't seem like a good use of taxpayer money," Wall said in an interview.

"You hate to leave \$100,000 of state taxpayer money on the table and then start over," Wall told the county commissioners at their work session Tuesday.

"And start over and lose time," responded Wadley. "And time is money. We found that out with the jail."

The county plans to send letters to both DoLA and the underfunded commission requesting the exemption.

"If any one of these entities say no, it's still gonna set us back, but it's not for lack of trying," Commissioner Ron Maez said at Tuesday's work session.

Wall floated the idea that because the county followed underfunded's procurement process in hiring RAA for the structural analysis of the old courthouse and preliminary plans for the new one, that could convince the underfunded commission to grant the

exemption. "I would tell 'em, 'Hey, we've actually already followed [the policy], so it's not really an exemption, it's just letting us extend what we've already done,'" said Wall.

In addition to the \$200,000 grant from the underfunded commission, the commission also granted the county \$1.9 million toward construction of a new courthouse. If that money is not actively being used around the end of the year, the money will go back into the state's underfunded courthouse fund, according to Wadley.

Maez and Wadley both cited in interviews Wednesday keeping the \$1.9 million grant is one reason they want to begin construction as soon as possible.

Wall told The SUN Wednesday that the county has authorized RAA to complete the planning process for the courthouse with the Town of Pagosa Springs and that the Justice System Capital Fund will pay for the services.

Asked why the BoCC did not publicly vote to approve Ash proceeding through the town's planning commission for the courthouse, Wall wrote in an email that the fee was low enough that he could approve it without a BoCC vote.

In an email, architect Brad Ash stated that his firm still needed to complete "full Civil Engineering Plans (Grading & Drainage) / Landscape Plans / Exterior Lighting Plans & Spec's / Final Exterior Materials" to take the plans through the town's planning process.

Ash wrote he anticipates submitting a sketch plan in about a month to the town's planning commission.

john@pagosasun.com

Proposed bill focuses on outdoor recreation industry

A group of legislators toured the Winter Colorado Outdoor Recreation Convention in Denver last week, where companies from around the world touted their incredible selection of outdoor equipment, clothing and accessories to retailers. We saw the newest in ski equipment and bike racks, down jackets and ice climbing equipment, hunting gear and energy bars. We met entrepreneurs eager to break into the industry.

It was an amazing array and reminded me of my District 59 constituents, the ones who thrive in the outdoors and make every effort to enjoy our recreational opportunities year-round.

The outdoor industry accounts for 10 percent of Colorado's economy, with \$37 billion in consumer spending, creating more than 511,000 jobs.

In 2015, the industry took a giant leap, leaving its base in Salt Lake City to land in Denver, with three conventions, millions of dollars and one home, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry office (OREC). I am running a bill with Rep. Matt Soper and Sens. Don Coram and Tammy Story to make the office an official part of the state's Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), coordinating the hundreds of moving parts of this growing industry throughout the state.

Though the conventions themselves seem like enough for this office to oversee, they are just a small piece of the giant puzzle.

OREC focuses on four main areas of work: economic development; conservation and stewardship; education and workforce training; and public health, wellness and safety.

The economic development sector looks at business growth, but also monitors the industry's impact on our outdoor spaces. Development needs to be sustainable, innovative and authentic to the people who use it or are otherwise affected by it.

Some of the office's accomplishments include helping rural economic development by expanding outdoor recreation and forming the Rural Technical Assistance Program, who partners with the CU Masters of the Environment Program. They have encouraged businesses to move to Colorado, hosted the Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit in Glenwood Springs to advance statewide economic growth, opened several recreation areas and sponsored the 2019 Colorado Classic, the only all-women, stand-alone professional bike race in the Western Hemisphere.

In the conservation and stewardship area, OREC works to mitigate the economic and social impact of outdoor recreation activities. They're working to estab-

lish the Fisher's Peak State Park in Trinidad, which will be the second-largest state park in Colorado. Partnering with others, they are balancing the multiple uses of public lands, restoring critical landscapes and deepening the relationship between the energy and recreation sectors.

OREC also promotes the Leave No Trace program and lead the Plastic Impact Promise, where 225 outdoor brands signed the pledge to not use single-use plastics.

OREC is supporting the next generation of outdoor industry leadership through its education and workforce training. It is working with several state colleges and universities to expand their outdoor recreation courses, and has established three fellowships at Western Colorado University in Gunnison to advance a more diverse student body. OREC established a Youth Ambassador program, encouraging involvement in the industry, and created an Executive Certificate Program for the industry through the CU Leeds School of Business.

The office understands the connection between expensive health care and physical health and, in its fourth component, promotes the health benefits of being outdoors. The office is partnering with the CU School of Public Health and OEDIT to create Health Link modules. These modules will help guide businesses to both assess and improve their workplace connections to outdoor recreation, advancing the mental and physical health of every employee.

The office has also formed a partnership with the search and rescue community to explore how to secure permanent funding.

The bill will be heard in the Energy and Environment Committee on Feb. 27, after we finish the House's morning floor session, usually around 10:30. In District 59, constituents may participate remotely at Fort Lewis College in Durango, or the Colorado Mesa University campuses in Montrose or Grand Junction. Sign up on the Colorado Legislature's website by going to leg.colorado.gov/remotetestimony, then check the box next to HB20-1191.

OREC is a great boon to the Western Slope, focusing on some of our biggest needs: health care, economic growth, renewable energy, education and the varied uses of our public lands. I am proud to sponsor its continuous service.



Rep. McLachlan's Report

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Fly Me to the Moon: Valentine's Night Mystery Box Party

Aspire Medical Services and Education • Friday, Feb. 14 • 6 p.m. • PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.



Photo courtesy Aspire Medical Services and Education



Photo courtesy Aspire Medical Services and Education

Bob Hemenger will serve as the jazz musician and singer for Aspire's Valentine's night mystery box fundraiser. Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased online at www.aspirepagosa.org/valentines-night-party or by calling 422-2631.

Win the trip of a lifetime at Aspire's Valentine's fundraiser

By Kristi Smith

Special to The PREVIEW

Imagine it's 1950 and you are in an airport at 6 p.m. on Valentine's night when you hear the sweet cry of a

saxophone in the distance. As you follow the music, you see a line of people waiting to buy a ticket to get in to a curtained off room. Your curiosity is piqued because now you're smelling the delicious food and **See Win on next page**

Live Performers



Thursday

Riff Raff downtown: Ben Gibson Duo, 6 p.m.
The Springs Resort atrium: Shelley Sinclair, 6 p.m.

Friday

Pagosa Brewing Company: The San Juan Mountain Boys, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

Coyote Moon Bar and Grill: Karaoke with Lisa Saunders, 9 p.m.

Tuesday

Pagosa Brewing Company: Open Mic hosted by Emily, 6 p.m.

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Win

■ **continued from previous page**
 the music has become a siren song. You quickly buy a \$75 ticket, which includes your meal, desserts and a free drink ticket. You then pass through the black curtained entrance. You find yourself in a swanky jazz lounge filled with people dancing, drinking, eating and having a good time. The musician, Bob Hemenger, is on stage, playing his heart out. There are suitcases stacked around the room and everyone appears to be starting or ending their vacations without a care in the world.

Out of the corner of your eye, you see hundreds of little white numbered boxes tied with metallic red bows hanging on the wall. You go over to ask what the boxes contain. The box seller explains that each of the mystery boxes is \$25 or five for \$100 and each one contains a prize — everything from a free coffee to an all-expense paid trip worth \$6,000. You decide to pick out your favorite five numbers and pay the box seller. She bags them up and gives you a claim ticket for you to redeem at 8 p.m.

You grab a plate and heap on a couple scoops of paella full of chorizo poached shrimp, saffron chicken and rosemary roasted suckling pig; a couple of Brazilian steak skewers; and some shaved ribeye on flatbread. You then find a seat at a bistro table situated near the dance floor. Your day-to-day problems begin to melt away as you fill your belly, sip your wine and relax to the smooth jazz music.

Before you know it, it's time to open your boxes. You go pick up your bag of boxes and begin to open

them one by one. Suddenly, you see a gold flash of paper and as you pull it out of the box, you realize you are the big winner. You are going on a trip of your choice to either Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada; New York City/Broadway; or the Sonoma Coast/Napa Valley in California.

Come join Aspire on Valentine's night at the PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave., for an evening of wine, dining and dancing. Buy a mystery

box and maybe you will be the winner of the trip of a lifetime. Tickets are \$75 (includes one drink) and may be purchased online at www.aspirepagosa.org/valentines-night-party or by calling 422-2631. Additional drink tickets will be available for purchase for \$5 each. Mystery boxes are \$25 each or five for \$100.

This fundraiser benefits Achuleta County's Aspire Medical Services and Education — recently

■ **See Win on next page**

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Win

■ continued from previous page

named the local Nonprofit of the Year — whose services include: pregnancy care up to 36 weeks and well woman exams; free pregnancy tests; ultrasounds; free prenatal vitamins; free parenting and prenatal classes; free STD testing and treatment; free diapers, wipes, maternity clothes, baby clothes and baby supplies with earned boutique bucks; free mentoring program which offers financial classes; and free childbirth and breastfeeding classes/education.

Over 90 percent of the annual \$200,000 in funding that Aspire needs to keep its doors open comes from individual donors, corporate sponsors and fundraisers. Only 10 percent of its funding comes from grants.

Aspire offers affordable, comprehensive prenatal care up to 36 weeks to all patients within the Four Corners area. Dr. Carole Nasralla has 22 years experience in family medicine, women's health and OB/GYN.

Aspire is the only provider of parenting education classes to target 0-3 years development. Parents, grandparents and care providers are all welcome to take these free classes, which are offered throughout the year and by appointment.

About the trips

Scenic California: Sonoma Coast and Napa Vineyards — Enjoy a two-night stay at the Timber Cove Resort in Jenner, Calif. (Sonoma Coast) for two people in an ocean-view room with a king bed and redwood deck, perched on a dramatic bluff high above the Pacific Ocean. Receive a complimentary bottle of wine and charcuterie upon arrival and enjoy a four-course dinner for two at the resort's Coast Kitchen restaurant. The property sits on 25 unrivaled acres above the stunning Sonoma Coast and boasts an expansive outdoor living room with billiards, ping-pong and fire pits. Coast Kitchen, a full-service on-site restaurant with a coastal wine country concept, offers seasonal fare served amidst stunning ocean views. The resort offers a true connection to nature with over 2 miles of hiking trails, picnic spots and lounge areas.

Enjoy a two-night stay at The Setting Inn in Napa for two people. Daily continental breakfast is delivered to your room, featuring pastries from Thomas Keller's Bouchon Bakery. The main building, a recently remodeled 1901 farmhouse, offers five spacious guest rooms. From the moment you arrive, the proprietors will make sure you feel at home, whether you want to relax in the Barn Lounge, enjoy the vineyard views while seated around one of the courtyard fire pits, or get assistance with planning winery visits and dining at some of the region's award-winning restaurants.

This experience includes:

- Two-night stay at Timber Cove Resort, situated on a dramatic bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

- Four-course dinner for two at Timber Cove Resort's Coast Kitchen Restaurant.

- Two-night stay at The Setting Inn, a beautiful property surrounded by vineyards.

- Private tasting of The Setting Wines for two.

- Round-trip coach class airfare for two from within the 48 contiguous U.S. to San Francisco or Oakland, Calif.

Puntacana Resort and Club Caribbean Paradise — Enjoy a four-night stay in a traditional king or queen room with breathtaking views of the sparkling Caribbean from your balcony. The Westin Puntacana Resort and Club is ideally located in the Playa Blanca area of the impressive 15,000-acre Puntacana Resort and Club property, which includes restaurants, a shopping village and a full-service marina. Boasting 3 miles of white-sand beaches along the brilliant Caribbean Sea, the Puntacana Resort and Club encompasses a vast range of recreational activities and indulgent facilities. Golf at the P.B. Dye designed La Cana Golf Club, named the No. 1 course in the Caribbean by Golf Magazine, and relax at the 19th Hole Terrace, designed by Dominican Republic native Oscar de la Renta. Pamper yourself at the leading Six Senses spa based on Asian philosophy, offering signature treatments as well as tai chi, yoga and meditation. Relax at the beach and pool and enjoy a wide variety of activities including kiteboarding, scuba diving, volleyball, pilates, Latin mix and Tae Bo cardio. (Additional fees may apply.) The Westin Puntacana Resort and Club offers free shuttle service throughout the resort and club area.

This experience includes:

- Four-night stay in a traditional king or queen room at The Westin Puntacana Resort and Club.

- Round-trip coach class airfare for two from within the 48 contiguous U.S. to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise — Enjoy a three-night stay in a junior suite including daily breakfast for two in the dining room at this prestigious member of Conde Nast's Gold List and one of the Top 500 Hotels in the World according to Travel+Leisure Magazine. It is North America's No. 16-rated ski resort according to Conde Nast's Top 50 Ski Resorts. This property is located three hours from Calgary and only one hour from Banff. Timeless beauty among the peaks will be yours at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, where majestic mountains soaring skyward are reflected in the vibrant blues and greens of the glacier that feeds Lake Louise. The "Diamond in

the Wilderness" invites you to hit the ski slopes in winter, paddle a canoe on the lake in the summer, savor the cuisine year-round and just soak up the casual elegance that makes The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise such a memorable experience.

This experience includes:

- Three-night stay in a Junior Suite at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Alberta.

- Daily breakfast for two.

- Round-trip coach class airfare for two from within the 48 contiguous U.S. to Calgary, Canada.

New York long weekend — Enjoy two orchestra or front mezzanine tickets to your choice of one Broadway show, subject to availability through Broadway.com. A small additional charge may apply during holidays and special performances. Some current productions include (subject to change): "Ain't Too Proud," "Aladdin," "Beetlejuice," "The Book of Mormon," "Chicago," "Come From Away," "Dear Evan Hansen," "Frozen," "The Lion King," "Mean Girls," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Tootsie," "West Side Story" and "Wicked," based on availability.

This experience includes:

- Two tickets to one Broadway show of your choice.

- \$200 gift card towards dining at your choice of participating New York city restaurants.

- Three-night weekend stay in a standard guest room at the Hyatt, Hilton, Marriott or comparable hotel.

- Round-trip coach class airfare for two from within the 48 contiguous U.S. to New York.

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Photo courtesy Cindi Galabota
Lanes and Links for the Library will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23, at your Ruby Sisson Library.

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Lanes and Links for the Library community event set for Feb. 23

By Cindi Galabota
 Special to The PREVIEW

Do you have cabin fever? Are you itching to find a fun and exciting indoor activity for your whole family? Then save the date for Lanes and Links for the Library, a family-friendly event for the whole community.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, your Ruby Sisson Library will be transformed for one day only into a miniature golf and bowling center. Challenge your skills in a nine-hole game of miniature golf while avoiding the whispering windmill, a cascading waterfall, the book brigade and more.

Try your hand at bowling down the lanes between the bookshelves. Be amazed by magic tricks and balloon animals while waiting for your next turn. Enjoy snacks in our concession stand.

Entry to the event is \$10 per person or \$30 per family. All net proceeds from the event will support the programs and resources at your Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

We at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library envision mountains of opportunity to inspire ideas, enrich lives and create community. To learn more about this event, please call Cindi Galabota at 264-2209 or email cindi@pagosalibrary.org.

Drama Club to present ‘Crying Out’ for three performances

By Dale Johnson
 Special to The PREVIEW

Teenage life is full of pitfalls: drugs, alcohol, suicide and unexpected pregnancies. Just saying “no” isn’t always enough. With an innovative style that combines different scenes with a chorus, the play “Crying Out” addresses drug abuse, teen sexuality, male responsibility in pregnancy, communication and other current issues.

A powerful dramatic piece, spliced with humor and utilizing ensemble roles, it has provoked extensive discussion after every production. Such is the description of the Pagosa Springs High School Drama Club as it presents “Crying Out,” rated PG, by Matthew Hunt, a one-act play.

The play is student-directed by Sydney Mitchell and features Hunter Swinehart, Alex Rountree, Blaize Guterrez, Ana Perea, Myles Roque, CeCe McSwain, Caroline Foster, Caroline Smith, Hannah Rockensock and Sara Laucius.

“Crying Out” was the winner of the Texas Educational Theatre Association Playwriting Award. Nineteen years ago, in 2001, it was presented by the then PSHS Drama Club winning several awards in competition.

The 2020 cast has been working hard to bring Pagosa a strong and powerful rendition of this extraordinary one act. “Crying Out,” produced by Sean Downing, offers three performances on Feb. 15, 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. at the high school. We appreciate the support of our young actors.



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Beyond Words International expanding at home and abroad

By Casey Crow
Special to The PREVIEW

Beyond Words International (BWI), a locally based nonprofit providing humanitarian aid, psychosocial support and healing arts programming, is currently in the process of expanding our work with survivors of trauma at home and abroad. BWI is taking a three-pronged approach to serving survivors of trauma on the local, national and global level.

BWI seeks volunteers to grow existing and future programming. A meeting will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Timber Ridge clubhouse to discuss BWI projects and form committees. If you are interested in any aspect of the work described below, we welcome you to attend the meeting or contact BWI for more information.

Local impact

Rise Above Violence collaboration

BWI is currently collaborating with Rise Above Violence to provide classes in art, movement, music and more to survivors of violence in Pagosa Springs and for the community at large to encourage positive expression, healing and connection.

Student ambassador program

The BWI Student Ambassador program aims to mentor and encourage young people who are interested in humanitarian or nonprofit work by involving them in all BWI activities, including advocacy, fundraising, nonprofit management and humanitarian projects.

National impact

Beyond Words is working to serve asylum seekers who are awaiting processing along the U.S.-Mexico border. Our Mexico projects are focused on 1. Humanitarian aid; 2. Legal aid; and 3. Education and healing arts programming. A BWI team will travel to Mexico in March to further develop existing and future projects.

Humanitarian aid

BWI is fundraising to purchase emergency supplies for asylum-seeker families, including warm clothing, medicine, diapers, baby formula and other desperately needed items.

Legal aid

BWI is working toward providing support to asylum seekers navigating the asylum and immigration process. Our goal is to work with immigration advocates, attorneys and translators to ensure that asylum seekers have access to important information such as application requirements, information on court dates and hearings, and legal or translation services in their area.

Education and healing arts

BWI is collaborating with a variety of organizations and individuals to support regular education and arts programming for asylum-seeker children who currently have no access to regular education or recreational programming. This includes supporting local education projects and teachers, as well as traveling to Mexico to provide healing art classes such as painting, collage, dance and music.

Global impact

Coalition of Support for mental health

On a global level, BWI aims to provide free resources, tool kits and training opportunities in trauma-informed care and art-based

therapy to humanitarian workers around the world. In addition, we are creating a “Coalition of Support,” or network of mental health professionals who will provide free counseling and training to individuals working on the front lines of humanitarian crises.

Project Karama

BWI plans to return to Greece in 2020 to continue our work with refugee children. There are currently 90,000 refugees in Greece, primarily from Syria and Afghanistan, who are in need of humanitarian aid and psychosocial support. Members of the BWI team will return to Greece to support refugees through arts programming, small-group art and traditional therapy, and other expressive workshops. In addition, we hope to provide training and support to long-term humanitarian workers in Greece.

We need you

In order to support our work, we are looking for volunteers to help with our projects at home and abroad. We need assistance with organizational development, fundraising, grant writing and advocacy. We also need artists, teachers, mental health professionals, Spanish-speakers and anyone willing to jump in and lend a hand. If you are interested in being involved, attend our meeting on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. at 31 Shooting Star Drive in Timber Ridge, or contact us at beyondwordsintl@gmail.com.

Sign-up for March Art Classes!

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INSTRUCTOR: Susan Martin-Serra
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MAR 5 - MAR 26, 1 - 3:30 PM
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LEVEL: BEGINNER & BEYOND
INSTRUCTOR: Kathy Reed
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MAR 18 - APR 1, 10 AM - 12:30 PM
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The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

Dancing with the Pagosa Stars set to return in July

By Ursala Hudson
Special to The PREVIEW

Last year, “Dancing with the Pagosa Stars” brought Pagosa together to dance, eat and support Seeds of Learning, and this wildly popular event is back this year and better than ever. On July 11, eight Pagosa stars and their coaches will perform dance routines similar to the “Dancing with the Stars” television show, all to benefit Seeds of Learning.

Seeds of Learning is Pagosa Springs’ very own high-quality early education facility that provides education to the area’s pre-

schoolers. Seeds of Learning is one of only 10 percent of preschools in the United States to be nationally accredited. This wonderful organization serves at-risk children whose futures are brighter because of their Seeds education.

The “Dancing with the Pagosa Stars” event raises money for over 80 percent of Seeds families who cannot afford the full tuition price of \$54 per day so that more children can have access to the life-changing education center.

More information on “Dancing with the Pagosa Stars” will be revealed as we all excitingly prepare for the dance-filled night. To keep

up with all of the updates, please visit Facebook and like the “Dancing with the Pagosa Stars” page. There you’ll find info about the event, ticket sales, the choreographers and coaches, and we will be revealing our 2020 Stars on March 12. You’ll even learn about some of the many reasons to support Seeds of Learning.

Mark your calendars now for “Dancing with the Pagosa Stars,” to be held on July 11 at 5:45 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center. Tickets for this fun event will go on sale on June 5, and details on how to obtain tickets will be available in future articles and on our Facebook page.

The Literary Ladies to discuss ‘Fascism, A Warning’ by Madeleine Albright on Feb. 28

By Marilyn Stroud
Special to The PREVIEW

Madeleine Albright, our former secretary of state, fled her native Czechoslovakia with her parents and siblings during March 1939 to London when German fascist storm troopers invaded her country.

Because of her personal life and

professional careers as a university professor and diplomat, she is very well qualified to write about fascism. She defines a fascist as “someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have.”

In the chapters, she analyzes autocratic leaders from Mussolini and Hitler to the present leaders of North Korea, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Venezuela, Russia, etc. In many countries, “the political center is being weakened by economic, technological and cultural factors, therefore, empowering the extremes of right and left.”

Drop by the Sisson Library and pick up a copy of “Fascism, A Warning” and join The Literary Ladies on Feb. 28 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss this interesting, provocative topic.

History group announces upcoming topics

By Jim Van Liere
Special to The PREVIEW

Colonial America will be our topic for discussion at our next two meetings on Feb. 19 and March 18. Please bring any books or information about this period that you think the group would be interested in reading or discussing in more detail.

If there is any one specific aspect of this period in which you

are interested, please feel free to bring any additional information or handouts covering the subject.

We will also be discussing the Dutch and French colonies as well as the Spanish colonies in New Mexico and Texas. On April 15, we will begin discussing the American Revolution.

The group meets at 1 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (Feb. 19, March 18 and April 15) in the Senior Center dining room. Please feel free to come and join us.

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WED, FEB 26 - 5:30PM

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Photo courtesy Yearbook Staff

The Americana Project class will be playing an informal concert at The Springs Resort Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. The free concert will be in the atrium of the Luxury Lodge. Students will be performing a mix of cover and original music. This year's class has 30 amazing musicians who are eager to share their music with you. The Americana Project class is an elective offering at Pagosa Springs High School. This is the 11th year and the primary focus of the class is on performance and songwriting. Students gain self-confidence, self-expression and the ability to stand and deliver a song. These skills transfer over to everyday life, and they also create a lifelong love and appreciation for a good song.



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After FASTBRACES

The ending — finish strong

At the end of the day, my Sweet Al looks over at me and says, “We sure do have a good life. When a man has a good wife, a dog by his side and the remote in his hand, he’s a happy husband.”

And, I say, “Yes, we’ve had our problems and sorrows. I could’ve rung your neck many times when it came to your dog. I bit my tongue often, but we have had a good life. We have peace, a great family, we have each other and Jesus is in our hearts. All is good.”

In living, who would have thought we would be saying these words to each other after 60 years. It never dawned on us that we are living our story in light of the ending of our days.

A character in one of Jess Walter’s novel says, “A book can only end one of two ways: truthfully or artfully.”

Hopefully, we can live our lives truthfully and artfully in that, when we live our last words, we will leave an impact on those who have been carefully reading us.

In writing, writers talk about ending strong. What makes a story good or bad, happy or sad? A happy story with a tragic ending is a tragic one. A tragic story with a happy ending is a happy story. This goes to

Artist’s Lane

Betty Slade



prove that you can’t judge a story by how it begins, but by how it ends.

As I was preparing a lesson for my writers’ group, I came across an incredible story. It proved that the body of work in any story, and even in life, can be sharply eclipsed by the reality of an ending.

Kevin Carter was a struggling photographer from Johannesburg, South Africa. Like many in his field, he lived off the earnings of the ever-so-rare perfect picture that placed a viewer in the middle of something unprecedented. He eventually captured one of those moments which would garner him the coveted Pulitzer Prize. Along with that came an elite status that pushed him to new heights as a photojournalist.

Soon thereafter, Carter could be seen at some of the hottest trendy night spots flanked by girls. Magazine and news editors lined up to meet the young South African,

and there was never a shortage of those seeking autographs. This man seemed to have it all.

While on a trip with the United Nations in Sudan, Carter took a picture that could only be described as the shot of a lifetime. Unfortunately, the picture that brought him so much fame became shrouded in controversy. Described as an image you would never forget, this thought-provoking photograph soon started to tear at the conscience of the viewers.

On May 23, 1993, Carter sat and studied a starving child who stopped to rest in route to a feeding bank. As Kevin got ready to take his picture, a vulture swooped into the frame standing by in wait as the death of the child seemed imminent.

There was something about the image that was all encompassing. It wasn’t just a view into a war-torn country flooded by poverty. It was a human story about survival. People started to ask questions about the little girl in the picture. Did she survive? Did anyone try to push the bird of prey away? Within days and weeks of the fame drawn from the picture of the vulture standing by the little girl, Carter became known

■ See Lane on next page

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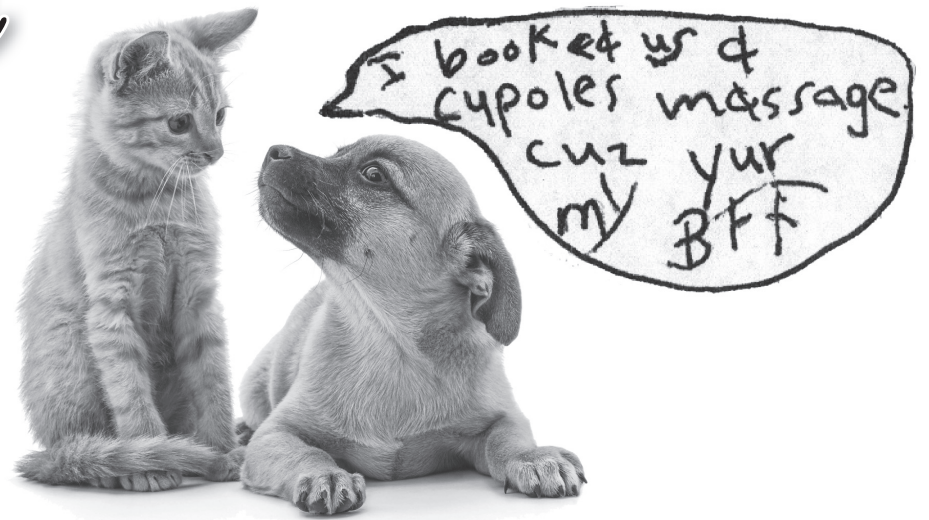


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LOVE OFFERINGS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED



Photo courtesy Carole Howard

It's not often a musician builds his own stage, but that's what's happening now as country music singer-songwriter Tim Sullivan leads a three-man team making extensive renovations to a 3,000-square-foot facility that will become a new event center in Pagosa Springs. The grand opening is Feb. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. at 197 Navajo Trail Drive, in the building most recently housing the Pagosa Springs Arts Council. Sullivan is partnering with Pagosa resident Evelyn Tennyson, the building owner and a supporter of several area charities, to remodel the building's interior and put on the opening event. His band will play for dancing at the event. Tickets for the grand opening are \$10, available at the door, with a cash bar benefiting the Sullivan Foundation for the Arts.

Save the date for new event center grand opening

By Carole Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

We hope you will save the date for a celebration of the opening of a new event center in Pagosa Springs on Feb. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The event center is located at 197 Navajo Trail Drive in the building most recently housing the Pagosa Springs Arts Council. Country music singer-songwriter Tim Sullivan is partnering with Pagosa resident Evelyn Tennyson, the building owner and a supporter of several area charities, to remodel the building's interior and put on the opening event.

Sullivan is making extensive renovations to the 3,000-square-

foot facility, which will feature a stage for a four-piece band and a large dance floor. His band will perform for dancing at the opening event. The plan is to arrange for other acts to perform at the center and to rent it out to groups needing event space.

"I am excited and grateful to have the opportunity to design and execute the interior remodel of the Tennyson Building Event Center," Sullivan said. "Evelyn has been a pleasure to work with and together we have created a beautiful, functional space to host events such as dances, concerts, conferences and weddings that will enhance life in Pagosa Springs."

Tickets for the grand opening

are \$10. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. to purchase tickets with cash, check or credit card. There will be a cash bar with proceeds going to the Sullivan Foundation for the Arts, which provides scholarships for deserving local youth with a talent for music, dance or the visual arts in Archuleta and La Plata counties. Snacks also will be available.

Lane

■ continued from previous page

as the vulture who just stood by.

A few months after being catapulted into fame, 34-year-old Carter was dead. His body was found in his red pickup truck parked near a small river where he used to play as a child. A green hose attached to the vehicle's exhaust funneled fumes inside the car.

Last words were inscribed on a note left in the passenger seat. It

read, "I'm really, really sorry. The pain of life overrides joy to the point that joy does not exist."

Final brushstroke: Fortunately, not every story ends in such deep sorrow. But, it is important to remember that only God knows how our last chapter will read. Will you be failed by your greatest accomplishment, or know true celebration by persevering beyond great despair?

Ash + Wednesday

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Better is a dish of vegetables where love is than a fattened ox served with hatred.

- Proverbs 15:17



Valentine's Day will soon be here. It is a day in which love is spoken and shown in many different ways.

How can love then be so hard to find and share and give? Why is love so difficult to learn?

Love can help us get through difficult times or cut like a dagger. Love is a precious thing. Tend it with care to help it grow.

Join us to learn more about love and how to grow in it.

Time of Services

Sunday	Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
	AM Worship	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	PM Worship	6:00 p.m.
	Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

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Snow, snow and more snow

Maybe one of you old-timers out there can help me. I'm going to ramble through a description of a winter I spent living on Hermosa Street in Pagosa Springs when the snow piled up higher and deeper than any year I can remember since moving here approximately 50 years ago. I think it was during



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter



Photo courtesy John M. Motter

The Strawn Hotel was a landmark of pioneer Pagosa Springs. It was located on Pagosa Street on the lot just east of the school district office until it burned a few years ago.

the late 1970s.

The snow piled up higher than my front door. Only the porch saved me and allowed me to open the door. Snow was well above my head on either side of the front walk leading to the street. I contemplated turning the walk into a tunnel by covering it with 4x8 sheets of plywood.

If you have similar memories, let me know what year that was. I do know that us folks on Hermosa Street would not have been able to get in or out of our houses without the free and cheerful help of "Hoppo" Yamaguchi. I think I have the right Yamaguchi brother.

He lived down on the east end of Hermosa past Lynn George. His sister also lived on Hermosa on the north side of the street. She was married to Bill Cotton(?). The Yamaguchis were a remarkable family that had moved to the U.S. from Japan prior to WWII. I've heard that Hoppo was the most decorated WWII veteran in Colorado. He lost a leg in a bloody battle near Cassino in Italy.

Hoppo had a Jeep with a snowplow and, during the winter, he'd plow Hermosa Street and the driveways for all of us living along the street. I rented what was known as the Skutvik House in those days. County Clerk Falima Gardner lived next door to me. Both she and Sheriff Norman Ottaway were single, but they saw a lot of each other. Ottaway was county sheriff for about 27-28 years and was a man you didn't want to mess with. He could put you on the floor quicker than anybody I ever knew. I saw him do it.

The Skutviks were of Norwegian origin and had moved to Denver to

find work. Pagosa Country had a lot of Scandinavians during the early logging and lumber days circa 1900. While I'm besieged with a head full of wandering memories, you might be interested to know that there was a small shed full of wood chips in the back of the Skutvik house. Since the properties on the south side of Hermosa Street backed on the river, the residents used to chop blocks of ice from the river and store them in the "ice house." Why? Not many folks had refrigerators before 1940.

While we're on the subject of ice, when I moved here, a lot of folks were still using the "ice cave" located along Williams Creek as a source for blocks of ice. It was reached by driving out Piedra Road to where it crosses the Piedra River. From there a popular hiking trail follows the river downstream to First Fork, etc. Just beyond the gap in the river cañon east of the road, the river is joined by Williams Creek. If you hike down to that junction and turn right and follow Williams Creek upstream, you'll find the ice cave. I assume it is still there and still full of ice.



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Atole K., Facebook

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Medicare general enrollment period open

By Kay Kaylor
PREVIEW Columnist

At San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA), I have two main part-time roles. I am the lead long-term care ombudsman, advocating for residents in extended care and assisted living residences in the region. I also am a Senior Medicare Patrol and State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselor. Information on the many aging and care concerns will be included here.

Currently, people who qualify for Medicare are in the middle of a general enrollment period (GEP) that occurs every year from Jan. 1 through March 31 for specific circumstances. In this period, you can sign up for Part A and Part B if you did not sign up when you were first eligible or you are not eligible for a special enrollment period (SEP). Premiums are required for Parts A and B, although Part A is free for those who fulfilled the work requirements and paid Medicare taxes.

Signing up during the GEP means the Medicare will start July 1. Penalties may apply that will increase your premium if you did not have qualified coverage or did not sign up during the SEP when you first turned 65, which is the seven-month period that includes three months before you turn 65, your birthday month and three months after your

9Health Fair to offer low-cost screenings April 25

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The PREVIEW

We are fortunate once again to have the opportunity of low-cost blood screenings at our 40th annual 9Health Fair in Pagosa Springs.

Here are this year's screenings and their prices:

- Blood chemistry — \$35.
- Blood count — \$25.
- Blood type — \$30.
- Colon cancer take-home kit — \$30.
- Hemoglobin A1c diabetes — \$35.
- High-sensitivity C-reactive protein — \$35.

Agency on Aging News

birthday month.

If you sign up for Medicare during this GEP, you can join a Medicare prescription drug plan from April 1 to June 30 that also will start July 1. A monthly penalty may apply for the rest of the time you have a Part D if you did not have qualified coverage.

Also during this GEP, if you are already in a Medicare Advantage plan, you can switch back to Original Medicare and choose a drug plan or choose another Advantage plan.

If you have creditable employer insurance after you turn 65 and later retire or give it up, you have an eight-month period to sign up for Part B without a penalty and a two-month period to get a prescription drug plan or Medicare Advantage plan.

Other SEPs exist, such as when you lose Medicaid coverage after age 65 or you move from another region. The Medicare website, medicare.gov, details these periods.

SJBAAA offers resources for people age 60 and older or on Medicare. For further information, please call 264-0501 or send an email to adrc@sjbaaa.org.

- Prostate Specific Antigen — \$35.
- Testosterone — \$45.
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These prices have been maintained for several years and are an excellent value.

We hope you will join us for this year's fair on April 25 from 7 to 11 a.m., at Pagosa Springs High School on South 8th Street.

Have questions or would like to volunteer in a medical or non-medical position? Please call or text our local site coordinator, Lorena Medina, at (720) 371-0410 or email her at loremedina0817@gmail.com.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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		5			1			
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	6			5				3
	7		6				9	
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							4	8

Level: Advanced

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!

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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WORDS

- AUTHOR
- BOOK
- BORROW
- BROWSE
- CATALOG
- CHECKOUT
- CIRCULATION
- CITATION
- DATABASE
- DESK
- DEWEY
- DOWNLOAD
- GLOSSARY
- HOLD
- INDEX
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A saint in God's Kingdom

By Gregg Heid
Special to The PREVIEW

As I read my year-end edition of World Magazine, I was surprised by the obituaries of 100 well-known people who died in 2019. Some of the famous athletes who passed away were Bart Starr, Bill Buckner, John Havlicek and Don Newcombe. Actors and musicians who left us were Diane Carroll, Carol Channing, Ginger Baker, Tim Conway and Doris Day. Fashion designers and billionaires who died were Gloria Vanderbilt, Lee Iacocca, T. Boone Pickens, Ross Perot and David Koch. John Paul Stevens, a Supreme Court justice; Elijah Cummings, a Democratic congressman; and Herman Wouk, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, were also on the list. These deaths are a drop in the bucket compared to the 2,814,013 (USAfacts.org) deaths in 2019 in the United States.

One death stands out for me: Don Wilhelmi. Not many will recognize his name, but those of us who knew him will never forget him.

Before I met Don, he was a hunk of a man, strong and athletic, a skilled craftsman and a savvy businessman. I saw a picture of him when he played football as a 250-pound linebacker. He had paintings and carvings in his room and pictures of furniture and cabi-

A Matter of Faith

nets he made in his earlier years.

I knew him the last five years of his life, when he was 100 pounds lighter, walking with a cane and barely able to talk or eat. He had a tumor removed from his brain in 2010. As the years went by, he lost more weight and was confined to a wheelchair. He had to be careful not to run over the tube that brought him oxygen from a machine in the corner of his room. He ate through a feeding tube inserted in his stomach and spoke in a whisper. He suffered from constant headaches and pain throughout his body. He fought off pneumonia four times; the fifth time ended his life.

Not many people visited Don. He lost contact with friends and acquaintances from when he worked, so he spent long hours playing Scrabble or solitaire on the computer until his hands shook so much he couldn't control the mouse. His last days were spent watching car shows and home repair programs on TV.

When not in the nursing home

or hospital, caregivers came to his house during the day while his wife, Julie, worked. At night, after Julie went to bed, he was alone in his room. Alone in his wheelchair and not able to care for his own basic needs caused anxiety attacks. He hated being a burden to others, especially Julie.

I have never met a man who suffered more and complained less. Life robbed him of his wealth, prestige, power and strength.

But in exchange, God gave him faith, humility, honesty and wisdom. My weekly encounters with Don felt like an encounter with the living Christ. He listened with an open heart, spoke little, but every word he spoke was filled with wisdom.

When I left Don sitting in his wheelchair, I was thankful I wasn't that bad off. He always said, "God had a purpose for me this way." Those words gave me a spiritual and emotional uplift. I'm richer for the treasures he shared. His life points to Heaven and eternity with no more suffering, no more tears and no more isolation.

Now Don is more important than any person on earth. Jesus said, "No man born of woman was greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven was greater than him." His faithfulness through it all makes him a saint in God's Kingdom.

UU Fellowship plans annual 'Coffeehouse' on Feb. 16

By Michael Demchak
Special to The PREVIEW

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship is offering our Coffeehouse variety show to the public on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 10:30 a.m. Please join us and participate in a program of live music, poetry, humor and storytelling from local performers. This year's Coffeehouse theme is "Winter Love."

Performers will include John Buehler, Leah Ballard, Karen and Bob LeCour, Yeun Fiedler, Bill Hudson, David Armbricht, Bonnie DeMarco, Merlin Wheeler, Dave Pettus and various spontaneous improvisational characters (you).

Great coffee, tea and snacks will be provided for your winter Coffeehouse experience.

The UU Coffeehouse is designed to entertain and engage people of all ages, preferences, beliefs and backgrounds. Everyone is invited. It is free to the public; donations are accepted. This show will run in

lieu of our normal Sunday worship service. Join the fun. See you there.

UU is a caring and inclusive fellowship, serving the needs of our community. Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza (behind Chavolo's). From North Pagosa Boulevard, turn right onto Park

Avenue and right again into Greenbriar Plaza, then turn left and continue around the complex until you see the Unitarian Universalist sign as it faces the mountains. Join us. For further information about the Pagosa UU Fellowship, visit pagosauu.org or call 731-7900.

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3	\$3,831
4	\$4,561
5	\$5,290
6	\$6,021
7	\$6,157
8	\$6,294
For each additional person over 8 add \$137	

The Archuleta County Department of Human Services can provide application assistance. Call 970-264-8511 to reserve a spot. Appointments will be held at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St., Pagosa Springs, CO. Applications may also be sent directly to Discover My Goodwill at LEAP, PO Box 39200, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9905.

New Thought presentation: ‘The Sovereignty of Love’

By Lisa Burnson
Special to The PREVIEW

“As light overcomes the darkness, so the radiant presence of Love and Peace dissipates fear, hate, and confusion.” — Dr. Ernest Holmes.

All are welcome to join New Thought Center for Inspirational Living on Sunday, Feb. 16 for our Heart Month presentation: “The Sovereignty of Love.” Let’s continue to build on love together. Our guest speaker will be Sophia Lugo.

Also on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., we invite all who enjoy sharing their writing with others to join our writing group for “Stories To Tell Us.” More information can be found on the website: Stories2TellUs.com.

We welcome people of all religions, cultures, races, and lifestyles to our services, where we celebrate the Science of Mind and positive thinking.

Our community of affirmative-minded people share joy, laughter and awareness of connection to spirit, and our ability to co-create a life of infinite possibilities.

We will have spirited live music.

Upcoming events

Thursday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m.: Open Your Heart Ceremony.

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m.: “Pre-

vent Diabetes and Fatty Liver with Diabetic/Keto Friendly Sweets.”

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m.: “Stories to Tell Us.”

Thursday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m.: Movie: “Tomorrowland.”

Saturday, Feb. 22: “Release from Original Soul Contract of Duality.” Time to be determined.

Sunday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m.: New Moon Drumming Circle.

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.: “Balance Body and Organs with Soft Tissue Manipulation” with Scott VanderWall, D.C.

The Prosperity Class will be beginning soon. Please call New Thought Center for more information regarding these events.

About us

NTC is a New Thought center based on fostering living a spiritually centered life and promoting the philosophies of the Centers for Spiritual Living and the Agape Centers. NTC honors all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine.

We welcome local talent to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Have a hand in making a difference. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

NTC events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Best Western Lodge (elevator

available).

Request a concentrated affirmative mind treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1052; or calling (505) 604-5031. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought).

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St. Patrick’s Irish Festival seeking vendors

By Sally Neel
Special to The PREVIEW

Preparations are being made for this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Irish Festival, an annual celebration at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, scheduled for March 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The planning committee is offering free space for vendor booths. These booth spaces are utilized by nonprofits who wish to get out information to the public or make money for their groups, or arts and crafts or food makers who wish to sell their products. The 10-foot by 5-foot space is free. Vendors must provide their own tents, tables and chairs.

The festival also presents the World’s Shortest St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The parade begins on the north end of the parking lot and ends on the south end. The parade begins at 11:30 a.m. If you are a little late arriving, you will miss it.

The parade always is led by a float featuring St. Patrick himself (who looks remarkably like Fr. Doug Neel). Who or what comes next is anybody’s guess, though if you or your organization would like to participate in a very short walk, you are invited to do so. Call

the church office for more information.

This year’s festivities will also include a snowman-building contest. We are reasonably sure there will be plenty of snow on the front lawn to create a lot of impressive snowpeople. Basic supplies will be made available, such as coal, carrots and sticks. However, you are welcome to bring additional decorations to make your snowman a work of art.

The admission and food is free, though monetary and canned food donations are appreciated. Bring canned goods for the food box ministry or drop a bit of cash into the donation box to help feed the hungry in Archuleta County.

“We are not trying to make money for the church,” said Fr. Doug Neel. “Any donations will be contributed to our food box ministry.”

Beer and Irish coffee will be made available to those of legal age (ID required) for the purchase of a \$5 drink ticket. Nonalcoholic drinks will be free.

“This is our fourth year to have the festival at St. Patrick’s and the attendance has grown every year,” said Neel. “It is such a fun day. People come in their most outrageous

■ See Vendors on next page

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Feb. 13

Hai Chee. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Movement focusing on balance within mind, body and soul. Slowly reduce tension as you feel better, one breath at a time.

Mountain View Friends. 10 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. We will be hosting our version of "Antiques Roadshow." The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. You're invited to bring a treasure or two to share. Call Tozi Rubin at 731-3360 for more information.

A Course in Miracles Study Group. 10-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Call Karen LeCour at 264-0111 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. All are invited to enjoy a free hot meal in a welcoming atmosphere. No reservations are required.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Pickleball. 1-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

PALS Adult Education. 2-7 p.m., Sisson Library. PALS can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Teen Advisory Board. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For youth in the

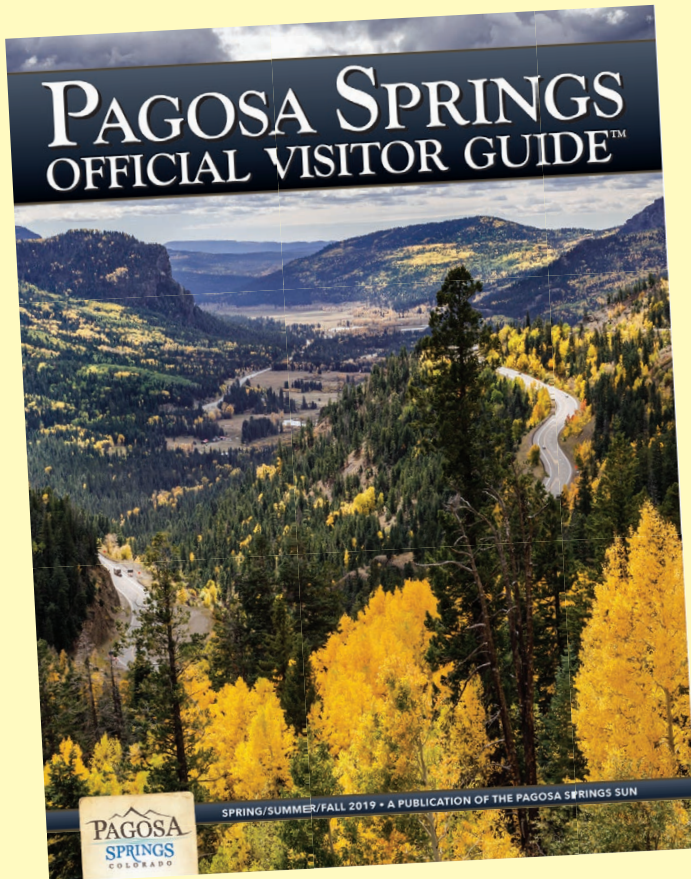
■ See Calendar on next page

Vendors

■ continued from previous page

St. Patrick's attire. The parade, the food, the vendors, the music and celebrating with members of the community represents the best of Pagosa Springs. This town knows how to have fun!"

If you are interested in setting up a booth or would like to participate in the parade, call the church office at 731-5801 and talk to Lynne McCrudden. Please leave a message with your name and number if she is not available and she will call you back.



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35,000 copies of the award-winning **Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide™** will be printed and distributed at City Market, Walmart, The Springs Resort, Wyndham, Pagosa Springs Area Visitor Center, The Choke Cherry Tree, many other area establishments, and welcome centers throughout Colorado. The guide will be mailed in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN to subscribers.

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
6th-12th grades. Bring your fun and innovative ideas to help us plan teen programs. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Broadband Forum. 6-7:30 p.m., Community Center. A forum to share information about current and future broadband projects slated for Archuleta County. Co-hosted by the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation and broadband services management office, the forum will inform the public about ongoing broadband efforts in the county in 2020 and beyond, as well as bring projects currently underway up to date. The forum will include a question-and-answer session.

New Thought Center: 'Open Heart Ceremony.' New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. For more information, email PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com, call 309-6067 or www.PagosaNewThought.org.

Friday, Feb. 14

23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. You can make up your own rules for this bird count. You can be outdoors, wherever you choose, or you can sit inside looking out the windows. Go alone or with friends. Take note of observations and make sure you have a way to submit your data. For more information, contact Jean Zirnhelt at jeanzirnhelt@centurytel.net or call 731-2985.

Free Heart Screenings for 8th-Graders. Pagosa Springs Middle School. Who We Play For and Pagosa Springs Rotary Club will be conducting a free ECG Heart Screening for Pagosa Springs Middle School 8th-graders. The screenings will take place during physical education classes. For more information, contact Ralph Maccarone at 317-0371.

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Tai Chi. 11 a.m.-noon, Community Center. This is a slow, gentle exercise that improves balance, strength, flexibility and lung capacity while reducing stress and increasing an overall sense of well-being.

English as a Second Language. Noon-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Euchre Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

CONNECT After-School Club. 1:45-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 1st-5th grade. Participants

will engage in literature based science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.), learning activities and work up to an exhibition at the end of the session. Registration is required. Call 264-2209 for more information and to register.

Free Legal Clinic. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. No registration required. Please check in at the front desk. Everyone will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a free legal clinic via computer link for parties who have no attorney. Volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for the legal issues in the areas of family law, civil litigation, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, veteran's benefits and civil protection orders. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Anti-Valentine's Lock-in. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. For those ages 12-17. Call 264-2209 for more information, www.pagosalibrary.org.

Date Night at the Potter's Wheel. 5-7 p.m., Belvedere Arts Studio and Gallery, 2363 Eagle Drive. Call 731-1619 for details. The cost is \$125 per couple.

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

Aspire Presents Fly Me to the Moon. 6-9 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Valentine's Day Getaway Raffle/Party fundraiser for Aspire Medical Services and Education. Tickets are \$75 each and include delicious and unique food stations, desserts, a drink ticket, dancing and live music. As part of the evening fun, Aspire will also sell mystery boxes that contain a prize in each box. Each of the boxes contains the ultimate golden ticket where you get to choose one out of four paid trip selections. Mystery boxes are \$25 a box or five for \$100. For more information, visit <http://aspirepagosa.org/valentines-night-party> or contact Kristi Smith at development@aspirepagosa.org or call 264-5963.

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

Saturday, Feb. 15

23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. You can make up your own rules for this bird count. You can be outdoors, wherever you choose, or you can sit inside looking out the windows. Go alone or with friends. Take note of observations and make sure you have a way to submit your data. For more information, contact Jean Zirnhelt at jeanzirnhelt@centurytel.net or call 731-2985.

Open Gym. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Community

Center. Call 264-4152 ext. 521 for more information.

San Juan Shootists Club Match. Noon, 7489 County Road 600. Cowboy fast draw match. Visit www.sanjuanshootists.com.

Open House. 1-4 p.m., 88 S. Driver

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Court. Contact Realtor Barbara Swindlehurst for more information, 731-1184.

New Thought Center: 'Prevent Diabetes and Fatty Liver with Diabetic/Keto Friendly Sweets.' 2 p.m., New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. For more information, email PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com, call 309-6067 or visit www.PagosaNewThought.org.

Family Storytime: Circulatory Science. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. The heart is a fascinating organ that does a lot for your body. Come and learn about the circulatory system with some activities and experiments. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs High School Drama Club Presents 'Crying Out.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Teenage life is full of pitfalls. This play addresses drug abuse, teen sexuality, male responsibility in pregnancy, communication and other current issues.

Sunday, Feb. 16

23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. You can make up your own rules for this bird count. You can be outdoors, wherever you choose, or you can sit inside looking out the windows. Go alone or with friends. Take note of observations and make sure you have a way to submit your data. For more information, contact Jean Zirnheld at jeanzirnheld@centurytel.net or call 731-2985.

Stories to Tell Us. 2-3:30 p.m., Best Western Pagosa Lodge Overlook Room. An open group of individuals meeting each week to tell their life stories to one another. There are no age restrictions or prior writing experience required. Weekly topics are found on the Stories2TellUs.com website so attendees can come prepared.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m.

Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Feb. 17

23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. You can make up your own rules for this bird count. You can be outdoors, wherever you choose, or you can sit inside looking out the windows. Go alone or with friends. Take note of observations and make sure you have a way to submit your data. For more information, contact Jean Zirnheld at jeanzirnheld@centurytel.net or call 731-2985.

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolf-creekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Line Dancing. 9:15-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:15 a.m., advanced at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call Beverly at 264-2064.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies. Call 264-0501, ext. 1 to make an appointment.

Qigong. 10 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Maintain and improve health, strength and balance.

PALS Adult Education. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Wellness Clinic. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center. Held by Tabitha Zappone, FNP-C.

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Philatelist's purchase
- 6 Copycat's request
- 10 Open, a little
- 14 Study aide
- 15 Positive aspect
- 16 Millennium Falcon captain
- 17 Overhead
- 18 Worst finish
- 19 She, on the sea
- 20 Payment
- 22 Storybook start
- 23 Pond denizen
- 24 Trainee
- 26 Series featuring Joe Friday
- 29 Ready for a refill
- 30 Headstone abbr.
- 31 Consider
- 33 Sum up
- 36 "The Sound of Music" backdrop
- 38 Word before school or route
- 41 Cowgirl Evans
- 42 Equestrian command
- 44 Spare parts?
- 46 "What'd I tell ya?"
- 47 Regarding, old-style
- 50 King who wrote "Joyland"
- 52 Cowboy's pal
- 54 Church bell sound
- 55 Beginning to cry?
- 56 Gymnast's roll
- 61 Chris who played Captain Kirk
- 62 Minnesota player
- 63 Orphan of comics
- 64 Circle parts
- 65 More or _____
- 66 Weighed down
- 67 Anagram for 68-Across

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						68				69				

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- 68 "Anything ___?"
- 69 Freshwater fish

DOWN

- 1 Have the lead
- 2 Toothpaste holder
- 3 Molecular bit
- 4 Bekins specialty
- 5 Role-play, say
- 6 Painter's problem
- 7 Shepard in space
- 8 Hired goons
- 9 Think highly of
- 10 Like chocolates in a sampler
- 11 The Man in Black
- 12 Lewis Carroll heroine
- 13 Rodeo performer
- 21 Canary's call
- 25 30-day mo.
- 26 Downer
- 27 Nettle
- 28 Make an _____ (stop by)
- 32 GPS predecessor

- 34 Aweather's opposite
- 35 Ball-__ hammer
- 37 Summer attire
- 39 Give out
- 40 "Door's open!"
- 43 Slammer
- 45 Gourmet seasoning
- 48 Get cozy
- 49 Bricklayer's tool
- 51 Two-dimensional
- 52 Kind of cross
- 53 In flames
- 57 Magnolia State, briefly
- 58 Menu option
- 59 In ___ of (replacing)
- 60 Campsite sight

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the library.

S I E S L A

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: *Aisles*

Subscribe to The SUN

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Open House. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 88 S. Driver Court. Contact Realtor Barbara Swindlehurst for more information, 731-1184.

Incredible Years Parenting Class. 5:30-8 p.m., Seeds of Learning. A free opportunity offered to anyone who wants to build positive relationships with their children, needs more effective discipline, or would like new ideas to help their children learn and grow. This class is created for families with children between the ages of 2 and 8 years. A free dinner will be offered for the entire family and child care will be provided at no cost. For more information and to register, call Michelle Carpenter at 946-0664 or Lynne Bridges at 264-5513.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Chi Energi. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. A variety of movements and stretches to create energy for the healing of our mind, body and soul.

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library

at 264-2209 for further information.

Archuleta Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Pagosa Brewing Company, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. The featured speakers will be Larry Ash and Doug Hershey about Build Pagosa. To RSVP, contact John Porco at jwppagosa@gmail.com or call 946-2684.

Hand-Drumming Class. Noon, PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Join musician and music therapist Paul Roberts for a hand-drumming class. All are welcome. Hand drums will be provided for those who don't have one. For further information, call 731-3117.

Pickleball. Noon-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Mahjong. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Do-It-Yourself (DIY): Book Tote Bags. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Take a beloved hardcover book off the shelf and put it on your shoulder by transforming it into a smart-looking tote. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Teen Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 7th-12th grade. Xbox 360 Kinect, and snacks. Contact the library at 264-

2209 for further information.

English as a Second Language. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children ages 3-5 years old. Includes Bible time, songs, crafts, games and more. For more information or to register, call Frank and Connie Porter at (303) 901-5290 or email ceflitlekids@gmail.com.

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

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee. Noon, Pagosa Brewing Company, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Congressman Scott Tipton will be the keynote speaker. Archuleta County Clerk Kristy Archuleta will explain Super Tuesday. For

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
more information, contact Marilyn Harris at 749-4499 or email marilyn.harris44@aol.com.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

History Club. 1 p.m., Senior Center. Colonial America will be the topic of discussion. Bring any books or information about this period. If there is any one aspect of this period feel free to bring any additional information or handouts covering the subject. We will also be discussing the Dutch and French colonies as well as the Spanish colonies in New Mexico and Texas. For more information, call Jim at 731-6878.

Jelly Beans After School Fun Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, room 9. All ages welcome. For information, call 903-8104.

STEM Program. 4-5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School. For those in the 5th-8th grade. The Archuleta County Extension Office in conjunction with 4-H/AmeriCorps is offering a free STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program. This year's theme is Edible Science. This fun and educational program will provide students with hands-on opportunities to explore rocks and soil, DNA, cell structures, build a Mars Rover, become a bridge engineer and more. To register call 264-5931.

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

The Spouses/Family of Veterans Group. 5:30-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa

Blvd. Contact Dr. Sharon Carter at 398-0883 or Charlotte at 731-1025 for further information.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. This program will be on the ecology of important cavity-nesting birds in our area, including a hands-on birdhouse-building workshop.

Study on Biblical Feasts. 7 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Are you interested in learning about the biblical/Jewish festivals? Come join the fun as we study these appointed times. Hosted by Rabbi Gene Dwinell. Call 946-5262 or email ahavatadonai@gmail.com for more information.

The Most Excellent Way. 7 p.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship Church, 1044 Park Ave. The Most Excellent Way offers Bible-based relief from addictions and compulsions, with men and women meeting separately for utmost confidentiality. Call 507-0123 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 20

Hai Chee. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Movement focusing on balance within mind, body and soul. Slowly reduce tension as you feel better, one breath at a time.

A Course in Miracles Study Group. 10-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Call Karen LeCour at 264-0111 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. All are invited to

enjoy a free hot meal in a welcoming atmosphere. No reservations are required.

Chimney Rock National Monument Open House. 12:30-1:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Stop by and enjoy desserts and conversation with our volunteers. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call 731-7133.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Pickleball. 1-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.


PALS Adult Education. 2-7 p.m., Sisson Library. PALS can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Mask-Making. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 6th-12th grade. Join us to make and decorate masks. From steampunk to superhero to carnival, masks come in all styles. We'll provide the supplies. Just bring your imagination. Call 264-2209 for more information.

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

New Thought Center: Movie. 6 p.m., New Thought Center, 3505

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

W. U.S. 160. We will be showing "Tomorrowland." For more information, email PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com, call 309-6067 or visit www.PagosaNewThought.org.

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

Friday, Feb. 21

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Tai Chi. 11 a.m.-noon, Community Center. This is a slow, gentle exercise that improves balance, strength, flexibility and lung capacity while reducing stress and increasing an overall sense of well-being.

English as a Second Language. Noon-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

CONNECT After-School Club. 1:45-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 1st-5th grade. Participants

will engage in literature based science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.), learning activities and work up to an exhibition at the end of the session. Registration is required. Call 264-2209 for more information and to register.

Teen Book Club. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in 6th-12th grade. Join us for snacks and lively discussion of this month's book, "This Song Will Save Your Life" by Leila Sales. Stop by to pick up a copy. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs High School Drama Club Presents 'Crying Out.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Teenage life is full of pitfalls. This play addresses drug abuse, teen sexuality, male responsibility in pregnancy, communication and other current issues.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Homebuyers Education Class. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Tired of renting? Join our Homebuyer Education Class. Learn what it takes to become a homeowner and gain access to local down payment assistance

programs, real estate, inspection and home maintenance. Space is limited. To register, visit www.homesfund.org.

DUST2 Fat Bike Race. 9 a.m., Wolf Creek Pass, Forest Service Road 725. Registration and check-in 8:15-8:45 a.m. Fun for all ages and abilities, \$25/adults and \$20/18 and under. There will be prizes for first place adult male/female, first place under 18 and best costume. For more information, call 398-1168 or call www.dustx2.com.

Open Gym. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Call 264-4152, ext. 521 for more information.

Meditation and Dharma Discussion. 10 a.m., Pagosa Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Suite B-15, 70 Greenbriar Drive. All are welcome.

Crafting Club. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Center. Join us for creativity, crafting and sharing ideas. This will be a time to bring your creativity, projects in progress, supplies and ideas to spend some time being crafty and connect with others who enjoy all aspects of creativity, too.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Sisson Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination.

■ See Calendar on next page

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SWEETHEART DEALS

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store

279 Pagosa Street, HWY 160 in Downtown

Open seven days a week from 9am-5pm (winter hours) and 9am-6pm (starting March 1)

Visit the Thrift Store this month to shop store-wide sales!

Daily sales will begin on President's Day weekend starting Thursday, February 13th.

Come get lots of quality items at deeply discounted prices!

Mattresses Extra 15% Off | Jewelry and Books Extra 50% Off

*Got any gently used or new items that you no longer need?
Donate to our Thrift Store! Donations and sales help us provide
quality care to our community's cats and dogs in need!*

Valentine's Giveaway Basket Drawing Thursday, February 13

Enter to win with each purchase between now and February 13.

For questions about donating to or shopping at our Thrift Store,
call 970-264-6424. To adopt an animal, call 970-731-4771.

For more information about the HSPS, visit www.humanesociety.biz.

A SINCERE THANK YOU

To everyone who adopted an animal from our shelter, volunteered,
donated to and/or shopped at our Thrift Store, attended our fundraising events,
or made a financial gift in 2019. We are so grateful for your support!

Best Valentine's Wishes to all for a joyful and fulfilling 2020!



Registration open for AARP Smart Driver Course

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

The AARP Smart Driver course, offered by AARP Driver Safety, is the nation's first and largest refresher course designed specifically for drivers age 50 and older. For more than 35 years, the course has taught 16 million drivers proven safety strategies so they can continue driving safely for as long as possible.

Why take the course?

More than nine in 10 course participants report changing at least one key driving behavior for the better as a result of what they learned in the course and over eight in 10 participants felt that information they learned in the course has prevented them from being in a crash. Plus, you may be eligible to receive an insurance discount upon completing the

Senior News

course, so consult your insurance agent for details.

AARP membership is not required to take the course.

The classroom course costs only \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers.

To register, visit aarp.org/find-acourse. The Pagosa Springs Senior Center staff will be glad to help you register.

Due to popular demand, the Senior Center is hosting another class on March 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. For reservations, call (970) 462-9613.

Euchre

Euchre is a card game invented around 1860 played in partnerships with a deck of 24, 28 or sometimes 32 standard playing cards. It is the game responsible for introducing the joker into modern card packs.

The group will meet on Fridays at 1 p.m. The next game is Friday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m.

VITA tax preparation

VITA will be returning to prepare federal and state income tax returns at no charge as part of the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The 2020 dates are Feb. 22 and March 14, by appointment only. The gross income limit this tax season is \$54,000. Please call 264-2167 for more information or to make an appointment.

History (Book) Club

Are you interested in reading and talking about history with others? If so, please join us and bring your ideas and experiences as we continue a history discussion group at the Senior Center. The discussions will cover many

■ See Senior on next page

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Family Storytime: Collage-ify This. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Experiment with the art form of collage with a variety of techniques and projects. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Beyond Words International Informational Meeting. 4-6 p.m., Timber Ridge Clubhouse, 31 Shooting Star Drive. We are looking for volunteers to help with our projects at home and abroad. We need assistance with organizational development, fundraising, grant writing and advocacy. For more information, attend or email beyondwordstintl@gmail.com.

Pagosa Play Place: Murder Mystery Fundraiser. 6 p.m., Best Western Pagosa Lodge, 3505 U.S. 160. Heavy appetizers, dessert, silent auction, cash bar. Tickets are available at Eventbrite or Pagosa Play Place, \$45 general admission or \$55 for royal VIP.

Pagosa Springs High School Drama Club Presents 'Crying Out.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Teenage life is full of pitfalls. This play addresses drug abuse, teen sexuality, male responsibility in pregnancy, communication and other current issues.

Sunday, Feb. 23

Mt. Allison Grange Bunco Party. 1 p.m., Mt. Allison Grange. A community Bunco and potluck get-together. For more information, email mtallisongrange@gmail.com, Facebook: <https://www.face->

book.com/mtallisongrange/, or call Yvonne at 799-3064.

Lanes and Links for the Library.

1-4 p.m., Sisson Library. A family-friendly event for the whole community. For one day only, the library will be transformed into a nine-hole miniature golf and four-lane bowling center. Entry to the event is \$10 per person or \$30 per family. For more information, call Cindi Galabota at 264-2209 or email cindi@pagosalibrary.org.

Stories to Tell Us. 2-3:30 p.m., Best Western Pagosa Lodge Overlook Room. An open group of individuals meeting each week to tell their life stories to one another. There are no age restrictions or prior writing experience required. Weekly topics are found on the Stories2TellUs.com website so attendees can come prepared.

High Country Squares Dances. 3-5 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Richard Berry calls both Mainstream and Plus. Visitors are always welcome. For information, contact Steve Keil at stevekeil128@gmail.com or 731-0044.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

New Thought Center: 'New Moon Drumming Circle.' 6 p.m., New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. For more information, email PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com, call 309-6067 or visit www.PagosaNewThought.org.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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Offer ends 3/31/20

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Anti-Valentine's Lock-in and mask-making fun for tweens, teens

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Ages 12-17 are invited to a fun event with food, games, crafts and movies from 5 to 7 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 14. You must have a permission slip to participate. Pick one up at the library or get it on our website and bring it with you to be allowed entry. You must be in the building by 5 p.m. Details are in the February teen/tween calendar.

Then, next Thursday, Feb. 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., sixth- through 12th-graders are invited to join us to make and decorate masks. Masks come in all styles, from carnival to steampunk to superhero. Just bring your imagination — we'll provide the supplies.

Library News

Library closure

Your library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, for Presidents Day.

Save the date for fun family event

We hope you will mark your calendars for Sunday, Feb. 23, for a fun Lanes and Links family-friendly community event from 1 to 4 p.m., when your library will

be transformed into a miniature golf and bowling center for one day only. The cost is \$10 per person or \$30 per family, with tickets sold at the door. All net proceeds from

■ See Library on next page

Senior

■ continued from previous page
historical subjects based on the preferences of the group. Please come and bring your friends who might also be interested.

In the fall, the History Group began its study of English history and how it influenced America.

The essence of the discussions concerning England is what America adopted and what it rejected regarding England's form of government and culture.

Facilitated by Jim Van Liere, the group meets the third Wednesday of every month.

The next History Club meeting is Feb. 19 at 1 p.m.

Health and wellness

The Senior Center is continuing the pilot program which expands health and wellness services to Archuleta County seniors. The program includes wellness and blood pressure monitoring or allows individual area seniors to discuss two subjects of their choice.

There is no charge for Medicare enrollees. Participant IDs will include Medicare card, photo ID and, if necessary, any supplemental insurances. No Medicaid is accepted at this time. Participants are encouraged to bring a list of their current medications.

The goal of the outreach clinic is to provide care to those who are not able to travel.

The next health and wellness date will be Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memberships

Senior Discount Club Memberships are now offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

Everyone is welcome to join us

for lunch. If you are a senior (60 years and older), for only a \$4 suggested donation, you are eligible for a hot meal, drink and a salad prepared by our kitchen staff.

The guest fee for those 59 and under is \$10 and children 10 years and under can eat for \$8.50 each. Access to the salad bar is only \$6 for those under 60.

Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, February 13 — Chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, milk, dinner roll with butter and salad bar.

Friday, Feb. 14 — Spaghetti with meatballs, caprese skewers, focaccia bread with butter, milk, salad bar and chocolate raspberry cake.

Monday, Feb. 17 — Closed for the birthday of George Washington.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 — Tilapia taco, peach salsa, refried beans, milk, salad bar and lime dessert.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 — Chicken, broccoli and rice casserole, zucchini medley, crème fraiche carrots, milk, salad bar and chocolate chip cookie.

Thursday, Feb. 20 — Beef goulash, roasted cauliflower with red peppers, steamed asparagus with lemon, milk, salad bar and carrot cake.

Reservations and cancellations are required. You can make a reservation at 264-2167 by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you would like to dine in the Community Cafe at the Senior Center.

For your convenience, you can make your reservations in advance or have a standing reservation on days you know you will always attend. Please cancel if you cannot attend on your standing reservation days.

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Library

■ **continued from previous page** the event will support the library's programs and resources.

Text alerts

Just a reminder that your library has a program called ShoutBomb that, when signed up, allows you to receive text messages on your cell-phone when items you requested are ready for pickup or when items are overdue. You can also use this service to text the library to renew items. It is available in both English and Spanish.

Signing up for ShoutBomb is free, though standard text rates do apply. This service will only work with phones that can receive SMS text messages and most smartphones should qualify. To sign up for ShoutBomb, log in to your account on your computer and click the button on the left that says, "Sign Up for Text Message Notifications." A document will open up on your computer that explains how to sign up for ShoutBomb. It takes only a few minutes to sign up, but you will want to have your library card handy. Of course, you can always speak with one of our friendly library staff and they would be happy to help you sign up for ShoutBomb.

Credit and debit cards

Your library now accepts credit and debit card payments for charges of \$10 or more. You may use this feature to pay for any library costs, such as for your copying and faxing needs, to purchase your favorite used books, or to purchase a nifty Ruby Sisson Library bag to carry all of your borrowed and purchased items.

Teen advisory board today

Today, Thursday, Feb. 13, the teen advisory board meets from 4 to 5 p.m. Sixth- through 12th-graders are invited to bring your fun and innovative ideas to help us plan teen programs. Share an idea to pick out a free book.

Legal clinic tomorrow

Tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m., a free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney will take place via computer link.

Volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for legal issues in the areas of family law, civil litigation, property tax, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, veterans benefits and civil protection orders.

Please check in at the registration desk. This clinic takes place the second Friday of every month.

After-school club tomorrow

The after-school club for first-through fifth-graders takes place tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 14, from

1:45 to 3:30 p.m. It takes place on the second, third and fourth Friday of every month. Participants will engage in literature-based science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) learning activities and work up to an exhibition on the first Friday following each three-week session. Registration is required by calling us at 264-2209 or dropping by the library.

Adult DIY

At this month's free DIY event next Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 1 to 2 p.m., you'll take a beloved hard-cover book off the shelf and put it on your shoulder by transforming it into a smart-looking tote bag. No registration is required.

Teen gaming

Free teen gaming happens on Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for teens in the sixth through 12th grades. Enjoy Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks.

ESL classes twice a week

Free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes take place on Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. The classes are led by two highly experienced teachers — Joyce Holdread for the intermediate/advanced group and Ellynn Ragone for beginners. No registration is required.

Las clases son dos veces por semana

Las clases gratuitas de inglés como segundo idioma (ESL) ocurren los martes de 5-7 p.m. y los viernes de 12-2 p.m. Las clases son dirigidas por dos instructoras altamente experimentadas — Joyce Holdread enseña al grupo intermedio/avanzado y Ellen Ragone enseña a los principiantes. No es necesario registrarse.

Adult education

Our free PALS (Pagosa Adult Learning Services) accelerated GED course takes place Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 to 7 p.m. Come to your library to get help from Mark with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Free tech sessions

Drop in with your technology questions on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Family storytimes

Every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. and Saturday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., join us for great stories, fun songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move.

Both storytimes are open to babies, toddlers and youngsters of

all ages to make it easier for parents to attend with their children depending on their busy schedules rather than the age of their little ones. These free sessions are an excellent way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers.

How-to and self-help

"Fasting Zone" by Dr. Don Colbert is a program to detox your body in 21 days. "You're Not Listening" by Kate Murphy explains why we aren't listening well, why it matters and how we can reverse this trend. "100 Days to a Younger Brain" by Sabina Brennan is a guide to maximizing your memory, boosting your brain health and defying dementia.

Other nonfiction

"Organic Book of Compost/second edition" by Pauline Pears describes easy and natural techniques to feed your garden. "A Guest of the Reich" by Peter Finn is the dramatic story of a South Carolina heiress who joined the OSS and was captured by the Nazis. "The Passion Economy" by Adam Davidson, creator of NPR's Planet Money, reveals how small businesses are thriving. "Tightrope" by Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn explores how communities are struggling as blue collar jobs disappear and drug overdoses increase. "Unmasked" by L. Brent Bozell III and Tim Graham chronicles the authors' belief in the media's war against President Trump. "The AOCWay" by Caroline

■ See Library on next page

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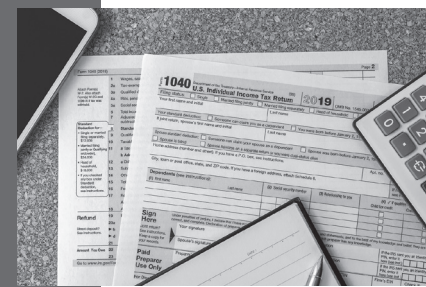
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CSU earns STARS Platinum sustainability rating

By Robin Young and Joe Giordano
PREVIEW Columnist

Colorado State University (CSU) is building upon its global reputation as an innovative leader in sustainability by becoming the only institution in the world to earn three Platinum ratings from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Educa-

Extension Viewpoints

tion (AASHE).

In 2015, CSU was the first university in the world to earn a Platinum Sustainability Tracking,

Assessment and Rating System (STARS) rating. The historic results were repeated in 2017 when CSU went Platinum for a second time. AASHE awarded CSU a Platinum rating for a record third time under its STARS program, an independent program that measures comprehensive sustainability efforts at 990 universities around the world.

CSU earned the best score in the **See Viewpoints on next page**

Library

continued from previous page

Frederickson is a memoir of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Novels

“The Girl with the Louding Voice” by Abi Dare features a 14-year-old Nigerian girl sold as a third wife to an old man, then as a domestic servant.

Programmed Nooks

We have nine free Nooks and three free tablets programmed for your e-reading pleasure. The eight adult e-readers contain either fiction or nonfiction bestsellers. The four youth e-readers contain books for children, juniors and young adults.

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Access IndieFlix through the Downloadable Content icon on the library’s website. Use “Quick Pick,” the discovery tool that lets you sample movies like you would music.

Thanks to our donors

For their generous donation, we are grateful to the Pagosa Springs Golf Club. For books and materials this week, we thank our anonymous donors.

Quotable quote

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are but tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), American essayist, lecturer, philosopher and poet.

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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Visiting Angels of SW Colorado Receives 2020 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Excellence Award



Visiting Angels of SW Colorado announced today that it received the distinguished 2020 Best of Home Care –Leader in Excellence Award from Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in quality assurance for home care. The Leader in Excellence Award is the highest recognition awarded by Home Care Pulse and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Excellence, Visiting Angels is now ranked among the top 15% of home care providers participating in the nationwide Home Care Pulse Satisfaction Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angels long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angel’s clients and caregivers were interviewed each month

by Home Care Pulse. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, etc. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Home Care Pulse, the Visiting Angel’s management team set goals to reach the highest level of excellence possible.

“We once again are so proud of our team, and what hard work it has taken by everyone on the team to receive this award, for three years in a row. We know that it takes our clients, our caregivers, and our management staff to achieve this. We are humbled and appreciative of the level of service displayed to others.”- Michelle Johnson, COO.

The Best of Home Care – Leader in Excellence Award highlights the top-perform-

ing home care businesses in the nation. Home Care Pulse believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

“Our goal at Home Care Pulse is to empower home care businesses to reach their goals and deliver the best home care possible,” says Erik Madsen, CEO of Home Care Pulse. “It’s thrilling to see the efforts that Visiting Angels is making to provide outstanding care and employment. Visiting Angels has worked extremely hard to qualify to provide high-quality care and this award allows them to provide proof of quality to potential new clients and caregivers.”

To find out more about Visiting Angels commitment to excellence and services, please visit visitingangels.com/southwestcolorado or call 970-264-5991.

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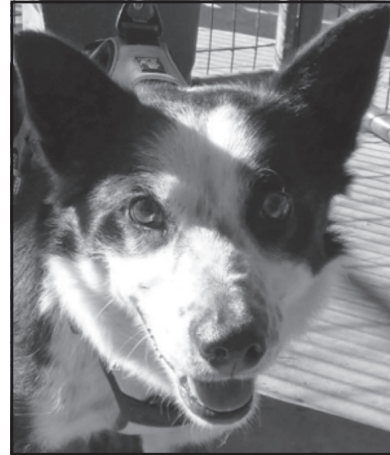
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MARTY: I need love, love and someone to call mine. I need a love to call my own. I keep waiting for that soft voice and tender arms to hold me tight. Could Marty be waiting for you? Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.

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NOTICE CONCERNING PROPOSED CHANGES TO NON-RATE CONSTRUCTION AND CONNECTION FEE STRUCTURE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing of the Board of Directors of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) has been scheduled for Thursday March 12, 2020 at 5:00pm. The purpose for the hearing will be to receive public comment on proposed changes to the non-rate construction and connection fee structure. The Public Hearing will be held at the District's administrative office located at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT. PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT By: /s/ Jim Smith, Chairman: Jim Smith. Published in: The Pagosa Sun. Published on: February 13, 2020.

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NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS WEDNESDAYS, 7p.m. at 315 N. 2nd St./CR 200, Snowball Rd. For information contact Woody (970)582-0065 or Carl (970)903-2346.

TRADITIONAL ALANON GROUP: Traditional AlAnon Group meets Mondays, 6p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Dr. (325)669-9715.

A.A. PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP. 315 N. 2nd St./CR 200- Snowball Rd. Sunday 10a.m. (OD); Monday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (C-BB); Tuesday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (CM); Wednesday 7:30a.m. (OD), noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (OD); Thursday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (ON); Friday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (OD); Saturday 7:30a.m. (OD), 5:30p.m. (OD). (Last Friday of the month 6p.m. potluck, 7p.m. birthday speaker meeting.) Questions, contact (970)245-9649, aa-westerncolorado.org or aadistrict18.org, or call Ed K. 946-2606 or Val V. 946-6086 or Ellen C. (214)566-5921.

AL-ANON meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall. www.al-anon-co.org.

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HELP WANTED

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a Director of Surgical Services. The director is responsible for the overall management of assigned departments for Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Such management includes overseeing effective day-to-day operations, short and long range planning, strategic marketing and business plan development to ensure marketplace competitiveness, the development of new services and programs, effective fiscal management, effective quality improvement and quality control processes, recommending and implementing innovative organizational structures and delivery models which support the safe and effective provision of patient care. The Director should present ideas/plans for approval of the Surgery Medical Director and the CNO for growing surgery business, improving efficiencies and increasing specialist clinic/OR times. Applications may be picked up at the human resources office or downloaded from www.pagosaprintersmedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

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SELF-STARTING PERSON of all trades for busy rental shop. Small engine, diesel engines, electrical, hydraulics, welding a plus. Customer service and driver's license a must. Apply in person at Pine Valley Rental & Sales Inc., 305 Bastille Dr.

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PATROL DEPUTY. Archuleta County Sheriff's office is accepting applications for the position of Patrol Deputy. Applicants must be Colorado P.O.S.T certified. For job description and wage details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit a Sheriff's Office application and resume to Human Resources, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or fax (970)264-1879 or email to rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LINE COOK/ PREP COOK WANTED full time at the PEAK DELI. Bring resume. No calls.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is seeking full- and part-time positions in the following positions: **Snow Reporter-** Must have interactive web experience, strong organizational and communication skills. Hours 6a.m. to 3p.m. willing to work weekends. **Ski School Instructor-** Duties include teaching guests in a group setting, customer service and other duties assigned by supervisor. **Shuttle Bus Drivers-** Part time. Experienced driver looking to make extra money during Christmas, Presidents Day, MLK Jr. and Spring Break holidays. A Commercial Drivers License is not required, however pay is commensurate with professional experience and licensing. **Professional Baker/ Food & Beverage-** Line/ grill cooks, bakers and baristas. **Ticket Office Cashier-** Part time. Must have prior experience in POS system. Friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication skills. **Winter seasonal positions with competitive wages.** Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following job openings with complete descriptions located on the website www.mypagosaschools.com under the "Job Postings" icon. Openings are: Elementary School Crossing Guard; High School Head X-Country Coach; Bus Drivers; Substitutes and Custodial Subs. For more information, contact Laura Mijares at lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us.

GREAT CAREER OPPORTUNITY. Come join our team for a fun and fast paced career as a chairside dental assistant. Paid vacation, holidays and dental benefits. Will train right candidate. Pay range is \$14-\$20/hour. Please send resume to denprac@yahoo.com.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Seeks Dishwasher 4 nights a week. Apply in person with Chef Travis Wednesday- Sunday after 2p.m. Must be dependable. No Drama. Starting pay \$12.50 increase to \$13 after 30 days.

FRONT COUNTER POSITION AVAILABLE. The Buck Stops Here has an immediate full-time opening for a front counter attendant with positive customer service skills and able to multitask. Please apply in person.

NOW HIRING A PART-TIME DISHWASHER for evenings. Please apply at The Buck Stops Here.

DENTAL HYGIENIST: San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to dreicrsmithdds@aol.com or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

NEW OPENING: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER? If you are a self starter, with the ability to multi-task, The Pagosa Springs SUN has an opportunity for you with our multimedia organization. We are currently taking applications for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) advertising customer service position. Position offers salary, plus commission. Reliable transportation is a must. If you like getting out in the community, meeting new business owners and developing relationships, this is the perfect job for you. We offer a fun and challenging, team-oriented work environment. Email your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls, please.

Are you looking for a NEW career?

If you are a self starter, with the ability to multi-task, The Pagosa Springs SUN has an opportunity for you with our multimedia organization.

We are currently taking applications for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) advertising customer service position.

Position offers salary, plus commission. Reliable transportation is a must.

If you like getting out in the community, meeting new business owners and developing relationships, this is the perfect job for you.

We offer a fun and challenging, team-oriented work environment.

Submit your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com or drop off at 457 Lewis Street. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls.

The Pagosa Springs SUN

(970) 264-2100 • www.PagosaSUN.com
457 Lewis Street

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR part-time work? Mountain Pizza and Taproom is hiring part-time cooks and cashiers. Apply in person 175 Pagosa Street. Alyssa.

CASEWORKER I. The Archuleta County Department of Human Services is accepting applications for the position of Caseworker I. For full job description and wage details, visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit an employment application and resume to Human Resources, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, fax (970)264-1879 or email to rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

HAVE LOVE AND ROOM in your heart for children? Consider being a foster family or family helper with Human Services. Call 264-2182 for more information.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for an **OR Circulator/ Perioperative RN.** The Perioperative RN is responsible for coordinating and managing safe, effective, and quality patient-family centered care for surgical patients throughout the perioperative process including the preoperative, intra-operative, and postoperative phases. They will provide support, education, direct care to patients, and act as a liaison between the surgical team and the patient families/support systems. Using comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to patient care, the perioperative nurse works closely with the entire surgical team. The perioperative registered nurse may serve as a: (1) Circulating Nurse, (2) 1st Scrub (Instrument) Nurse, or (3) 2nd Scrub (Assistant) Nurse depending on level of experience and training. Applications may be picked up at the human resources office or downloaded from www.pagosaprintersmedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

DO YOU LIKE WORKING with a motivated and positive team? Do you like serving your community and travelers? Yes! Then come in and apply for an opportunity to prepare food or be a barista at Boulder Coffee Cafe, 643 San Juan St.

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THE BUCK STOPS HERE is looking for a part-time servers. Day and evening shifts. Please apply within.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS are needed to open Wings Early Childhood Center. Descriptions of the positions and required qualifications can be found at <https://wingsearlychildhood.org/>.

BOOKKEEPER. IMMEDIATE OPENING for an experienced bookkeeper. Willing to consider full-time or part-time employment. Please send resume and requirements to papagosa1124@gmail.com.

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OFFICE CLERK/ BOOKKEEPING ASSISTANT. Come join our growing team. We're looking for a well organized individual to help us out with office work & book keeping. We are willing to train the right person. A Colorado M.E.D. Employment badge is required. Please send your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

ASSISTANT BREWER. Opportunity of a lifetime! Join the Brew Crew at award-winning Pagosa Brewing. Will train. Heavy lifting and attention to detail required. Apply at 118 N. Pagosa Blvd., Facebook, or PagosaBrewing.com.

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EXPERIENCED LINE COOK, experienced cashier. Clean, sober, good with people. Apply in person, The Malt Shoppe. No calls.

SMALL HOTEL HIRING PART-TIME housekeeper. Must be available weekends. Pay rate depending on experience. Please call 731-5345.

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER. Immediate need for a bookkeeper with QuickBooks and payroll experience to work part time in busy accounting office. Position could lead to full time, if desired. Will train the right candidate in payroll. Submit resume to jjas@jjaccountingsvc.com or by fax to (970)264-4451.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for **Nutritional Service Workers** to prepare and cook food for hospital patients, staff, and visitors. Must have a flexible schedule and willing to work nights and weekends. Applications may be picked up at the hospital front registration desk, the human resources office, or downloaded at www.pagosapring-smedicalcenter.org. Please email applications and resumes to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or fax to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

NOW HIRING FULL-TIME COOK position. Please apply with Kevin at The Buck Stops Here.

LEAD & LINE COOKS. Pagosa Brewing seeks kitchen team members for Line and Lead Cooks. Apply at 118 North Pagosa Blvd. and Facebook. No phone calls.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Hospital Social Worker**. The Social Worker assesses the patient's physical, psychosocial, cultural and spiritual needs. Assists in the coordination of appropriate services, resources and referrals. Advocates and provides support to patients and families having difficulty coping effectively with changing medical conditions and other social determinants that may affect their health and well-being. Applications may be picked up at the human resources office or downloaded from www.pagosapringmedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

CONSTRUCTION HELP NEEDED. Reliable transportation required. Call (970)403-5119 or email resume to info@fullertonworks.com.

EXPERIENCED COOKS WITH GRILL experience, full time. Please apply in person. Boss Hogg's Restaurant and Saloon, 157 Navajo Trail Dr.

HELP WANTED

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Deandra at dberes@peoplecarehs.com or (970)399-8257.

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM is looking for a Restaurant Manager. Experienced, hard working, restaurant manager needed. Excellent pay based on experience and ability. Please send resume and job references to bob@hartbuilders.com.

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2012 TOYOTA PRIUS C hybrid hatchback with 146,393 miles, serviced regularly. 4 door, auto transmission and hybrid power plant. New windshield, aftermarket wheels, floor mats, roof rack. \$7,000. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St., Pagosa, (970)731-7296.

1999 SUBARU LEGACY. 4 door, AWD, rough body, good tires, needs work. 155,727 miles, \$1,000 OBO. (765)749-4830.

2001 FORD SUPER DUTY XLT, 3/4 ton pickup truck. 4 door, long bed, V- 10, gas powered, automatic transmission, 2 wheel drive. After-market trailer brake controller. White, interior is tan cloth. 163,650 miles. \$8,500. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St., Pagosa, (970)731-7296.

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1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH TINY HOME located in downtown Pagosa Springs. No pets/ smoking. Available now. References required. \$995/ month includes utilities (excluding Internet). (970)946-2137, call or text.

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH APARTMENTS for rent. \$1,100/ month includes ALL utilities (except internet/ TV), \$500 security deposit. Shared washer/ dryer in basement. They are located 2 miles east of downtown, quiet country setting right off the highway. NO smoking, NO pets, call or text (970)903-0966.

LOCAL RENTAL. 800 SQ. FT. 2 bedroom cabin. 9 miles out of town. Heated with wood stove. All full size appliances. First, last, security deposit. Background check, 1 pet okay. Available April 1st, \$1,100. (970)731-2010, please leave message.

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, kitchenette, furnished/ unfurnished, ground-level apartment in home. No smoking; no pets. \$750 including utilities. Call (970)946-7359

TPRENTALS.COM FOR LONG TERM rental needs. (970)731-8599.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOMES lease available March 1st. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 baths. Open floor plan with gas fireplace, oversize 2-car garage. Close to bike path, uptown City Market and rec center. \$1,850/ month includes: water, lawn maintenance, snow removal. Call/ text (512)626-8499.

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5 OFFICES WITH RECEPTION. 4 at 150 sq. ft. 1 at 230 sq. ft. 2,000 sq. ft. of shop/ warehouse space. Call (970)946-0874.

SMALL WAREHOUSE SPACE in town. 10'x15' unit with overhead door and electricity. \$80 per month. Michael C. Branch (970)769-2036.

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE. Locate your business in Pagosa's busiest shopping center. Country Center/ City Market Plaza. High traffic area with abundant parking. Common area maintenance included. For more information, please call Charlotte at (970)903-7690.

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OFFICE/ MEDICAL WITH RECEPTION, three+ exam rooms. Approximately 1,600 sq. ft. on ground floor. Near Hwy. 160/ Piedra Road (near Village Interiors/ Carpet One), Trinity Lane in Pagosa. Minimum 1 year lease \$1,300/ month, utilities included (first, last, security). Contact Susan (970)799-2559.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ANOTHER PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS is for sale. Successful 15 year old local Pagosa Ice Company is being sold because of personal health reasons. For more information, please call and leave a message at (970)731-8600. Very serious inquiries only.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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5 ACRE HORSE PROPERTY. Fixer upper in Alpha! Seller has already installed new wood floors, new pantry door and new stainless steel appliances. Your horses will love you and enjoy the easy access to the large pond. Call Anita Bowles with Jim Smith Realty for you private showing today. (512)214-7923.

A MOUNTAIN HOME IN Meadows. 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1-car garage, fenced yard, porch and deck. Wood stove plus gas. On Sam Houston in Trails. FSBO, by appointment. \$240,000. (970)731-4140.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

2260 PIEDRA ROAD. 1/3 acre, \$9,000. Finance available. hoganpagosa@gmail.com.

Important Medicare reminders for 2020

By Vincent Plymell
Special to The PREVIEW

As the year is still young, there are a number of important reminders that the Colorado SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program), a Medicare assistance program housed within the Division of Insurance, is sharing with Medicare enrollees. You may have already heard about these from your plan, your family and friends or even the Medicare program itself, but we wanted people to be aware of these critical dates and changes.

Medicare Advantage do-over period continues through March — People currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans have until March 31 to switch to another Medicare Advantage plan or to Original Medicare. This opportunity is only available to individuals who were enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan on Jan. 1 and only one change is allowed during this period. Changes take effect the month after they are made. So, if a change is made in February, it becomes effective in March. No one is required to make a change,

but this period is for people who might be having second thoughts about the Medicare Advantage decision they made during open enrollment last fall. Anyone with questions about this should contact Colorado SHIP at (888) 696-7213.

Old Medicare numbers won't work in 2020 — Remember back in 2018 when Medicare issued new numbers and cards to folks? Medicare allowed those numbers to keep working for claims throughout 2019, but now in 2020, your claims will be rejected if the old number is used. Medicare beneficiaries need to make sure they received their new Medicare cards in 2018 or 2019. If not, call 800-Medicare. Make sure to give your new Medicare number to your health care providers if you have Original Medicare (Parts A and B). Remember, always keep your Medicare card in a safe place and shred those old red, white and blue cards (the old Medicare number contained your Social Security number).

New 2020 Medicare Out-of-Pocket costs — For Original Medicare (Part A — hospital insurance,

and Part B — medical insurance), Medicare Advantage plans (Part C, also called "MA plans") and Medicare Part D (prescription drug plans).

Part A (hospital insurance) — \$1,408 deductible per benefit period for inpatient hospital care.

Part B (medical insurance) — Standard premium amount is \$144.60, but could be higher depending on your income. Social Security can tell you the exact amount

you will pay in 2020.

Part B — Deductible is \$198 per year.

Part D (Prescription Drug Plan) — Premiums, deductibles, and copays or coinsurance are based on the plan you chose for 2020. Talk to your plan to find out your specific costs.

Part C (Medicare Advantage) — Premiums, deductibles and co-pays or coinsurance are based on the plan you chose for 2020. Talk to your

plan to find out your specific costs.

Colorado SHIP, housed in the Division of Insurance, part of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, helps Medicare enrollees navigate the Medicare system, including Medicare Advantage and Medigap plans. Medicare enrollees with questions about these items, or other concerns, can contact a Colorado SHIP counselor at (888) 696-7213.

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 golden-crowned kinglet.

Another tiny bird named for the patch of feathers adorning its head is the golden-crowned kinglet. Weighing only as much as a hummingbird, these tiny olive-colored birds have a distinct facial pattern. A bright head crown, yellow in the female and yellow-orange in the male, is bordered in black. They have a black stripe through the eye, a white eyebrow, and a small, black, pointed beak.

This is a bird found in climates where winter temperatures may fall to 40 below. Its inch-thick feather layer, constant eating and huddling together deep within conifers at night help to keep it warm, but winter mortality rates are high. As few as one in six birds survive a full year. To offset this, these kinglets typically raise two broods of up to nine chicks each per year.

To maintain its high body temperature (around 111 degrees), this bird must eat constantly. In winter, it forages for dormant insects, spiders and eggs. Its nonstop feeding style includes gleaning twigs, branches and stems for food, hovering and hanging upside down within a tree to reach the undersides and occasionally flying out to catch prey on the wing. Going without food for even a few hours during the day may lead to starvation and freezing.

Preferring dense spruce and fir forests for breeding, these kinglets can be spotted more easily in lower elevation deciduous trees and shrubs in winter. While they are challenging to spot, these birds are year-round residents in our area.

For information on local bird-watching events, visit www.weminuche-audubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



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