



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 113 — NO. 5, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

August sales tax revenues up 18.7 percent from last year

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County recently received the August 2020 sales tax revenue report from the state, with data showing that sales tax revenues were up more than 20 percent compared to last year.

Last Tuesday, Oct. 13, Archuleta County Finance Director Larry Walton released the August 2020 tax report and a breakdown of revenues by category.

According to the report, “The gross amount of the August 2020 sales tax was \$1,414,701.68.”

The town’s share of this total was \$706,431.84 and the county’s share was \$708,269.84.

According to Walton, “the month of August 2020 is 22.4 [percent] higher than August 2019.”

Walton’s report highlights categories that are either up or down on a month-to-month comparison from August of 2019 to August of 2020.

Categories that are up include:
• Retail is up 29.9 percent, or \$185,734.

■ See Sales A8

April Hessman named Colorado Clerk of the Year

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer



Hessman

The municipal clerk is the oldest of local government officials serving the public, with the exception of the tax collector, dating back to before biblical times.

According to the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA), the early keepers of archives were referred to as “Remembrances” since their memory served as public record before writing came into use.

Each year, the CMCA honors and recognizes the contributions of individuals who have made a noticeable impact on their municipality. According to the Town of Pagosa Springs, Clerk of the Year is the highest honor bestowed by CMCA.

April Hessman, Pagosa Springs town clerk, received this distinguished award on Oct. 15.

“I try to make sure I’m utilizing my leadership skills doing what I can to help other clerks. I lead a Southwest Colorado region clerk group and encourage them to train and get new skills so they can be ready to adapt,” April said.

She added, “I’m truly honored and quite surprised that I received the award. I don’t know how many nominees there were, but I’m sure the awards committee had a time trying to decide. Andrea Phillips nominated me, which gives me a nice feeling that I’m doing everything right.”

Pagosa Springs Town Manager Andrea Phillips spoke highly of Hessman, writing in an email, “She has a beautiful smile and a great attitude. She has really gone above and beyond this year in helping to address the changes to town operations during the pandemic. April works hard every day to support Council and staff and to provide superior

■ See Hessman A8



The Pagosa Springs Pirates take the field for their first home game of the season last Thursday. The Pirates played to a 46-6 win over the Alamosa Mean Moose.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Suspect sought following Monday incident

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer



Shahan

Preliminary information has been released regarding a Monday incident that resulted in an officer discharging his firearm and a wanted suspect.

According to a Tuesday press release from the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD), at approximately 7:48 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19, a PSPD officer was involved in a shooting near the 200 block of Great West Avenue following a vehicle pursuit.

That pursuit began minutes earlier, the PSPD press release indicates.

At approximately 7:43 p.m., a press release from the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) explains, ACSO deputies conducted

■ See Suspect A8

‘Running is like breathing’ Paul Hughes keeps breaking records at 63

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy Paul Hughes

Pagosa’s Paul Hughes runs in the 2019 ‘Oasis Rock n’ Roll Montreal Marathon’ in Canada. Hughes recently set a Colorado marathon record and placed first in his age division in the virtual London Marathon.

Paul Hughes marked several accomplishments when he crossed the finish line of the Long View Marathon in Loveland on Oct. 4.

At two hours, 55 minutes and 44 seconds, Hughes’ time landed him eighth overall at the marathon that went from Fort Collins to Loveland, among competitors that were, in some cases, decades younger.

The 63-year-old also finished first in the 60-69 division and broke the previous Colorado marathon record for the division, 2:58:21, which he set in 2018.

And, if that wasn’t enough, it also landed him atop the 60-64 category of the 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon, with those results made official last week.

“I’ve been running most of my life,” Hughes, who was born in England, said. “I think I can remember the first time I ever ran I was about 11, I think, because in England we ran cross-country at school and it was no choice, you had to do it. It was mandatory, unless you had a doctor’s certificate. ... So that’s some of my first memories. I was good, but never great — a good athlete, but not a great athlete.”

Hughes’ first marathon was the 1982 London Marathon.

He trained and ran marathons for about two years at that point.

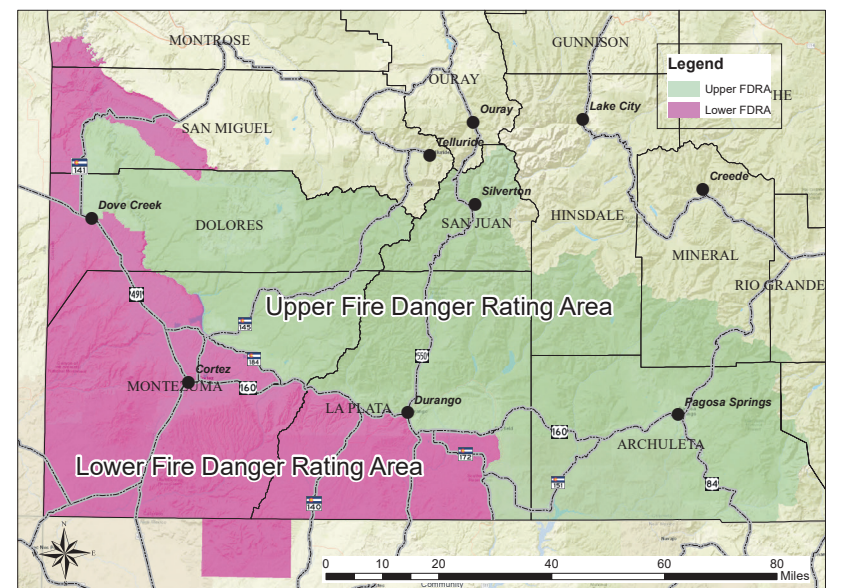
“And that was great, and I thought, ‘OK, I probably reached my level of potential,’” he said, adding that “life took over” with a move, family and work.

Hughes and his wife emigrated to the United States as newlyweds in 1984.

At the time, Hughes explained, he was working for a multinational company and was sent to Texas on assignment and then was asked if he wanted to move permanently to help set up an office in Dallas. He worked in telecommunications research and development.

His wife originally declined the idea, he noted, before agreeing to move.

■ See Hughes A8



Map courtesy Durango Interagency Dispatch

Shown are the upper and lower fire danger rating areas with both categorized “very high.” The area remains in an extended drought.

Local low fuel moisture levels mean greater fire risk

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

While waiting for precipitation to bring back some moisture to the area, local fuels moisture levels are raising concerns.

Fuel moisture is a term used to describe the level of water in a fuel, or a vegetation, causing it to be more or less flammable.

Fred Ellis, assistant fire management officer (fuels) of the U.S. Forest Service, San Juan National Forest, Pagosa Ranger District, lent some insight on what the current fuels

moisture index is for our area and what it means.

“Live fuel includes pine, oak, juniper and grass,” Ellis said, “and the local live moisture levels are at about 50 percent. Chimney Rock’s live levels are at 30 percent, and that’s to be expected for this time of year.”

Dead fuel, on the other hand, is categorized by 10-hour fuel, like small sticks, and 1,000-hour, like dead logs, and those levels are much more concerning, according to Ellis.

“At about an average of 6 percent,

■ See Risk A8

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Physical address: 457 Lewis Street
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual In County - \$25 • Annual Out of County - \$35 • Monthly - \$7
Digital subscriptions available at
PagosaSun.com/edition

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Display - Noon Monday • Classified - Tuesday 10 a.m.
Legal - Friday 4 p.m. • Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks.
Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.

PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

USPS 418-340

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Periodical newspaper postage paid at Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147

Postmaster please send address corrections and changes to:
P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
10/13	72	29	-	-	-
10/14	76	31	-	-	-
10/15	75	32	-	-	-
10/16	66	29	-	-	-
10/17	70	26	-	-	-
10/18	71	31	-	-	-
10/19	72	30	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs
603 S. 8th Street
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EDITORIAL

Will you vote?

In less than two weeks, the election will be over. The decision you take in choosing to vote or to not vote in this election could have a lasting impact.

Earlier this month, The Pagosa Springs SUN asked our Facebook followers if they planned on voting in the Nov. 3 election.

We asked the same question on our weekly poll at PagosaSUN.com.

Thankfully, the vast majority of respondents indicated they would vote. Twenty people said they would not vote and that was on the poll with no explanation as to why they wouldn't vote.

On Facebook, the format allowed for people to explain why they were voting. Just in case you are procrastinating, we thought we would share some answers that might just make you open your ballot and fill in those circles. The following answers are unedited and appear in no particular order.

Judith Farnam: "Yes, I always vote. As a woman, I feel it is especially important. We have not had the vote that long. We need to make sure that women are well represented and that we have elected officials who respect us, feel that we deserve the same rights as men and support that while voting."

Mary Lou Sprowle: "Yes I will be voting! I have not missed an election since the first day I was old enough to vote. I am 83 now...no time to stop!!!!!!!"

Nancy Carlee Raybold: "Absolutely will vote. Even though the platforms are of opposing ideologies, I plan to vote for the most likely party (based on past actions rather than promises and rhetoric) to bring cooperation and respectful listening so every citizen is fairly represented in our country. That also means law and order where all people are required to abide by the law, no matter who they are or how rich or poor they are, what their race is, or what country they are from."

Melissa McDonald: "Yes, of course. I always do, but this year is more important than it has ever been."

Leanne Haase Goebel: "Yes. I'm voting. I always vote. Women died for my right to vote. I take the opportunity to cast my ballot very seriously. We need more women in office and more representatives who actually represent our diverse population, not just a bunch of

old, white men."

Chris Olivarez: "Yes because it's my duty as a citizen."

Karen Davis: "I wish America, was America again. No party affiliations dividing them, just voting for the best person. It hurts my heart to see people so divided. Yes I'm voting, and hopefully for the best person."

Ainslie Kincross: "Of course! Voting is the most basic and essential act of citizenship in a representative form of governance."

Katrice Weber Decker: "Yes but even more importantly my family and I are praying for the Lord's perfect will in all of this!"

Linda Lutomski: "Absolutely, it is my right and my duty. I know of people who don't think it matters. After the election they may feel differently and wish they had their say. Don't have regrets, vote your heart."

Briana Kees: "Most important election!!!! I've never seen more violence and hatred."

Robin Bunch Brobst: "Absolutely!!!! It is our privilege, denied by so many in other countries, and we must honor that privilege."

Matthew Blaylock: "It is an honor and a privilege to be an American citizen and get the opportunity to vote for our president. I would climb square top in the snow to get a chance to do just that."

Clifford Maclean Losee: "Absolutely!! Our right to vote for the people who hold office in our nation is one of our most sacred institutions. Regardless of your political beliefs, I strongly encourage each and every person of voting age to go out next month and let your voice be heard!"

Linda Lattin: "Absolutely. If you don't vote you don't have the right to [complain]."

Alicia A Johnson: "1000% because our children are counting on us for their futures."

Kathleen Wells Steventon: "Yes, will be voting...because if we do not vote as citizens, we have zero say in how our government works."

Jackie Gulotta Weber: "Of course! Why would anyone not cherish that right?"

Kathryn Andrea Grace Woodward: "Oh My ballot will be dropped into drop

box downtown the day after I receive it. Thank you Colorado!"

Sam Conti: "Absolutely! I still believe that each individual has a responsibility to help guide our democracy. Maybe more important when our country is in such a crisis."

Monica Wamsley: "Yes! If I support something, I will make my voice heard with a vote; if I want a different outcome, I will make my voice heard with a vote."

Sara-Doug Anderson: "Absolutely. I firmly believe our Democracy is at serious risk of being lost. Our lives depend on our votes more than ever this election season."

Nikki Taylor: "Absolutely I will be dropping my ballot in the box on Main Street. Why? Because each of us has the right and the responsibility to do so. I value what we are quickly losing in this country and the only way to possibly change that is to vote. Its Simple!"

Beth Tollefsen: "Most definitely!!!! We always vote absentee and when we get our ballots we will vote and drop them off! It is a very important year!!!!"

Sylvia McDaniel: "It's the most important election in my lifetime."

Joan Scott: "Yes, I have never missed an election and this year is more important than ever before! Will take my ballot to the courthouse."

Muriel Cronkhitte: "Of course I've done it since I could and I'm 93."

Mary Miller: "Absolutely. As an Independent I choose to make my own decisions on the information I read and hear and not be influenced by party lines."

Sally Logee Neel: "I always vote. It is my voice in the democratic system. It is my responsibility and privilege as a citizen."

Peggy Andrews: "YES because it is the one place where everyone's vote counts the same, the billionaires to the unemployed. VOTE Nov 3!"

Unfortunately, due to limited space, we are unable to share everyone's responses.

This week's issue is the last paper before the election that we will print letters regarding issues and candidates. If you missed your opportunity to speak out, you can place an ad to voice your opinion before noon on Monday.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 22, 1920

The tag day conducted last Saturday by the school children for the purchase of a school Victrola, netted over \$40, sufficient for a first payment.

The fire alarm was sounded Monday evening and brought out the townsmen, but there was no fire to work on. A neighbor saw an enormous quantity of smoke pouring from the Harry Macht residence and, believing the home to be afire, turned in the alarm.

In this issue we publish the official list of nominations to be voted upon at the coming general election. Study the ticket carefully, so that when you go to the polls, you will be able to exercise your right of suffrage with the satisfaction of knowing what you are doing.

Tom Holliday has purchased the dairy herd of Harold Selby and also leased the latter's ranch, to take possession Nov. 1st. Mr. Selby and family will remove to Durango, where they have leased and will conduct the Rochester hotel.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 26, 1945

Harold Flaugh came home Saturday with his honorable discharge from the army. He had been in service since Jan. 7, 1942 and wears a Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon, Bronze Star, overseas bars and a rifle medal. Harold is with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Flaugh.

Cpl. Billy Warr is in the Aleutians, according to word received here by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Warr.

Miss Helen Snow and Louis Girardin Jr. were married at noon Monday by Justice of the Peace Thomas, at Aztec, N.M. Present at the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Bud Seavy, Norman Ottoway, Mrs. R.N. Snow and her daughter, June. Mrs. Girardin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.N. Snow; her husband is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Girardin Sr., all of Pagosa Springs.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 22, 1970

Big game season is less than a week old but it is now clear that this is one of the largest crowds of hunters in the history of the area. More hunters, too, are arriving each day and the area remains crowded. License dealers in the town of Pagosa Springs report total license sales of 4501 big game licenses this year. This is through Sunday of this week. At the same date last year 3481 licenses had been sold and in 1968 the figure was 2803.

132 big game animals had gone through the various processing and storage facilities here by Tuesday night. This is down from previous years, indicating that hunting may be slow.

Snowfall on Wolf Creek Pass is getting off to a good start this year. Another 12 inches fell there this past week, according to Curtis Strain, who is in charge of snowplowing on the Pass.

County Clerk Felima Gardner said this week that there are 1391 voters registered officially upon the books of Archuleta County. Of that number 793 are affiliated with the Democratic Party, 385 with the Republican party and the remainder have no party affiliation.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 26, 1995

Two graduates of Pagosa Springs High School, Class of 1979, recently shared in a unique experience that demonstrates Pagosa Springs' far-reaching nature in a relatively small world. Roger M. Lord, an officer in the U.S. Navy, recently re-enlisted former-classmate Raymond F. Taylor aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier on which both men are stationed. The fellow Pagosa Pirates are currently stationed in Norfolk, Va. and are serving on the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-6P). Both men joined the U.S. Navy following their graduation from high school and are serving their final four years of active duty prior to their retirement.

Many Pagosans were saddened Friday by the passing away of one of Archuleta county's oldest residents, Mrs. Juanita Chavez, 93. Mrs. Chavez was born Feb. 5, 1902 in La Boca that at that time was located in the southeast corner of La Plata County. She married Jose Amadore Chavez in 1919, and moved with her husband to the Chavez Ranch located southwest of Pagosa Junction. She continued to reside on the working cattle ranch until the time of her death.

WHADDYA THINK?

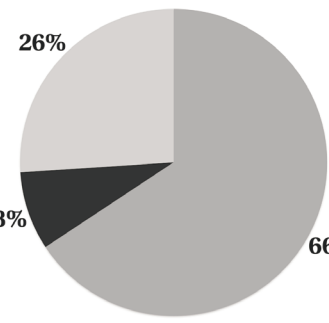
Will you vote in the upcoming election?

Poll results (242 votes)

Yes. — 66 percent

No. — 8 percent

I already have. — 26 percent



Vote this week online:
What is your favorite
Halloween movie?
www.pagosasun.com

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Archuleta County Commissioners

Ron Maez, Chair

264-8303

Steve Wadley

264-8304

Alvin Schaaf

264-8305

Pagosa Springs Town Council

Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger

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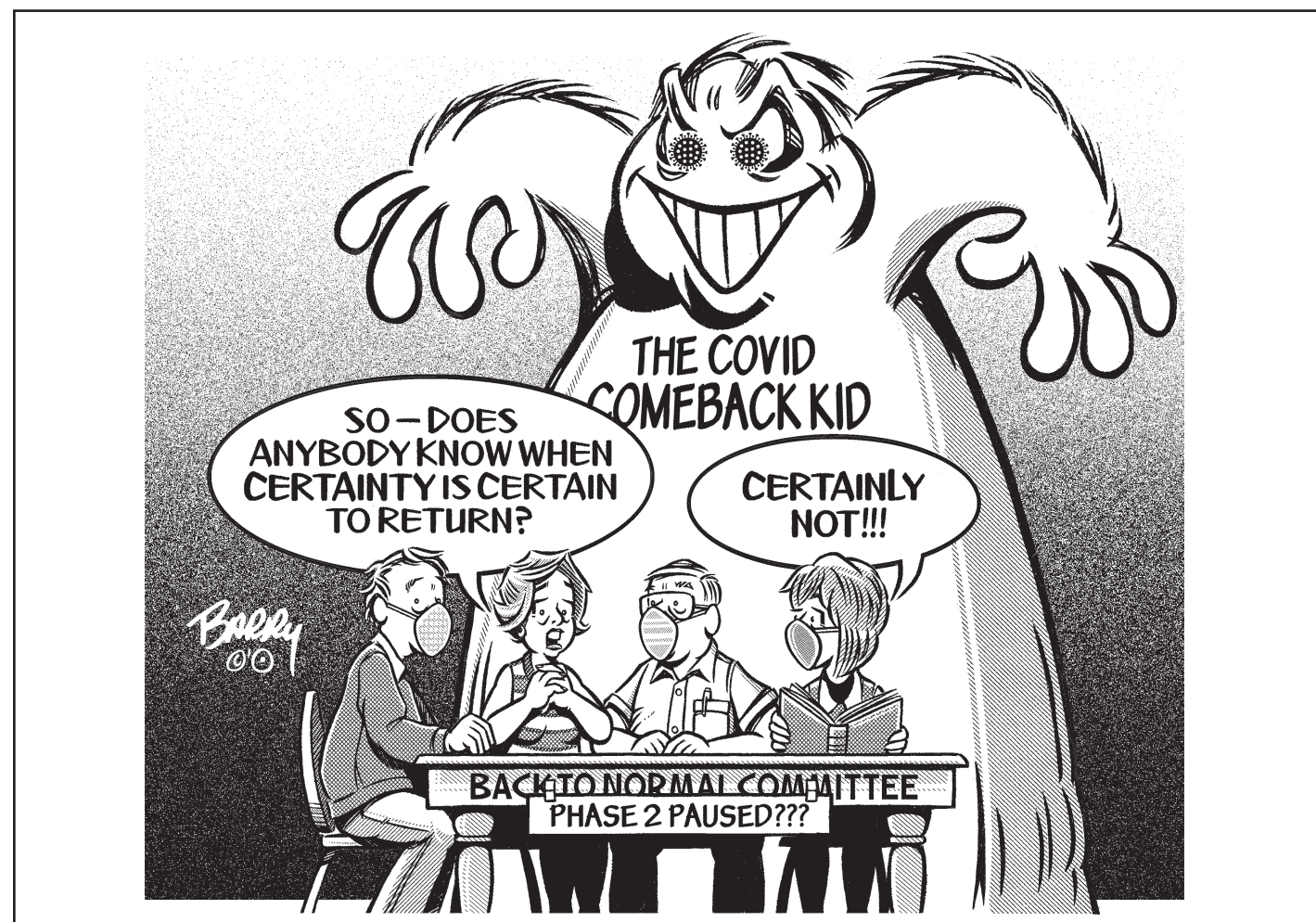
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Rory Burnett

rburnett@pagosasprings.co.gov



SO - DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHEN CERTAINTY IS CERTAIN TO RETURN?

CERTAINLY NOT!!!

THE COVID COMEBACK KID

BACK TO NORMAL COMMITTEE
PHASE 2 PAUSED???

Letters

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

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

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

Secure ballot

Dear Editor:
To insure that your ballots are secure, I recently found out that by bringing my completed ballot to the polling place, they will stamp the date and notice that it was received. Then I placed the ballot in the ballot box. I felt that this was a great way to insure that my ballot got to the right place in a timely manner.

Paula Bain

Vote for public lands

Dear Editor:
If you haven't voted yet, please consider the direct correlation of your vote with the future of our public lands. I've never felt my security in the natural world more at stake than right now. I'm referring specifically to the security of knowing that our public lands will be safe from private interests and corporate greed.

After all, isn't that why the majority of us live in this beautiful corner of Colorado? Because it offers us the sanctity and utmost freedom to access public lands in nearly every direction for the purpose of recreation, of collecting firewood to heat our homes, for the purpose of hunting and foraging for our sustenance, for the purpose of retaining sanity in an otherwise chaotic world. More importantly, this land is the only sanctuary that has been retained for all the other sentient beings we share the earth with, a harbinger of wildness and sequestered carbon.

Donald Trump has done nothing for the good of the environment since he took office 4 years ago. Immediately after his administration assumed the reigns, they dismantled the integrity of the Environmental Protection Act. They made it a priority to downsize a number of the recently protected National Monuments, including notably the sweeping Bears Ears, vital to the many Four Corners tribes who have historically inhabited and procured life force from there. All in the name of making more lands available

for oil and gas leases. Further, the administration has continued to degrade and ignore the pinnacle environmental review process (NEPA) put in place to fully assess, reduce, and mitigate impacts of scaled construction projects. After the notable bipartisan agreement of 2015 to preserve the often-neglected sagebrush ecosystem (and the greater sage grouse), our neighbors to the north in Wyoming have now had to endure endless legal battles as the Trump administration repeatedly attempts to shirk the agreement. He pulled us out of the UN Paris Agreement, a singular decision that has cost US so much more. Last year, in a time when bird populations were already suffering the implications of a warming climate, he made an attack on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. He failed again. And he continues to destroy migratory corridors and sacred tribal grounds as he builds a border wall. Destruction, that's his game.

I believe that we all honor the land here in Archuleta County. We live in an extraordinarily beautiful place and I'd like to believe we'd do anything to protect it from foul. However, our more immediate decision is to remove the single-most threatening and disrespectful variable to this quality of life. If you envision some semblance of hope for the conservation of these lands for our children and grandchildren, then you have one choice. Vote for a president (Biden) that respects the value of science-backed data, plans to rejoin the UN climate change conversation, and will actually work to provide environmental justice for the communities like ours that will undoubtedly face challenges in the years to come.

Keith Bruno

New blood

Dear Editor:
Let me preface this by conceding that Clifford Lucero is a very nice man. I've never met him, but practically everyone I've talked to says that's the case. Most folks say he has a long record of public service. He's been here his entire life even graduating from Pagosa Springs High School. Regardless, whether he runs as a Democrat, Republican or Independent, I just cannot vote for the man.

Frankly, I'm really tired of politicians, local ones included, trying to find a work around — a different way to skin a cat. Well, Mr. Lucero, that cat you're attempting to skin is

mine. We put term limits in place for a reason. I've read they can limit the potential for corruption, reduce political gamesmanship and have a number of other beneficial impacts on local government. It's a protection to keep local politicians from making a career out of County or City Government. The simple act of changing your residence of record from one district to another should not qualify someone to re-run for County Commissioner.

I'm fortunate in counting the other two County Commissioners as friends. Both Alvin and Ronnie grew up here in Pagosa and they bring to the table a whole lot of historical background on just how things work in Archuleta County. However, we really don't need another "born and bred" here in Pagosa as a Commissioner. It's time to infuse some different perspective, different experience and a new way of problem solving from outside our county into our County Government.

Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County have long suffered from an incestuous "Good Ole Boy" system. Do you really want to reward a position as a County Commissioner to another "Good Ole Boy" who, as far as I'm concerned, is trying to game the system? I sure don't want that and I hope you don't either. Mr. Lucero has served 8-years as a Commissioner. Let's get some new blood into the system.

I believe Warren Brown will do that. I've worked with Warren at the Sheriff's Office and know he is dedicated to the people of Archuleta County. Please join me in voting for Warren Brown.

Dave Douglas

Clear choice

Dear Editor:
No candidates this election present a starker contrast than Congressional Candidates Diane Mitsch Bush and Lauren Boebert. Mitsch Bush is a practical person who gets things done. In the state legislature, she worked in a bipartisan way to ensure that the state's prosperity is not just in the Front Range but also in our state's rural and mountain communities. In Congress, she will work to protect the Affordable Care Act, allow

■ See Letters A4

VOTE WARREN BROWN
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

FOR A BETTER FUTURE

- Warren listens before deciding
- He values our seniors and retirees
- Warren encourages youth to become involved in local leadership
- He is committed to improving and expanding Internet services to attract higher paying jobs
- And, he will make local voices heard regionally and in Denver

Vote Warren Brown for County Commissioner

Paid for by Citizens to Elect Warren Brown



WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS!

We're running special photo pages in our November 5 edition for Veteran's Day to honor those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

Please send your service picture along with your name, branch of service, rank and hometown to:

shari@pagosasun.com or our office at P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 27.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

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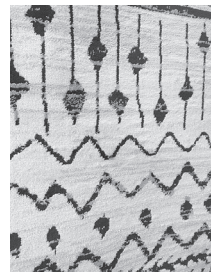
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Letters

■ Continued from A3

Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, fund rural health clinics, and expand substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. She will also fight to protect our public lands and combat climate change that threatens us with wildfires, drought, and no snow for our ski industry.

In contrast, Lauren Boebert is a dangerous extremist who supports conspiracy theories and has repeatedly shown that she has no respect for the rule of law. Boebert has been arrested four times. Once for harassing her neighbors, once for disorderly conduct after urging underage drinkers at a festival to flee police, and twice for failing to appear in court.

Boebert's disrespect for the law endangers us in the current pandemic. In May, her restaurant violated the state's public health order intended to keep us safe from COVID-19. She received a cease-and-desist order from Garfield County and her food license was suspended by the county. And less than two months ago, she received a notice of violation of Pitkin County's Public Health Order after holding a campaign event with more than the allowed number of people and no masks and no social distancing, placing her own supporters and the public in that county in danger.

Boebert has also expressed support for QAnon, the conspiracy theory that has made false claims about everyone from John McCain and Barack Obama to Tom Hanks and Bill Gates. QAnon falsely claims that Democratic politicians, Hollywood directors and actors, and others are child molesters who take children's blood to drink or to make potions, and that German Chancellor Angela Merkel is secretly Hitler's granddaughter.

Regarding QAnon, Boebert said, "Everything I've heard of Q, I hope that this is real because it only means America is getting stronger and better." And, in the same interview, "And so everything that I have heard of this movement is only motivating and encouraging and bringing people together stronger, and if this is real, then it could be really great for our country." On her Youtube account, she subscribed to receive videos from multiple QAnon accounts, although she later deleted this account after being criticized for QAnon support.

The FBI has identified QAnon as a domestic terror threat, and with good reason. One QAnon supporter was arrested after plotting to set off a bomb in the Illinois State Capitol, and another drove onto Hoover Dam and blocked traffic with a weapon-laden armored truck.

We have a clear choice — in Misch Bush, someone who will work hard to make our lives better; in Boebert a chronic law-breaker and extremist who traffics in false and dangerous conspiracy theories.

John Farley

Kindness, patience

Dear Editor:

We have seen how this pandemic has brought out the best in people, but lately, I and my co-workers have observed pandemic fatigue in the manner in which we treat one another and the way we drive.

Our business is on Lewis St. where we have children in dance class and families enjoying frozen yogurt at Froyos. Drivers speed on a regular basis with no regard for speed rules and apparently, no fear of enforcement.

We have also been alarmed by the reckless and aggressive speed of drivers going up the hill on 160. Most of these drivers, who are particularly aggressive, are from instate and driving pickup trucks. What is going on? Is everyone angry? Have we succumbed to all the bad behavior we see on the news? Where is the police presence?

Kindness matters and a little patience speaks loudly to our neighbors and of Pagosa Springs.

Patricia Francis

Natalie

Dear Editor:

We met Natalie in 2008 when we moved to Pagosa; and she was helping our elderly neighbor, free of charge, with some computer problems. Over the years we have consulted with her for many computer problems. She is competent, intelligent, and has a strong commitment to making Pagosa Springs a great place to live.

She has already stated if elected to County Commissioner that she would work full time for the county and always be available to anyone who needs or seeks her help.

We desperately need new enthusiasm and commitment, and someone who has a strong work ethic to get things done. Come on everyone Vote for Natalie. She is definitely the best candidate for the job.

David and Joyce Frederick

Protect our planet

Dear Editor:

Not my first, second or even third choice, but voting for Biden is only way to protect our planet home. If we continue to destroy the environment all the other 'issues' will be moot points.

(if you think your one vote is too small to have an effect, think about the effect of one small mosquito inside your camping tent)

Addi Greer

Hard-working commissioner

Dear Editor:

Over the years, I have closely followed the leadership of Archuleta County and I believe we have one of the hardest working Commissioners in Ronnie Maez. Commissioner Maez is a lifelong Archuleta County resident, who truly has the con-

cerns and wellbeing of the Community at the front of his thoughts and actions. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Ronnie served on many un-paid Boards serving our Community a few of them were: Pagosa Fire District Board of Directors and Pension Board (8 years each), Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, the Archuleta County Fair Board (4 years), and others. Commissioner Maez also selflessly served our community for 10 years as a Volunteer Firefighter rising thru the ranks from Rookie to Captain prior to his retirement.

Once elected, Commissioner Maez quickly moved with the Board to build the State Mandated Jail and also began working to build the Justice Center (also State Mandated) successfully securing \$2.3 Million dollars in grant funding to help our community with the expenses. Mr. Maez is a fair and ethical leader for our citizens in every matter that comes before the Board, always looking at all sides and points of views prior to voicing his opinions. Mr. Maez also spends a significant amount of time both in his office at the County Administration building and also representing our community on a number of different Boards in the area. Never have I been unable to reach Mr. Maez in a timely manner with any questions or concerns that I have had whether he was in or out of the office.

Commissioner Maez is known for his dedication and following up on citizen's requests for assistance. Furthermore, he is a long time business operator and he knows the value of the tax-payer's dollars and how hard it is to make small business work in our community. He is a family man with values that match the citizens of Archuleta County.

It is my sincere hope that you will join me in voting to re-elect Commissioner Maez for another 4 year term so that he can continue to work hard for the citizens of Archuleta County.

Mike Heraty

Voted for Democrats

Dear Editor:

I took Mary Ann Smith's advice (Letters, Pagosa Springs Sun, 10.15.20) to "search Google for the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force Recommendations" (not "Agreement"). This document is 110 pages long, laying out ideas to restore leadership on climate change, the criminal justice system, the economy, and many other pressing issues. The Task Force for each issue is made up of multiple Representatives and experts in each respective field. In contrast, the Republican Party has no platform for 2020 and no stated plan for any of these issues, including and especially health care.

The seven items Ms. Smith listed as being part of the "Agreement," are just plain not true. For instance, the Recommendations do state that "gun violence is a problem."

Nowhere do they state that "gun manufacturing will cease and guns will be confiscated," as Ms. Smith erroneously stated. The other 6 items she cited are similarly misrepresented. A new federal agency to trace all Americans? I found absolutely no mention of this agency.

I certainly do not agree that this (the Recommendations) "is an agenda to destroy the Constitution and implement socialism/communism." Please read the document for yourself, and draw your own conclusions. I do agree that "gun violence is a problem," and agree with the Democratic Party that making plans to address that problem and other real problems facing our country is a good idea. I have already voted my support for Democrats up and down the ticket.

Jan Hester

Proposition 115

Dear Editor:

The ballot initiative Proposition 115 to ban abortions after 22 weeks offers a simplistic state imposed policy to a medically and ethically complex situation. Proposition 115 as written has a number of distortions and flaws.

The main exception to the ban is "to save the life of the pregnant woman" but does not include threats to the woman's health. No exception for the diabetic whose eyesight and kidney function is steadily deteriorating? No exception for the woman with lupus with threats of stroke and kidney damage? No exception for the teenager incested by her uncle?

Of major importance, no exception for fetal anomalies, some fixable, some resulting in stillbirth, or neonatal suffering and death? The Center for Disease Control reports that approximately 120,000 pregnancies in the US each year are affected by fetal anomalies. Many anomalies are not detected until ultrasound at 21-24 weeks or later. The medical Journal Obstetrics and Gynecology of 5/24/2013 states that brain anomalies are often detected after the 21-24 week anatomy scan. The journal issue of 2/26/2009 followed 77 pregnant women who received a diagnosis of highly probable perinatal death. The majority were diagnosed after 22 weeks.

The Center for Disease Control notes that in 2016 just 1.2% of abortions in the United States took place after 21 weeks. The decision to terminate a previously planned and wanted pregnancy can be heart wrenching for the mother. The decision is best left up to the pregnant mother in consultation with her physician, rather than to a political ban imposed by the state, which will do harm.

Vote No on Proposition 115.
Scott Johnson, MD
Loveland

'What if'

Dear Editor:

What if babies in their mother's
■ See Letters A5

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Letters

Continued from A4

womb were able to vote? Who do you think they would vote for? Isn't the answer obvious? Your vote could help these babies continue their lives.

Pat McKenzie

Spending problem

Dear Editor:
My idea of the difference between the two major parties. Democrats in favor of higher taxes are really telling us. Give your money to Govt. to spend the way it should be spent. You are not smart enough to spend it correctly.

Republicans are in favor of lower taxes. Keep your money to spend as you like. You are smarter about it than Govt.

The U.S. doesn't have a revenue problem — it has a spending problem.

John Meyer

The bottom line

Dear Editor:
America's national identity has been hijacked. Donald Trump has tried to capitalize on racial fears and bizarre conspiracy theories to create an alternate reality that isn't remotely in harmony with our self-image as decent and compassionate people.

After four excruciating years, it's appropriate to turn away from the ugly WH reality show and focus on what hard-working Americans need.

We need a fiscally responsible

executive, not one who thinks debt is a joke. We need to understand who really benefits from his unbalanced tax cuts, his trillions in national debt, and his upside-down trade deficits.

We need a leader who proposes sound, humane, workable policy solutions for complex problems like healthcare, climate change, and immigration, instead of the knee-jerk chaos and cruelty we've endured.

We need a leader who will defend our democratic institutions, rather than obstruct and disparage them. We need a leader with the moral courage to condemn white nationalists as domestic terrorists, instead of pandering to them.

We need a statesman who will listen to career experts and actually read security briefings, not an ill-informed xenophobe who assumes he knows it all. We need a US President, not a fascist-wanna-be who "loves" autocrats, disrespects allies, and kowtows to Putin.

And most critically, we need a leader who will work to protect our health and our well-being instead of a denier who, by refusing to accept any responsibility, has inflicted upon us the worst record for COVID infections and deaths among developed nations.

Bottom line — we don't need four more years of the most ignorant, divisive, and reckless president of our lifetimes. We need a man of character, of civility, and of competence. We need a President who will restore our tarnished pride. Vote Biden.

K. Muth

By studying history our Founders knew a simple majority rule by popular vote [a pure democracy] always ends in a monopolistic tyranny. One of our systems safeguards against this is the Electoral College for choosing a President.

In the 2016 election, Hillary's 2.8 million popular vote lead came from a mere three progressive counties: LA, Chicago, and Washington DC. Clinton received 76%, 78%, and 93% of their votes, respectively. If you look at a color map of the 2016 election, the overwhelming majority of counties [over 3,000] in the US are Patriot red, not Leftist blue.

The Democrat representatives in Denver want to replace the Electoral College by a national popular vote scheme. In other words, Democrats want Coloradans — with our unique regional interests and concerns — not to choose who we want as president, but as they — the Democrat Party — choose. And though Hillary beat Trump by less than 5% in Colorado, she received less than half [48.16%] of the total votes cast.

Instead, concerned citizens were able to put Proposition 113 on this year's ballot [vote 'No.']. In hopes of keeping Coloradans in charge of their own destiny.

Besides doing away with our successful system's crucial Electoral College, after 150-years the Democrat Party wants to pack the Supreme Court. Democrats also want to monopolize power by packing the Senate through making DC and Puerto Rico states, throw open our borders and make millions of illegals US citizens. This will overwhelm the vote of every Patriot and make all of America a failed California, which even blue-state liberals are fleeing for red-state sanity.

Last year America spent \$739,000,000,000 on K-thru-12 public education. And yet the very underpinnings of our cherished freedoms are at risk because Democrats control public education through the NEA. Their monopoly has so dumbed down our nation that like lemmings over a cliff, a majority may dismantle the safeguards that underpin their own freedoms.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free ... it expects what never was or never will be."

On the back of our local Preview is an ad for the Democrat Party. Though they're telling you [like all politicians] what they want you to hear, they're not telling you the truth. For by their Party's relentless attack on our Constitution, they reveal their love for party over country. Which is why the Left gets so upset when you call them out and oppose them. And why the Patriots best response is to smile and "Vote Red Up and Down the Ballot."

It will be a whole lot easier to undo the Democrat Party's plans to "fundamentally transform America" if they're not in power, and

probably too late if they are.

Charles Wenzel

Freemasonry

Dear Editor:
Having recently received inquiries from local folks about, I realized it was time to acquaint my Pagosa neighbors about the fraternity.

I find fascinating some of the myths and misinformation put out about Masons. Malicious, accusations of being Satanic or being a "special" political group or religious cult. Urban legends or exposés by con artists claiming to reveal "what really" goes on in Masonic lodges. These theories have no basis in fact. Conspiracists are frustrating — to them the absence of evidence is "proof" of a powerful group supposedly suppressing all records, and witnesses.

Let me tell you what Freemasonry really is. Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest Fraternity. It's history and tradition are ancient dating back centuries. It is international, its 6+ million members are found in all but a few countries. Masonry's bonds of friendship, compassion, respect, tolerance, civility, and brotherly love have survived divisive political, military, and religious conflicts for centuries. Freemasonry is proud of its philosophy of "making good men better." Those desiring membership must seek it by asking a Mason about becoming a Mason.

Freemasonry is benevolent and charitable. It is not a secret society; Lodges are openly labeled, and their location is public. All fraternities have secrets: its obligation, modes of recognition, password, grips, etc. Not a religion, its founding principle is "the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God". All members must believe in God, but no specific religion is required. Discussion of politics and/or religion are prohibited in lodge.

The fraternity inspires its members to be gentlemen when the world needs us most. We are to act upon our Masonic lessons of compassion, respect, tolerance, civility, and brotherly love. Much of

See Letters A6

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
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e-mail:
editor@pagosasun.com

All letters must:
be 500 words or less
be signed by the author, unless emailed
include the author's phone number and address
be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday), email submissions are preferred

Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition up to three weeks prior to the election.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.

Stolen signs

Dear Editor:
It has been reported to the Archuleta County Democratic Party that a large number of Biden/Harris campaign signs have been stolen from people's yards, particularly in the Pagosa Lakes area. We have asked our members not to retaliate by engaging in such petty and childish behavior. The County Sheriff has been notified of these thefts.

It occurs to us that a person must not be very confident in their candidate's chances of victory if they think that stealing his opponents' signs will actually help the candidate. Yard signs may have little monetary value. However, a person taking a sign from private property is guilty of trespassing and theft. So much for "law and order."

John Porco
First Vice Chair
Archuleta County
Democratic Party

Electoral College

Dear Editor:
Americans are not systemically racist, but we have been a systemically free and prosperous people. But for how much longer?

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at the
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CLIFFORD LUCERO
ARCHULETA COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT ONE

A few goals for the next 4 years

Pave more of Piedra Road (CR600) starting at the cattle guard, bring back our 5-year road plan, and improve road conditions in the Vista subdivision.

Team up with the School District and State/Federal government to get money for badly needed facility **maintenance and improvements at our local Junior High and Middle School buildings.**

Work with Town/County leadership and our local business owners to study options for **cutting fees/regulations for contractors, business owners,** and for starting new businesses, so that our local business community and construction sector can continue to flourish.

Break ground on two more **affordable housing projects,** similar to the Rose Mountain Townhome project: one for our local **VETERANS** and another for working families!

Finance County Government responsibly. This means making tough decisions: Keeping our county out of debt, reviewing department budgets, eliminating waste and applying conservative financial practices to county business.

Work with County Solid Waste Department and all employees to drastically improve operations and conditions at our **County Landfill and Recycling Center.**

We must **upgrade and relocate essential county offices,** currently set at the courthouse, to better serve the public, our county employees and elected officials — including **bringing back a Driver's License office to our community.**

No one wants to pay more taxes! We can **balance our budget and build up strategic cash reserves,** without taxing citizens. At the end of my previous term on the BoCC, we left almost \$6 million in cash on hand! It's already all gone. But we can build it up again with **smart management, discipline and experience.**

VOTE for
CLIFFORD LUCERO
COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 1

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m. See town website for participation information.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Town Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Review Board work session and regular meeting. 4:30 p.m. work session, 5:30 p.m. meeting. See town website for participation information.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

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

Thursday, Oct. 29

Pagosa Springs Town Council work session. 5 p.m. See town website for participation information.

Thursday, Oct. 30

Archuleta School District Board of Education notice of public gathering for virtual Colorado Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly. 2 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 2

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m. Call 264-8300 one to

two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. 1:30 p.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m. See town website for participation information.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners special work session — budget hearings. TBD. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Dispatch Executive Management board. 9:30 a.m. Virtual meeting, Web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7186713647>, meeting

ID: 718-671-3647.

Friday, Nov. 6

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners special work session — budget hearings. TBD. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Pagosa Peak Open School Strategic Planning Training. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Join Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87867799418>, meeting ID: 878 6779 9418, call-in number: (346) 248-7799.

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosasan.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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Letters

Continued from A5

our U. S. Constitution is based on Masonic principles. Through the centuries Freemasons have helped to break down class barriers, teach principles of freedom and human dignity, and encourage separation of church and state. Many national and world leaders were Freemasons, so many it would take a book to list them all. To mention a few: thirteen signers of the Constitution, fourteen Presidents, Ben Franklin, John Paul Jones, Winston Churchill, Marquis de Lafayette, and Voltaire.

There is no central governing body for Freemasonry. There are independent, associated Grand Lodges that adhere to the fundamental principles of Masonry. Most people know of local Lodges in addition there are Scottish Rite Masons, Knights Templars, Shriners, and Prince Hall Lodges. I want to discuss Shriners. To become a Shriner, you must be a Mason. Shrine's official philanthropy is the "Shriners Hospitals for Children". There is no charge to the patient, parent or any third party for medical treatment received. No state, local or federal funding

is accepted for services provided at Shriners hospitals. I'm personally aware of two Pagosa children who have received treatments at Shrine hospitals.

Thank you. If you have questions, feel free to call me: 970-946-2372, Richard Y. Wholf, Past Master of Pagosa Lodge #114.

Richard Wholf

Service to the community

Dear Editor:

I have read with interest the several letters of support for Commissioner Candidates. Letters touting how some of the candidates have given to our community and how they have so much experience to do a better job than others. We are all entitled to our own opinions (at least for the time being).

I have read issue with 2 of the candidates and feel that others need to think about each candidate and what they have really given to the community.

1st Clifford Lucero — Democrat or Unaffiliated? Yes, he has experience in collecting the paycheck of a commissioner previously. However,

in my opinion that is all he really accomplished. Several of the things he claims to have done were already in place when he took office. He and Wadley and Whiting were the 3 that accomplished the least of any previous or past board. they stopped enforcement of Nuisance ordinances, they couldn't make decisions, on jail, on courthouse, and on budget items. With all his knowledge of Solid Waste and Recycling why in his 8 years of past Commissioner service did he not accomplish a reasonable recycling program. Think about while he was on the board did his influence stop Walmart from putting in a Tire Center (he owns Lucero Tire). Really think about the accomplishments he claims, yes he has volunteered, but was it just to put him in place to collect a county paycheck and not do much else. I don't want to see my tax dollars going to someone that just wants a paycheck.

2nd Natalie Carpenter — Natalie is a nice person and has been involved in many things in our community — She could recommend the best movies to rent at Radio Shack. She has set up many techy services over the years yet, tomor-

row the company will have a different name and a different focus. Yes, she can talk about communication and that she will communicate with the public better than has been done. However, I think if she studied the statutes and understood the way Commissioners can communicate, they are not allowed to speak individually for the board. The Board is a 3 person Commission and the opinions of each are moot, as everything they decide has to be voted on. I don't believe that the vision of setting up a chat room with one commissioner is going to work and setting it up with 2 or all three violates Sunshine laws. High ideals and promises to get a regular paycheck doesn't solve the problems and issues that Archuleta County has right now.

I believe the best vote we can make for a brighter future and someone to work hard to earn the taxpayers dollars, should go to Warren Brown and Ronnie Maez, who have proved through their commitments and using their professionalism and experience to this community, that they will do more than just collect a paycheck.

Ronnie Zaday

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FORWARD THINKING FORWARD PROGRESS



Natalie Woodruff, Archuleta County Commissioner
Ronnie Maez and Elsa White

Natalie Woodruff and Elsa White strongly recommend re-electing Ronnie Maez County Commissioner District 2

EXPERIENCE

These are just some accomplishments during my first term as county commissioner

Roads — Full reclamation of 6 miles of county roads with paving or lithification: 2 miles Trujillo Road, .5 mile Lake Forest Circle, 1 mile Trails Boulevard, 1.3 miles Piedra Road to Cloud Cap, .1 mile Piedra Backswing to Golf, .1 mile East Golf, .1 mile Backswing to Caddy Circle, .25 mile Masters Circle
Detention facility built
Sheriff's office completed

34 workforce housing units under construction
Department of Human Services office under construction
Moving forward to build courthouse
Broadband — Continuing support of making progress to strengthen connectivity in Archuleta County
And much more

As your county commissioner, I am available 24/7, (970) 903-0546

Volunteer Experience: Pagosa Fire Protection District board of directors 8 years, volunteer firefighter 11 years, Archuleta County Fair Board, Firefighter's Pension Fund Board, Archuleta County School District Accountability Committee, Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission.

I am asking for your support and the privilege to serve you another four years.

VOTE RONNIE MAEZ

incumbent for county commissioner district 2

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ronnie Maez



Archuleta County, join your family, friends, co-workers and local small business owners in voting for Warren Brown, County Commissioner District 1

Paid for by Committee to Elect Warren Brown County Commissioner, Warren Brown, registered agent.

Obituaries

Sheila Hill

Sheila Hill, 85, of Tucson, Ariz., passed on Oct. 11. Born to Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Urban, of Wichita, Kan. She was a graduate of Mount Carmel Academy. She moved to San Francisco, Calif., where she met the love of her life, Sam. They moved from coast to coast, living in New York, Chi-



cago, Los Angeles, Wichita, Pagosa Springs and, finally, Tucson, with their three children, Sam, Kathy and Joey. She is preceded in death by her husband and her youngest son, Joey. Embracing her love of Christ, she remained active in her parish, Corpus Christi. Her hobbies and loves included reading, music, painting, sewing, gardening and history. Sheila is survived by two children, nine grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She was an angel and inspiration to many and will be sorely missed.

Juanita Turner Payne

Juanita Turner Payne passed away peacefully at Truth or Consequences, N.M., on Oct. 6 at the age of 88.

She was born on April 10, 1932, in rural Eastern New Mexico. She is predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Lee A. Payne, and son Keith A. Payne.



Lovingly remembered by her brothers, James Turner, David Turner and Dwight Turner, and her sister, Waunema Hyman, daughters Karen Sullivan and Juanalee Park, granddaughter Charlotte Sullivan, grandsons Carson Park, Jared Payne and Josiah Payne and great-grandsons Jasper and Bowden Payne.

Juanita grew up on a farm in Eastern New Mexico. In high school, she played half-court basketball and was a cheerleader. During those years, she worked hard on the family farm driving tractors and wheat trucks to help pay for her education at Eastern New Mexico University. She received her bachelor's of science from E.N.M.U. in 1953. She began her teaching career at the Bureau of Indian Af-

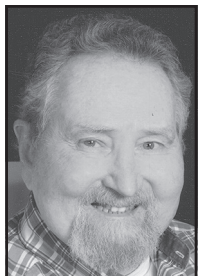
fairs the following year, where she taught for 30 years. At that time, she met and married Lee Payne, a fellow teacher from San Luis, Colo. In 1973, she received an M.A. from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, Calif. Throughout her career, she worked with preschool children creating a day care center for the employees of the Intermountain Indian School in Brigham City, Utah. She created a career program within the day care center for the Navajo students to acquire skills for employment in the child care profession.

Lee and Juanita raised their children with an appreciation and passion for the outdoors. Hunting, camping, fishing, skiing and hiking were typical weekend activities.

She retired from working in 1983 and moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo., where they lived for 23 years before moving to Truth or Consequences, N.M. Juanita had a lifelong love of sewing, cooking and all kinds of crafts. Between her and Lee, there was not much that could not make or figure out how to make. After retirement, she took up the colonial embroidery art called Colcha and became very proficient. In her later years, she enjoyed water aerobics and socializing with her friends at the local pool.

B.J. (Billie Joe) Love

B.J. (Billie Joe) Love, age 74, passed from this earth, with family at his side, on Tuesday, Oct. 13. He was with family at his home in Broken Arrow, Okla. From the time of his birth in Ventura, Calif., on June 29, 1946, to his death on Tuesday, he nourished people around him with love, faith and a fabulous sense of humor. He was born to Olen and Mable (Hendrix) Love and was the youngest boy of four with two younger sisters to follow. B.J. attended school both in Elgin and Fletcher, Okla. At the age of 19, he married his sweetheart, Gail (Rinehart) Love, on June 24, 1966. In 1967, he joined the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Hornet, where he was anchored off the coast of Vietnam. While on the Hornet, B.J. participated, with his crew, in the recovery of the Apollo 11 and 12 space capsules. Both capsules were brought on board his ship before being removed to Houston. Because he headed the carpenter shop on the ship, he was asked to make the signs that were over the door of the Mobile Quarantine Facilities (MQF). Apollo 11's said "Hornet + 3" and the other one said "Three More Like Before." The signs were returned to him and they are now on display aboard the Hornet, which is now a museum, anchored at Alameda, Calif. He later served



on the USS Coral Sea before his time in the Navy was over. Returning home, B.J. was a home builder and general contractor in Lawton, Okla. The family moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo., in 1984. He and his wife, Gail, owned and operated Chris McKinnie's Cabinet Shop for 15 years, before moving to Broken Arrow, Okla. Later in life, B.J. took up the hobby of restoring classic cars. He won many awards with his vehicles.

Left to honor "Pop" and remember his love are his wife, Gail, of 54 years; his children, Julia Love and B.J. Jr (Robin) Love; four grandchildren: Shawna (Maxey) Lively, Corbin Maxey, Tristen Love and Tinley Love; two great-grandchildren, Madison Lively and Michael Maxey; two brothers, Clifford (Olga) Love and Jim (Carolyn) Love; a sister, Linda (Nick) Garrett; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Charlie Love, and sister Bet Benefield.

B.J.'s celebration of life will be held on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 5050 E. 111th St., Tulsa, with the Rev. Gary Harber (retired) officiating. Please follow city ordinances regarding face masks. B.J. will be buried at the National Cemetery in Fort Gibson later that afternoon. The family will greet friends from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, at their home in Broken Arrow.

The Love family would like to extend our gratitude to B.J.'s care team from St. Francis Hospice for their attentiveness and loving care.

Colorado submits COVID-19 vaccine plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

CDC at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bxacXfm3ZsdXVG9RQavew1ck5W7D52bt/view>.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has submitted its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for review and feedback.

Colorado, along with other states and jurisdictions, was required to submit its plan by Oct. 16. This initial plan will evolve as more information about the vaccine becomes available and work with stakeholders continues.

"Vaccine deployment extends far beyond public health," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, CDPHE. "The department, with support from the Colorado Department of Public Safety, convened a multiagency, multi-sector team to focus on receiving and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine. We want to recognize the many agencies and organizations that informed our planning and thank them for their partnership and guidance. We look forward to working with more stakeholders so we can continue improving the plan."

The plan includes information on how Colorado will implement a phased approach to distributing an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine. Because the initial supply of vaccine is expected to be very limited, it will be distributed first to people most at risk for COVID-19, such as health care workers, first responders, and staff/residents of long-term care facilities and nursing homes.

The state will continue to provide information about how it is making decisions on how to prioritize distribution before a vaccine becomes widely available.

The CDPHE received an additional \$3.1 million in funding from the CDC specifically to help with COVID-19 vaccine planning and implementation. The state will use some funds, but allocate most funds to local public health agencies and the two tribal nations in Colorado.

The CDPHE is committed to distributing a safe and effective vaccine and to working closely with local public health agencies, health care providers and other partners to distribute the vaccine as equitably and efficiently as possible.

Read Colorado's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan as submitted to the

Obituaries

Local obituaries are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

editor@pagosasun.com

Deadline is 1 p.m. Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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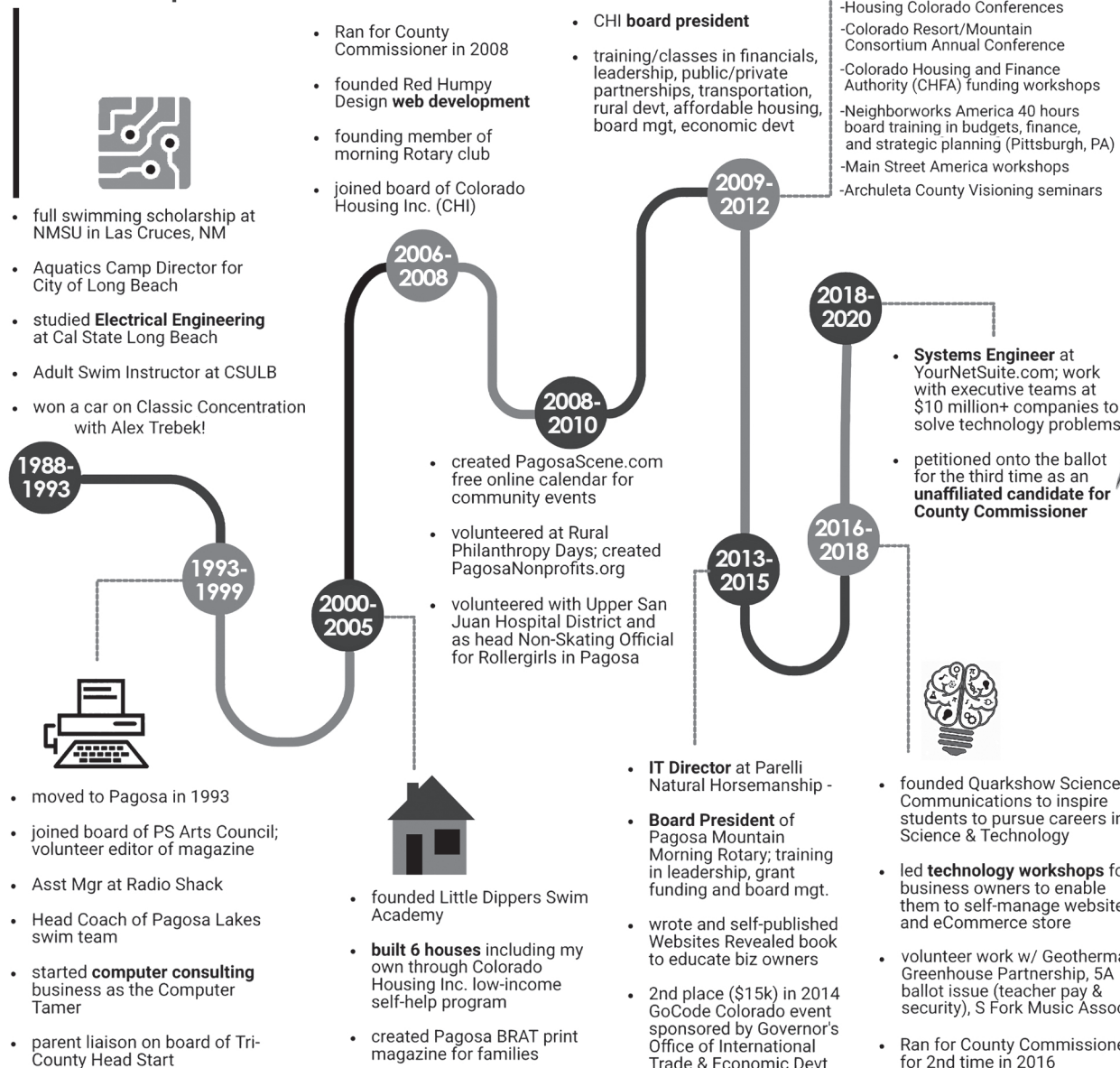
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a brief timeline of Natalie Carpenter:



DISTRICT 1	You may vote for 2 candidates, one from each district.	DISTRICT 2
Warren Brown Republican	No matter where you live in the county or what district you reside in, you will have the option to choose one candidate from each of the two districts up for election.	Natalie Carpenter Unaffiliated
Clifford Lucero Unaffiliated		Ron Maez Republican
Matt Witt Unaffiliated		

I've worked with 100+ businesses all over the county in the past 27 years so I understand the unique business needs of our area. I've served on four nonprofit boards and have supported many others as an unpaid volunteer. I have extensive board training and business financial experience and after sitting through hundreds of hours of Town and County meetings as a concerned citizen, I'm ready to be our next Archuleta County Commissioner.

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My job is to listen to YOU!

Natalie Carpenter, age 49
Self-employed Systems Engineer, mother of three, community volunteer and 27-year resident of Pagosa Springs.

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visit VoteNat.com to learn more about Natalie Carpenter.

Risk

Continued from front

dead fuel moisture catches fire easily," he said.

The local 10-hour fuel is currently between 2 and 5 percent, with 1,000-hour fuel at 5-7 percent. Those levels are not as expected for this time of year.

"We're in a D3-D4 extended

drought with the last recorded precipitation dating back to Sept. 10," Ellis said, confirming that the climate and extreme low fuel moisture levels produce the undesirable: rapid fire spread. "Daytime humidities are low, but we're not getting nighttime recoveries, and the typical monsoon season didn't produce this year. It

was kind of a bust."

This is the case for the fires burning near Silverton, at Mt. Nebo and the Ice Lake trailhead.

"We haven't had any lightning. The cause is still under investigation, but I can't imagine it being a natural ignition," Ellis noted, referring to the cause of the 508 acres burned near

the Ice Lake trailhead as of Tuesday. "It really illustrates how a fire can start at 9,990 feet in elevation and grow rapidly."

Stage 1 fire restrictions remain in order for the San Juan National Forest and in Archuleta, Hinsdale and Mineral counties.

"We still encourage recreation and hunting, just be extremely careful," Ellis advised, "and if you see something, report it immediately."

According to the Forest Service, the San Juan National Forest's upper and lower fire danger area levels are categorized "very high." Explanations on fire danger levels and fire restrictions are outlined at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan>.

Stage 1 fire restriction prohibitions, according to the agency's website, are: "Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, or in developed recreation sites, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material."

The agency also states what is

allowed: "Petroleum-fueled stoves or grills with heat/flame sources that can be turned off immediately. A stove fire in a designated area. Shooting firearms IS allowed. Just make sure to follow normal federal rules: No shooting within a 150 yards of a campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, residence or building. No shooting across a road, trail or body of water, or in any manner or place whereby any person property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge. No shooting in a cave. Chainsaw use IS allowed. However, please use caution and keep from creating sparks by not cutting directly on the ground where the chain can contact rocks while rotating."

Fire restrictions may vary by jurisdiction.

Even a ricocheted bullet can spark and cause fire; the possibilities increase when conditions are right.

Ellis explained how the Forest Service has been doing its part to mitigate fires and help protect the community as well.

"We have an active fuels manage-

ment program, and that's through three main mitigation methods: mechanical treatment, like mowing down oak, hand thinning and tree harvest, which opens up the canopy [so fire doesn't spread as easily from tree to tree], and prescribed fire," he said.

Conditions are not suitable for any broadcast burns, Ellis noted, but generally once there is snow on the ground, pile burning clearance will be given.

The Forest Service has been having some trouble getting resources because of COVID, but is doing OK. According to Ellis, they're hoping to get in additional prevention control before upcoming hunting in order to be out making public contacts on the grounds.

The forecast shows possible rain at the beginning of next week, and that may moderate things, "though it may not knock us out of the situation we're in," Ellis cautioned.

Either way, "if you see smoke, report it. We'd rather roll on a false alarm than miss something," he said.

simone@pagosasun.com

Sales

Continued from front

Accommodation/Food Service is up 57.3 percent, or \$108,293.

- Real Estate/Rental is up 29.9 percent, or \$8,956.
- Finance/Insurance is up 36.3 percent, or \$524.

Categories that are down in the month-to-month comparison include:

- Manufacturing is down 35.8 percent, or \$18,594.
- Professional is down 65 percent, or \$10,550.
- Information is down 22.4 percent, or \$5,740.
- Construction is down 21.1 percent, or \$5,065.
- Miscellaneous is down 2.7 percent, or \$4,842.
- Other Services is down 1.8 percent, or \$294.

The January to August 2020 data

also includes \$624,922 in collections of "remote sales tax." The total collections of remote sales tax from January to July of this year was \$526,190. Remote sales tax is paid by online vendors that are located outside of Archuleta County.

Walton's report also states that, in addition to the remote sales tax collection, from January through August 2020, "\$150,170 in collections were made which related to taxes due in prior years."

Walton's report also shows year-to-date comparisons from January through August 2019 compared to data from January through August of 2020.

According to Walton, "2020 is 18.7 [percent] (\$1,400,749) higher than 2019, overall."

Categories that are up in the year-to-date variances include:

- Retail is up 29.1 percent, or \$1,171,037.
 - Miscellaneous is up 14 percent, or \$155,254.
 - Accommodation/Food Service is up 11.9 percent, or \$153,391.
 - Construction is up 8.8 percent, or \$12,456.
 - Finance/Insurance is up 16 percent, or \$1,490.
 - Professional is up 1.7 percent, or \$946.
- Categories that are down in the year-to-date comparison include:
- Real Estate/Rental is down 18.8 percent, or \$40,763.
 - Manufacturing is down 7.9 percent, or \$24,100.
 - Information is down 8.9 percent, or \$18,044.
 - Other Services is down 8.5 percent, or \$10,918.
- clayton@pagosasun.com

Hessman

Continued from front

customer service."

No other town service office has so many contracts.

"It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager (when there is one), and all administrative departments without exception," the CMCA quotes Professor William Bennett Munro as saying on its website. "The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administra-

tion this office pulls together."

Hessman's career has encompassed numerous titles and leadership positions.

"In the last three years she earned an Associates Degree and became a Master Municipal Clerk through International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She serves as Treasurer on the board of the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association. We are so thrilled that she received

this distinguished award," Phillips explained.

"I love my job. It's very fulfilling," Hessman concluded. "To be recognized by my city manager and organization is very special."

The clerk is the historian of the community, CMCA's website stated, "for the entire recorded history of the town and its people are in his or her care."

simone@pagosasun.com

Suspect

Continued from front

a traffic stop on U.S. 160 around Talisman Drive.

The suspect driving that vehicle was identified by ACSO deputies as 27-year-old Danny Shahan, of Chromo, both agencies stated.

"Shahan is known to have multiple warrants for his arrest. Shahan refused to comply with the Deputies commands to exit his vehicle and departed the scene of the vehicle stop at a high rate of speed. Shahan's refusal to stop prompted a vehicle pursuit through the Alpha subdivision, towards downtown Pagosa Springs," the ACSO release states.

It continues to explain the PSPD responded to the 200 block of Great West Avenue to assist.

"As the suspect vehicle advanced toward the Pagosa Springs police officer and his vehicle, the officer discharged his service weapon," the PSPD release states.

The ACSO reported that Shahan continued to elude law enforcement for 2.5 miles, at which point the pursuit was terminated.

It continues to explain that, at approximately 9:04 p.m., Archuleta

County Combined Dispatch received a call of a vehicle on fire on County Road 500 and County Road 542.

"Upon arrival, Deputies discovered a vehicle matching the description of the vehicle driven by Shahan, crashed along CR 500. At that time the vehicle was determined to be unoccupied," the ACSO release states.

Shahan is currently wanted, the press release notes, and is described as being a 5-foot-8-inch white male with brown hair and green eyes.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to contact Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at 731-2160.

Archuleta County Undersheriff Derek Woodman reported Wednesday that Shahan is currently wanted in relation to the following: three misdemeanor failure-to-appear warrants, one for a probation violation and the other two being traffic-related, as well as vehicular eluding and driving after revocation.

The PSPD press release also explains that the officer involved in the shooting has been placed on administrative leave per policy while

the incident is under external and administrative investigation.

The ACSO's release indicates the PSPD and ACSO are working with members of the 6th Judicial District Critical Incident team and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation on the shooting investigation and the crashed vehicle.

"Consistent with protocol, the Pagosa Springs Police Department will not participate in this external, independent investigation," the PSPD states in reference to the investigation regarding its officer.

The ACSO's press release states, "The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office is currently conducting an investigation related to an Officer Involved Shooting that occurred Monday evening, at approximately 7:48 PM, near the 200 Block of Great West Avenue."

"We ask for the public's patience and understanding during this critical time. A comprehensive investigation takes time, as we are committed to getting this right for everyone involved," the PSPD release states, with the ACSO's release echoing the request for patience.

Hughes

Continued from front

"It was a one-way ticket to the U.S.," he said, and the couple went on to have two children and continue their life in the U.S.

Hughes continued running, though marathons weren't part of the picture.

"I've always run. Running is like breathing to me. I have to run every day," Hughes said. "Occasionally I have a day off, but usually I run every day because of all the benefits it gives me."

Then, when he was about 54 and a Colorado resident (they moved to Colorado 11 years ago), Hughes asked himself what would happen if he really dedicated himself to training consistently and what it would be like to compete again at his age.

"I sort of set myself a target of being 60, that I would give it a go until I was 60 and then I would stop. But I'm 63 now and I didn't stop competin'. The reason I didn't stop is because I keep improving. So I thought, as long as I keep improving, then I may as well, you know, take it a year at a time and keep on going, keep trying."

Since that time, Hughes has run races all over Colorado.

In 2017, at age 60, he broke the half-marathon state record for his age division.

"And I thought, wow, now I'm actually competitive again. So it was at that point — I'd always said when I was younger I'd never run another marathon, but it was at that point, 2017, just when I'd moved to Pagosa, and I thought, what about if I tried to run a marathon?" he said.

He noted he knew what the state record was and he thought he could do that.

So, he entered the Colorado Marathon in 2018 and proceeded to set a new state record with a time of 2:58:21.

"I'm still the only man to run the marathon at 60 under three hours," he said, noting that while there are people faster than him, races in Colorado are run at altitude and times are significantly slower, perhaps eight to 10 minutes slower, than they would be at sea level.

Hughes noted that he trains well in Pagosa Springs — another perk of the place he intends to stay.

"We never want to leave because we found our place, finally," he said.

Hughes' next goal was to go back to the London Marathon, but he

couldn't get in, even if he were fast enough, because he's an overseas resident.

"Then I found something called the World Age Group Championships for the marathon, which was going to be in London in 2020," he said.

That came with a complicated qualification process, he added.

In 2019, he had to run two designated qualification marathons, one in San Diego and another in Montreal, Canada.

"They invited the top 20 rankings from around the world to London for this year to participate in this ... championships," he said, noting he was ranked 10th.

Hughes was set to go to London in April before everything changed.

The novel coronavirus struck, shutting down travel and canceling events.

London's events were originally postponed to October, so Hughes kept training over the summer in the chance it would take place.

"But secretly I was hoping they would cancel it because I didn't want to get on the plane. My wife and I really didn't feel safe enough to travel," he said.

Then, in August, they canceled the event and announced there would be a virtual race instead.

"I wasn't so keen to do that by myself," he said, but he began looking around and contacted the race director in Fort Collins about the Long View Marathon, which was on the day he needed to run the virtual competition, and decided to do it.

And it went well.

"I think I probably had a lot of training sort of bottled up all this time because I've been training for a year," he said, adding, "So I ran very well ... I surprised myself."

Hughes arrived in Fort Collins two days ahead of the race and was met with unhealthy air quality from nearby wildfires that left ash on his car, but explained the air quality improved from unhealthy the day before the race to poor the day of and many ran with masks not only because of COVID-19, but also because of the smoke.

"So that was kind of strange and funny," he said.

But, despite that, Hughes set off from the finish line at a quick pace — too quick, he explained.

"I knew at halfway I had a chance,"

he said, and he questioned if he could hold it together.

But, when he got to the top of the hill at around the 3-mile mark, he realized the record was possible.

"I was thrilled. ... I thought that what I did when I was 60 in 2018, that that would be the fastest I would probably ever run again, and it would only get slower from there, so it was kind of exhilarating," he said.

Hughes also had a fan from Pagosa cheering him on at the race — Tim Taylor — who happened to be in Loveland visiting family.

"Like every 2 miles he popped up from the bushes with his phone," Hughes said with a chuckle, adding that he ran alone almost the entire race. "But every 2 miles, there would be Tim, and he was at the finish, as well, which was amazing, too."

Taylor was at the start line at 6 a.m., too.

"That really encouraged me to keep going ... to keep the pace up," Hughes said.

"He's sort of in a class by himself ... He is an elite world marathoner," Taylor said, calling Hughes' record-breaking run "quite an accomplishment."

In an email to The SUN, Hughes wrote, "it's very gratifying to win this 38 years after my first London Marathon in 1982 (with a faster time than when I was aged 24)."

He added that he looked back at recent years' results from London and his time is the fastest over-60 time since 2017.

"Having the Colorado altitude factor in hand, gives me greater confidence towards the Marathon in 2021 when hopefully we will all be free of the pandemic," he wrote.

Since the London event was canceled this year, Hughes has an automatic place for the championships in 2021.

"I will finally, after two and a half years, will make it to London and make it back, so that's a big incentive for me to shoot for," he said.

Then, in 2022, when he'll be 65, Hughes aims to be at World Masters Athletic Track and Field Championships for a marathon.

Then he'll consider stopping competitions, he noted, adding that he runs about 70 miles a week.

But he won't stop running, explaining that running is therapeutic.

"I'll never stop running," he said.

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Join us for a ribbon cutting at our new office, 409 Lewis Street Thursday, Oct. 29 11:00 a.m.

Town council hears presentation on 2021 budget

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

A first look at the proposed 2021 budget and capital plan was presented to the Pagosa Springs Town Council at a regular meeting on Oct. 6.

The town has a total of six separate funds, and for all six funds, the total expected revenue for 2021 is \$15,199,754 and total expenditures for the six funds are \$11,045,949.

"While the Town is utilizing significant reserves for capital projects in 2021, the total projected year end cash reserves for all six funds are \$4,153,805," the budget summary reads, noting that the town continues to be in a healthy financial position.

General fund and town manager thoughts

According to the budget, general fund revenues are projected to be \$6,550,202 in 2021, while the 2020 year-end estimate is \$6,464,624.

The 2020 budget originally budgeted \$5,604,190 for general fund revenues and was updated to \$6,104,190.

For the capital improvement fund, the 2021 budget projects revenues of \$6,222,493, while the 2020 year-end estimate is \$10,066,893, according to the proposed budget.

For 2020, the original budget projected \$8,544,204 for capital improvement fund revenues; that was later updated to \$10,086,004.

For the impact fee fund, there is a projected revenue of \$303,407 for 2021. Year-end estimates for 2020 have this fund coming in at \$528,831, according to the proposed budget.

The 2020 budget originally had \$510,922 for impact fee fund revenues, according to the proposed budget.

For 2021, the lodgers' tax fund has projected fund revenues of \$1,864,176. The 2020 year-end estimate for this fund is \$1,650,375, while the 2020 budget originally had \$1,573,734.

According to agenda documentation, about 40 percent of the town's revenue comes from its capital improvement fund, while another 38 percent comes from the general fund.

"Our general fund and our capital fund are largely funded by sales tax. Huge amounts of revenue in both of those funds come from sales tax," Town Manager Andrea Phillips explained during the meeting, adding that 81 percent of the town's general fund budget is

funded by sales tax and 77 percent of the capital fund is funded by sales tax.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the town has seen an increase in general economic activity, Phillips noted.

"We are optimistic on our end-of-year sales tax assumptions for 2020, as well as for 2021. We are seeing at this point that 2020 will be 12 percent over what we had budgeted if the trends continue as we're seeing it. We are assuming that 2021 will be another 5 percent over that year-end estimate," Phillips said.

The 2020 budget also proposes 50 full-time equivalents, which accounts for 47 full-time staff members, Phillips noted.

According to Phillips, the 2021 budget proposes new positions and adjustments, which include an administrative assistant in the Public Works Department, reclassifying equipment operators in the streets division and adding a part-time seasonal employee in the Public Works Department.

The town is also proposing the addition of a digital records technician for its police department, she added later.

"We are assuming that in this budget that we would do a 3 percent employee, across the board, salary increase," she said, noting that in the past, the town has done some kind of cost-of-living adjustment.

The town would also be looking at a 7 percent increase in its health insurance premiums, Phillips added later.

Expenditures

The 2021 budget projects \$4,232,679 in expenditures for the general fund. The year-end estimate for 2020 general fund expenditures is \$4,150,773.

Originally, the 2020 budget had \$3,714,564 projected in general fund expenditures, while the amended budget increased that amount to \$4,178,100.

The capital improvement fund is expected to see expenditures of \$5,500,373 in 2021, while the 2020 year-end estimate sits at \$8,305,504.

"In terms of projects, we would really like to finish that town maintenance facility. We believe that we're going to get substantial completion by the end of this year, but realistically, we're going to be completing some of it into first quarter and even into second quarter, with some of the landscaping and things, of 2021," she said.

The 2020 budget projected \$7,755,774 in capital improvement fund expenditures, but was amended to reflect \$9,025,774 in expenditures.

Within the impact fee fund, projected expenditures for 2021 are \$138,145. The year-end estimate for 2020 is \$271,256, while the original 2020 budget had \$307,923 projected in expenditures.

The lodgers' tax fund is projected to have \$998,252 worth of expenditures in 2021, while the 2020 year-end estimate notes \$924,496 in expenditures for that fund.

The 2020 budget originally had \$989,289 in projected revenues for the lodgers' tax fund.

Year-end cash reserves

The general fund is projected to have a year-end cash reserve of \$2,317,523, which would be an increase over the 2020 year-end estimate of \$2,313,851.

Within the capital improvement fund, the 2021 budget projects a year-end cash reserve of \$722,120. This would be a decrease from the 2020 year-end estimate of \$1,761,389.

The impact fee fund is projected to have an ending cash reserve of \$165,262. This would be a decrease from the 2020 year-end estimate of \$257,575.

For 2021, the lodgers' tax fund is projected to have a year-end cash reserve of \$865,924, a slight increase over the 2020 year-end estimate of \$865,073.

Sanitation district

According to the projected 2021 budget, the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District's (PSSGID) projected expenses for the sanitation fund are going to be \$1,307,664. This would be higher than the 2020 year-end estimate of \$1,224,191.

According to Phillips, the sanitation system includes 190,000 feet of collection main sewer lines with 475 manholes and five lift stations.

"We are structurally imbalanced within this fund. We are using reserves on an annual basis to fund our expenditures for the year. This is something we need to keep an eye on. We do have a relatively healthy fund balance, but if you look at kind of the long-term projection on this, there's going to be a time where we don't necessarily have that fund balance and we are going to have to make some tough decisions," she said.

According to Phillips, the PSSGID will be bringing in about \$1.2 million and 74 percent of that is

from a monthly collection fee.

"It's also assuming within this budget, and this will be a judgment call that the sanitation board is going to have to make, and that is whether you want to continue to follow the recommendations of the rate study that was conducted in 2018 and increase the monthly service charge. Right now we are \$43 per month per EU [equivalent unit]," Phillips said. "This budget proposes that in order to keep pace with expenditures and do some of the capital improvements that we need to within this fund that we increase the monthly service charge again in 2021 to \$46.50."

The capital investment fee is also being proposed for an increase by \$125, Phillips added later.

Geothermal fund

The geothermal fund is expected to have \$69,500 in expenditures for 2021, while the 2020 year-end estimate is projected to be \$95,071.

The fund is expected to see \$59,197 in revenue in 2021.

Tourism

Revenues for the tourism fund are assumed to be similar to 2019 levels, according to Phillips.

Projected expenditures for the 2021 budget are listed at \$998,252, while the 2020 year-end estimate is listed at \$924,496.

Additional thoughts

"We really try to ensure that in our budgeting process we our accounting for the council strategic goals that you have set on behalf of the community. We feel that, to the extent we can, we try to incorporate all of these," Phillips said, noting that a rewrite of the town's Land Use and Development Code has been proposed, as well as various other council initiatives.

Later in the meeting, Phillips noted that town council has done at least two work sessions on proposed budgets and also discussed the budget at regular meetings with feedback from the public.

The proposed final budget will be up for adoption at council's Dec. 1 meeting, Phillips noted.

Following more discussion, it was determined that council will hold budget work sessions on Oct. 29, Nov. 12 and Nov. 17, which will all take place at 5 p.m.

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San Juan Basin Public Health urges continued precautions after recent rise in local COVID-19 cases

By Claire Ninde
San Juan Basin Public Health

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) has reported a significant rise in COVID-19 cases for both Archuleta and La Plata counties over the past three weeks.

Since the start of October, SJBPH has reported an increase of over 72 cases in residents from both counties, with 63 of these cases from La Plata County and nine of these from Archuleta County.

The recent rise in local COVID-19 cases can be attributed to workplace outbreaks, social gatherings and household transmissions.

Local individuals, families, businesses and organizations have done difficult, important work to control

the spread of the virus by following good public health precautions. SJBPH appreciates these efforts and believes that they are responsible for our lower case counts in both counties, compared to other communities statewide and nationally.

Given the recent rise in cases due in part to social gatherings, SJBPH is urging all community members to continue to practice the following important public health precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially as we head into the Halloween and holiday seasons:

- Staying at home as much as possible.
- Practicing physical distancing (at least 6 feet away from another person).

• Wearing face coverings when in public (mask order still in effect in indoor public spaces).

• Practicing good hygiene (washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.).

• Getting tested if you have symptoms or believe you've been exposed through a known contact or community interaction.

As social events move indoors this fall and winter, good social habits will be critical to containing spread.

For the most up-to-date COVID-19 information, visit SJBPH's website at: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/coronavirus/>.

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Business

Town offers waivers and reimbursement for temporary structures during winter months for businesses

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Business owners who are looking to accommodate winter capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic are getting some relief from the Town of Pagosa Springs via a new program.

The town has received funds via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help local businesses and nonprofits that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a press release from the town, each business or nonprofit can request reimbursement for eligible COVID-19 related expenses that are up to \$7,500.

For restaurants and other business owners, this could include those who need a temporary structure that would accommodate winter customer capacity needs due to social distancing guidelines, according to the press release.

It would also include expenses that are incurred due to providing temporary outdoor seating and waiting areas to help offset the state's required indoor customer capacity reduction, the press release notes.

"It could be for a temporary structure. That's probably going to be the most common one simply because of the social distancing

that's required," Senior Planner Cindy Schultz said in an interview on Tuesday.

Waiting areas or plexiglass for things such as sneeze guards are things that could be reimbursed, Schultz noted.

The hiring of extra staff could also be a reimbursable expense, she added.

"I think it's definitely more for anything that was just induced by COVID," she said.

For example, if a restaurant needs a tent to accommodate outdoor seating and to promote social distancing, the restaurant owner could buy the tent and go to the town to start the reimbursement process.

"This is through CARES funding. So, it's federal funding that's been allocated out to the state and it's going to come to the different jurisdictions, so all of the applications will come to us. We're not actually going to be doing the review. We will do the initial review and make sure everything is included and ship them off to the state. They are going to do the actual review and allocate the funding," she said.

Additionally, the town is going to waive fees associated with the permitting process and is making a special exception to allow temporary structures during only winter of 2020-2021, according to

the press release.

There are no application fees or planning and building fees unless there is a planning fee that would be incurred otherwise, Schultz noted.

If a new restaurant opened up, for example, and it wanted to put up a tent, it would still need to apply for that initial permit, she explained.

Assuming that the business is already open, no fees will be required to be paid; however, the business needs to incur the cost first, Schultz described.

"I can't say that we wouldn't normally do that if someone had a need for that type of thing, but normally people don't come to us in the winter and say they want to put up a tent," Schultz said.

According to Schultz, business owners will work with the town's Building and Fire Safety Department beforehand to make sure the structures they are purchasing will be compliant for the winter seasons.

"We do have some concerns, because we do have snowloads that are greater than average and we don't want tents collapsing," she said. "We are trying to facilitate all of these so that people can get up and running."

Schultz explained that it was only a matter of time for an op-

portunity to present itself for the winter season.

"This opportunity presented itself because of the CARES Act funding and I think that we had calculated that based on how many businesses we have and the response rate we had anticipated that it would be \$7,500 if everyone applied for the maximum amount," she said.

Some challenges faced by the town involve anticipating what everyone will need and how to make sure it can streamline the process for those interested, Schultz noted.

The town is also trying to provide as much guidance for interested parties up front for proper safety and less hassle, she added later.

However, the town's press release notes that there could be a shortage of tents available for rental or purchase, with Schultz adding that business owners need to be proactive if they want to take part in this program.

"Certainly, we don't know what they all are," Schultz said of business owners' needs. "We will be as flexible as we possibly can."

Applications are due at the end of November and decisions on the funding will not be coming back until the end of December, Schultz noted.

chris@pagosasun.com

State finalizes guidance for ski areas and resorts

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) finalized its guidance for ski areas and resorts this week. The guidance goes into effect immediately.

After releasing a draft of the guidance on Oct. 14, the state reviewed feedback from community members and organizations from across the state and incorporated feedback into the finalized guidance.

Ski areas are a vital driver of the

Colorado economy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these areas also present unique challenges for controlling virus transmission. A successful ski season will require a strong partnership between ski areas, local governments, local businesses and the state.

These guidelines draw from existing and well-known COVID-19 guidelines including:

- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between parties.
- Wearing masks to the maximum extent possible.
- Health screening and symp-

tom tracking.

- Isolating and quarantining, as required.

Also established are some new baseline standards to create common expectations for mountain-specific activities such as:

- Isolation housing to create opportunities for visiting guests to safely isolate and quarantine themselves in the event that they test positive or need to quarantine during their stay and cannot travel.
- Ensuring safe employee housing environments.
- Limiting ski school cohorts/

groups to no more than 10 people.

- Prioritizing the immediate safety and sheltering needs of guests and staff due to extreme weather events when in conflict with these COVID-19 guidelines.

"Outdoor activities like skiing and snowboarding can be lower risk if done with proper precautions, both on and off the slopes," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, CDPHE. "We have to proceed carefully and be willing to evolve if necessary. We've been grateful for the cooperation of ski and resort areas. Our top priority is the safety of Coloradans and ensuring the health care systems in these areas aren't overrun."

Chamber board nominations open

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce will have three open seats on the board of directors for the 2021 year.

Every year, three board members cycle off the board and three new members come on the board. Terms for the board seats are for three years. This puts together a nice mix of seasoned and new board members. In addition, the Chamber looks to have a good mix on the board to represent the wide variety of businesses that are in our community.

We would like to thank our board members who are rotating off the board and who have served for three years.

Mary Hunt is the president of the board and has served as president for two years. She has been a strong leader, observant of being inclusive of all businesses and intent on getting the temperature and thoughts of the business community through a variety of surveys that the Chamber has conducted. Jim Hayes has also been a strong

advocate and mentor to new businesses and communicating to our businesses the need to network — really network, not just say hello. He has been the meeter/greeter at our Business After Hours, introducing new members around and integrating them into the business community.

Diane Levison is also rotating off the board. Levison is an individual member and has been a key player in the board engagement. With her former position with the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, she was poised to look at the whole of the community and how businesses and residents interact. She was a strong player both on event planning and financial analysis.

All of these board members will be missed.

Therefore, it is time to fill some big shoes. An owner or manager of a Chamber member business may run for a board seat if their business

is in good standing and has been a member of the Chamber for a minimum of one year. A nomination form is available on the Chamber website at www.pagosachamber.com. Self-nominations are due by Nov. 6. The slate of six candidates will be presented to the membership in December with voting occurring in December. Members can cast their ballot for three candidates. Three of the six candidates will be elected to the board by the membership.

Board members are required to attend a monthly meeting, any subcommittee as elected, and to volunteer at the Chamber's Business After Hours and events that are held. Different voices make for good conversation and decisions; therefore, we encourage a variety of businesses to consider serving. For more information, you can contact Mary Jo at the Chamber at 264-2360.

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Domestic violence results in long-lasting impact

By Ashley Wilson
Rise Above Violence

Imagine for a moment what it feels like to wake up one day and realize that you have put yourself and your children through all of the verbal and physical abuse that one can bear. You decide it is time to make moves to leave the relationship that has caused so much self-doubt and isolation, and create a world for your family that is free of violence.

As this awareness hits, it is immediately followed by the troubling realization that you are waking up in the bed and the home that you share with your abusive partner that is provided by their income. It is not that you are unable to work, but you have been told you need to leave your job to raise the children, or the constant fights and bruises have caused you to miss work so many times that you were fired.

In order to make your decision to leave a reality, the basic need of shelter can be a barrier that may seem impossible to defeat with so much stacked against you and that is only the first and most obvious thing. Now you have to figure out how to navigate a legal system to protect yourself and your children, you have to decide what to tell friends and family — many of whom might not believe you. You have to decide if you can take your family dog since many rentals won't allow pets; yet your abusive partner has threatened to harm your beloved animal.

Community members often ask

why victims of domestic violence don't leave and, unfortunately, the answer is never straight forward. It takes victims an average of seven times to leave for good because there are so many barriers and the cycle of violence is rarely clear-cut. There are good times mixed in with the abuse, there are apologies and promises, there are threats and there are so many hurdles.

Domestic violence costs a community. It has an emotional impact, an economic impact, and when considering that children are often witnesses to the abuse, a long-lasting impact. According to NCADV.org, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. The economic impact of domestic violence exceeds \$8.3 billion per year and causes victims to lose a total of 8 million days of paid work each year. Many victims, up to 60 percent, lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse.

Do you feel overwhelmed by those numbers? Do you want to help but are not sure how? The #1Thing that will end domestic violence is our collective power, our collective voice. Each one of us in this community can do #1Thing because we believe that awareness plus action equals social change.

If you want to learn more about #1Thing you can do, join us today at 9 a.m. for Coffee Talk on the Rise Above Violence Facebook Live. If you read this and have missed it,

is recorded on our Facebook page. You can also call Rise at 264-1129 to learn more about how to help.

If you need help because you are in an abusive relationship, Rise Above Violence is here. You can get help 24/7 through our hotline at 264-9075. We also have many programs at Rise that can help you keep yourself and your family safe.

Our Housing Program helps our clients feel confident and safe when choosing to independently stabilize. Since starting this program in the spring of 2019, we have helped maintain housing and/or located new appropriate housing for 10 families in our community.

Our Emergency Assistance Program is for clients in need of one-time rental assistance, utility assistance or relocation costs. This program has helped us move families quickly away from perpetrators in ways such as greyhound bus tickets or gas for their vehicles, and we have also been able to assist in U-Haul costs for families planning to make a fresh start for themselves.

Our Legal Advocacy Program helps clients understand the legal system and their rights. While Rise staff cannot give legal advice, we can help them understand how the system works, and through some grant funding, may be able to connect them with low-bono attorneys. Perpetrators often use civil court proceedings or threats of court proceedings to continue to hold control over victims and their children.

Rise advocates offer support

through the entire process and supporting victims with whatever choices they make to keep themselves safe. Staff, who are knowledgeable about cycles of abuse, provide social and emotional support as clients plan for safety. Our programs have not only been successful because of Rise, but is largely so successful because of help from community members who have recognized our cause and chosen to selflessly lend a helping hand.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and there are many things you can do to help. #1Thing: Please consider volunteering your time as a crisis advocate or help us run one of our fundraising events. Rise operates from grants and generous donors in our community. Consider being a monthly donor. Even \$10 a month adds up quickly when a community commits together. Visit the donor page at our website to learn about all the ways you can help.

Rise Above Violence is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides 24-hour support and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault or other forms of violence, serving more than 300 victims each year. Rise also works to eliminate violence through education for youth and our community. All programs and services are free and confidential, including emergency prevention education and empowerment programs. Visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for more information or call 264-9075 to talk to an advocate today.

Habitat for Humanity of Colorado names 2020 Legislators of the Year honorees

By Lori Henricksen
Habitat for Humanity of Colorado

Habitat for Humanity of Colorado (HFHC), the affiliate support organization for the 25 affiliates serving 45 communities statewide, is proud to announce that Rep. Shannon Bird and Sen. Don Coram are the first recipients of the organization's Legislators of the Year Award.

HFHC identified these two Colorado policymakers for their commitment and support to ensure that all Coloradans can afford the cost of a home. They both have fought for affordable homeownership through their public policy work during the 2020 legislative session and throughout the year.

"The housing crisis is not a Front Range issue, a resort issue or rural issue; it is impacting our entire state," explained Karen Kallenberg, HFHC executive director. "This is why it is great to have policy partners from across Colorado."

The median home value of a single-family home in Colorado is \$418,363. To purchase a home, a household would need to earn a minimum of \$100,000. In so many communities around the state, teachers, firefighters, nurses,

restaurant managers, city workers — the people who help make our communities safe, healthy, and thriving — cannot afford a decent place to live. If the workforce doesn't have stability, neither do those communities.

Bird and Coram are committed to our Colorado communities and finding solutions to help families put down roots where they are employed. Homeownership helps individuals be a part of the community they are serving while at the same time helping employers retain their workforce.

Through their work in affordable homeownership, Bird and Coram are doing more than putting a roof over a family's head; through prioritizing a continuum of affordable housing they are creating social and economic mobility for families across the state. Research shows that homeownership is currently the largest single source of wealth building.

"As our country and state look at advancing racial equity, we need more policy makers like Rep. Bird and Sen. Coram to prioritize affordable homeownership to help decrease the wealth gap between non-Hispanic whites and communities of color," said Kallenberg.

Now more than ever, a home is

an important sanctuary for families across our state to feel safe, healthy and secure. Habitat for Humanity has built, rehabbed and repaired over 3,000 homes across Colorado partnering with families making between 30-80 percent of the area median income.

"Habitat for Humanity of Colorado is honored to recognize Rep. Bird and Sen. Coram," said Kallenberg. "They have championed affordable homeownership through their leadership, prioritization of resources and willingness to collaborate on solutions."

Bird was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2019. She represents House District 35, which is in Adams County. Prior to election, she served on the Westminster City Council, where she actively supported affordable housing.

Coram represents Senate District 6, which covers Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel counties. Coram serves on the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; the Senate Local Government Committee and the Water Resources Review Committee. He is a strong voice for rural Colorado.

Habitat for Humanity builds safe, decent affordable homes to for low-income families who pur-

chase the home with an affordable mortgage. Twenty-five Habitat for Humanity affiliates across Colorado are building in 45 communities, and to date have built over 3,000 homes in partnership with families who would otherwise be unable to obtain the security, stability, and hope that homeownership can provide. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please visit www.habitatcolorado.org.

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Southern Ute Indian Tribe confirms first positive case of COVID-19

By Lindsay Box
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe confirmed the first COVID-19 positive case among the tribal membership on Oct. 14.

The first positive case comes after almost six months of the tribal "Stay at Home" order. The Tribal Council and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Incident Management Team (IMT) issued and continues

to maintain the public health orders taking the utmost caution to protect the tribal community. The stringent approach to the pandemic has prevented an outbreak in the tribal community.

The individual who tested positive does not reside on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and the IMT does not believe the tribal community is at risk for transmission. The tribe and the IMT believe the situation to be contained.

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Sports

FOOTBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pagosa's No. 22, Aiden O'Donnell, looks to breakaway a run on the outside edge of the Mean Moose defense after catching a pass from Grant Aucoin. O'Donnell finished the game with a total of 27 receiving yards on two receptions.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Senior kicker Cam Hinger knocks in an extra point attempt with Alamosa defenders closing in quickly. Hinger went four for



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

A limited number of Pirates' fans are in attendance for this season's home opener against the Alamosa Mean Moose. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no general admission is being allowed this season.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Pagosa Springs Pirate cheerleaders stand behind an end zone, cheering on their team from a distance.

Pirates maroon Alamosa Mean Moose in first home game

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, Oct. 15, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirates football team took on the Alamosa Mean Moose to begin this season's conference play. The Pirates came up big on the night, winning their home opener 46-6.

"We got the momentum and we never gave it back," coach Nathan Morales said in regard to the win.

He added, "We're working well as a team, everybody's doing their job and that's just what we want, we want everybody just to focus on their one job and trust the person next to them."

He noted he believes this is a big reason for the Pirates' recent success on the field.

Morales added, "We have a lot of good football players, good young men."

The Pirates' defense had another lockdown performance,

allowing Alamosa to only 70 total yards of offense on the night.

Sophomore Aaron Aucoin led the team with five solo tackles on the night.

Meanwhile, the Pirates' offense had another explosive performance, putting up a total of 470 yards and seven touchdowns.

Senior running back Dylan Tressler led the Pirates in rushing yards for the second week in a row with 178 yards and one touchdown on 22 carries.

Senior quarterback Grant Aucoin also had another standout rushing performance with five touchdowns and 157 yards on the ground.

The Pirates took to the air on offense slightly more than last week's game against Middle Park.

Aucoin completed eight out of 17 pass attempts for 126 yards, one touchdown and one interception on the night.

Morales offered a few comments

about the play-calling decisions.

"We've been fortunate enough to run the ball," he said, adding, "We executed well ... threw the ball well, missed a couple here and there, but that's expected."

Morales added that he is confident in Grant Aucoin's ability to throw the ball and he is confident in the offensive line's pass protection.

Morales reiterated that the team "will do whatever takes to win," whether that means rushing the ball or passing it.

Morales expressed he has been pleased with his team's performances so far, but is adamant that there is more to be done.

"I'm happy with what we've had out there, but we got to continue to work ... we don't focus on anything else besides us," he said.

With the win, the Pirates moved to 2-0 on the season.

This week, the Pirates will be traveling west to take on their rivals, the Bayfield Wolverines.

The Wolverines are coming off of their second straight loss. Last week, the Wolverines lost to the Lamar Savages.

The Pirates moved up one spot in rankings from the start of the season. According to CHSAANow.com, the Pirates are heading into this week's contest ranked sixth overall in the state's 2A division.

This week's game is scheduled

to kickoff at 7 p.m. Friday at Bayfield High School. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance will be limited.

clayton@pagosahun.com

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"This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses."

Acts 2:32

On the day of Pentecost, over 2000 years ago, Luke recorded in Acts 2 that a crowd of devout Jews came together. They listened as Peter took his stand with the apostles to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Christ. Jesus, the man, had been attested to them by God when he performed miracles and wonders and signs in their midst. (They knew for a fact that Jesus lived and did those things because they observed it.) By the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, they had this "man" nailed to the cross by the hands of godless men. But God raised him up and put an end to the agony of death. The apostles showed

Him to be the fulfillment of David's prophecy in the Old Testament. The twelve said they were eyewitnesses of his resurrection. They said David did not ascend into heaven but Jesus did and now sits at the right hand of God as Christ and Lord.

The crowd, upon realizing they had put to death the very Messiah for whom they had been looking, was pierced to the heart. They asked, "What shall we do?" *To be continued...*

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CROSS-COUNTRY

Heraty takes ninth at state to cap off Pirate running career

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs High School senior Gabe Heraty finished off his high school cross-country career with a ninth-place finish at last weekend's state meet in Colorado Springs.

Heraty logged a time of 16 minutes, 58.8 seconds — 51 seconds off the 3A state title time.

"I would say he ran a perfect race," coach Rachael Christiansen said.

Christiansen explained that they

had talked about a game plan of positions for Heraty to aim to be at certain points in the race, passing one or two runners on each hill to capitalize on his strength.

"He did it perfectly," she said.

At the bottom of the race's final hill, she explained, Heraty was in 11th, and with one-tenth of a mile left, he was in ninth.

Then Christiansen lost sight of Heraty and was left wondering if he held on to that positioning, which he had.

"He ran such a good race," she said. ■ See Cross-country A13

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Applications still being accepted for adopt-a-road program

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The joint adopt-a-road program that was launched by Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs in May is still accepting applications for roads to be adopted.

In an email to The SUN, Archuleta County Administrative Assistant Jamie Jones noted that four roads, or sections of roads, have been adopted so far.

According to Jones, the Pagosa Springs Masonic Lodge has adopted Light Plant Road, the Archuleta County Republican Women have adopted the first 5 miles of County Road 500, the Timber Ridge subdivision homeowners' association adopted Bristlecone Drive, and Maruicio and Veronica Medina have adopted the paved section of County Road 411, which equates to about 2 miles.

The program seeks to maintain the natural beauty of the state by keeping roadside litter at a minimum while also supporting local businesses, nonprofits and other organizations.

According to an application for the program,

there is a preference for four or more collection days, while three are mandatory.

For sponsoring organizations, the county will provide high visibility vests and litter collection bags, according to the application.

"So far the locals are helping a lot just by signing up for a road. We will continue to make aware that we have this program and work with anyone that wishes to adopt a road," Jones wrote.

In an email to The SUN on Wednesday, Town Manager Andrea Phillips noted that two groups volunteered for the adopt-a-road program in town limits.

The Daughters of the American Revolution adopted Village Drive from Pinon to North Pagosa Boulevard, and Pagosa Pines RV Park has adopted the San Juan Riverwalk from Town Park to Apache Street.

According to Phillips, both groups have participated in cleanup days.

"The Town is pleased with the current groups and is excited to add more miles of road to our Adopt a Road program in the future," Phillips wrote.

A press release written in May notes that the town and county worked together on this effort to provide an opportunity for service organizations and volunteer groups to do a cleanup project and to interact as a team for a positive impact on the local community.

"Groups can pick a road or section of road and, through their group, coordinate cleanup days for that stretch of road. A sign can be installed indicating the group's adoption of the road," that press release reads.

Both the town and county have received complaints from residents about trash and debris in the rights of way of roadways, which are sections that tend to become littered, according to the press release.

"Staff does not have the time to go down every roadside area to clean up the debris," the press release notes.

For a list of eligible roads, interested parties are encouraged to contact Jones at 264-8309 or jjones@archuletacounty.org, or Town Public Works Director Martin Schmidt at mschmidt@pagosasprings.co.gov.

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Cross-country

Continued from A12

said.

But, like his coach, Heraty didn't initially know where he placed after crossing the finish line, and she didn't see him right away to tell him.

"They actually held him after they finished," she said, and she didn't see him for about 10 minutes after the race, leaving her and her assistant coach worrying about if something was wrong with him.

Heraty also didn't realize he was being held because he was in the top 10.

"He didn't realize he was top 10," she said, adding that he apparently thought he was somewhere in the top 15 and may have been disqualified or something.

"So when he came out I was, like, screaming and, like, so excited and he ... had this look of just pure confusion. And I told him, I was like, 'Gabe, you made top 10, you're number nine,' and his face lit up," she recalled.

Once it sank in, she reported, he was really excited and celebrated with ginger ale.

In a later email, Christiansen noted that, following the finish, Heraty stated, "I did it for the team," which brought tears to her eyes.

Heraty was the third harrier from Region 1 (the Pirates' region) across the line at state, echoing Heraty's regional finish.

Also from Region 1, Gunnison's Alex Baca took the state title with a time of 16:07.8, and Alamosa's Joshua Medina took second with a time of 16:09.0.

Bayfield's Zeb Shield's finished 12th at the state meet with a time of 17:04.9.

Alamosa took fourth in the team scoring, while Gunnison took fifth.

Christiansen noted that the trip itself was also nice, and Heraty was able to partake in a team tradition that, in normal years, happens before the season ever starts — going to Zapata falls and doing a push-up in the waterfall.

"Even with just one athlete it was nice to get a couple traditions done for the year," Christiansen said.

The coach noted it was a weird year, and at the beginning of the season, the teams began focusing on taking nothing for granted.

"I think as the year went on we executed on that," she said, noting the harriers enjoyed each other's company, laughed and smiled.

The teams also had many runners improve over the season, which the coach hopes will carry over to next season.

"We have to get better every single day we're at practice," Christiansen said, adding an offseason conditioning program is in the works to help encourage continued progress.

The team is losing nine runners to graduation this year.

"Every single senior on the XC team this year is going to be greatly missed!" Christiansen wrote in an email. "Each runner brought so much laughter and dedication to the team and it will be hard to move on without these wonderful people."

The coach reflected on each of those runners in the email:

Heraty: "He became such a wonderful leader on the team. He is mature, honest, and dedicated to not only improving himself, but also the entire team."

Ivory Carpenter: "She is focused. Every day she showed up willing to work as hard as possible. She worked through the off season and

"I would say he ran a perfect race," coach Rachael Christiansen said.

proved herself to be not only a great runner, but also a great teammate."

Clayton Cayard: "Clayton is guaranteed to bring some laughter to the team. He is light hearted and fun."

Megan Greenly: "Megan is the definition of happiness. She is always laughing and smiling and cracking little jokes throughout practice."

Kylie Keuning: "Even though



Photo courtesy Steven Long

Gabe Heraty works to catch up to a runner during last Saturday's state cross-country meet in Colorado Springs. Heraty took ninth in the 3A boys' race with a time of 16 minutes, 58.8 seconds.

Kylie was injured and didn't race with us at all this year, she decided to stick around and help out in any way possible. And, she helped out a ton!"

Peyton Khung: "Peyton has had a few ups and downs over the course of running cross country for 4 years. However, even when things didn't go her way, she didn't quit. She stuck it out and I am very grateful she did!"

Sophia Raymond: "Like Peyton, Sophia has dealt with many ups and downs over the years. But again, she stayed very positive and very focused. She did not let those disappointments take over. Instead, she kept pushing herself!"

Cole Reis: "Cole dealt with quite a few injuries this year, but he always kept pushing himself. He is not one to quit. Ever. (Even when he should!)"

Noah Weiszbrod: "Noah just constantly improved. Every day he

showed up, he got better. Each race he raced, he got better. Even when the course was harder, he improved his time!"

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Got voting questions? We've got answers

By Sandra Fish
Colorado News Collaborative

Vote centers around the state — more than 340 of them — opened Monday for those who want to vote or drop ballots off in person for the Nov. 3 election.

It's important for voters to know that each county manages its own election with oversight from the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. County clerks, who are elected officials in every county except Broomfield, are facing plenty of questions this year because of the spread of disinformation about the election process, said Tiffany Parker, La Plata County clerk and president of the Colorado County Clerks' Association.

"I've done seven presidential elections and I've never had to defend our process as much as I have this year," Parker said. "We represent our communities. It means a lot to us. Every vote is counted accurately and that every voter who is eligible has an opportunity to vote."

The Colorado News Collaborative and its members, including The Pagosa Springs SUN, are looking to provide answers to questions from voters and potential voters. We contact the Secretary of State's Office, county clerks and other resources to respond to questions.

Before we get to questions this week, three things to know:

• If you're wondering whether you are registered to vote, you can check at www.govotecolorado.gov.

• If you want to know when your ballot was mailed and when it's been accepted, sign up for ballot tracking at colorado.ballottrax.net/voter/.

• County clerks are ready to answer your questions, too. The Archuleta County Election's Office can be reached at 264-8331.

On to the questions:

One of my family members, who is seriously ill, wants to cast a ballot. What if they die before Election Day?

If a ballot is cast before Nov. 3 when the person is alive, it will count and is legal.

Can I take a photo of my ballot and post it on social media?

Yes. A 2017 law makes ballot selfies legal in Colorado. According to Colorado Public Radio, it overturned an 1891 law from sharing marked ballots, which was aimed at preventing voter coercion. But you might want to use caution that personal details, including your signature, aren't revealed when you post.

What prevents me or anyone from voting twice: in person and by mail?

First, ballot envelopes have barcodes unique to the individual. When ballot envelopes are received by clerks, they are scanned in and poll books are updated to show that the person has voted. So if some-

one sent in their mail ballot and it was processed, and then showed up to vote at a polling place, the poll worker checking them in would be able to see that they had already voted. Or, if the person votes early at a polling place, then also cast their mail ballot, their mail ballot will not be accepted for counting.

It is illegal to vote more than once. If someone votes in person and by mail, county clerks are required to provide that information to the district attorney or state attorney general for prosecution.

What signature is used to validate the one on my returned ballot envelope? My signature has changed over time.

The most recent signature on a state transaction is used as a reference — typically a recent driver's license or more likely the signature on the last ballot you returned, for example on your primary ballot. All past signatures are available for election judges to review.

If election judges question your signature, you'll get a notice from your clerk within three days (two if it occurs on Election Day) and you'll have eight days to verify the signature is yours.

More details on how signatures are verified are available in www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/docs/SignatureVerificationGuide.pdf, a detailed guide for election judges.

Registration

How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

GoVoteColorado.com has a range of information on registration, including the ability to register to vote. Go to www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml and enter your name, zip code and date of birth to check your voter registration.

What if I've moved?

This link also will allow you to change your address: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml>.

What if my name changed?

You'll need to fill out this form at <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/vote/VoterReg-FormEnglish.pdf> and take it to your county clerk or mail it to the Colorado secretary of state.

What's the difference between an "active" voter and an "inactive" voter?

A voter is considered active if they've voted in the most recent elections or updated their address or other registration information. A voter is considered inactive if their county clerk receives returned mail marked "undeliverable."

Under federal law, clerks must wait two general election cycles before removing inactive voters from the database. Again, you may check www.govotecolorado.com to see if your registration is active and update your information if it isn't.

How long do I have to register?

You must register by Oct. 26 to get a ballot in the mail (but you'll need to return it to a vote center or drop box). But you may register and vote in person at vote centers through 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Ballots

How do I know if my ballot was received?

Voters statewide may sign up to track your ballot online at colorado.ballottrax.net/voter. You'll get notifications via email, text message or phone (you may choose) when your ballot is mailed, and when it has been received and accepted.

What if I don't get my ballot?

Check to see if your ballot has been mailed at www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html. If it has been mailed and you haven't received it, contact your county clerk's office and ask. Not every county will send ballots out the first day possible. But they need to hear from you if you don't receive yours.

How do I return my ballot?

Signed and voted ballots can be returned via mail, to a drop box or to the Archuleta County Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC).

Ballots must be to the Election's Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

Beginning Oct. 19, the VSPC will be open at the Archuleta County Election's Office at 449 San Juan St. and is accessible from the back of the courthouse.

Archuleta County also has two secure ballot drop boxes that are under 24/7 video surveillance: one near the flagpoles in front of the courthouse and the other at the TARA Community Center in Arboles.

If you prefer to vote at the polls, that can be done at the VSPC.

Are drop boxes safe from tampering?

Yes, according to the Secretary of State's Office. They are under 24-hour video surveillance and are emptied every day by a team of bipartisan election judges. The sturdy, metal boxes are bolted to the ground.

If I send my ballot back by mail, will it get there?

The secretary of state recommends delivering ballots in person in the final eight days before the election. If you mail them before that, they should arrive in time.

I got two ballots in the mail. What's up with that?

First, look at them carefully. It's likely they aren't the same. In some counties, ballots for special election districts go out separately from the general election ballot. And they're important. These districts often have a major impact on property taxes.

But you shouldn't get two general election ballots. If you do, check to see if the name on the

ballots is identical. If it is, contact your county clerk.

Do I have to request a ballot from my county clerk or the secretary of state?

Not if you're an active registered voter. County clerks automatically began mailing ballots to active registered voters on Oct. 9. Again, a voter is considered active if they've voted in the most recent general elections or updated their address or other registration information.

A recent nationwide mailer from the U.S. Postal Service insinuated that voters wouldn't receive a mail-in or absentee ballot unless they requested one. Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold sued the Postal Service, saying the mailer is misleading and could disenfranchise voters.

The Postal Service agreed to destroy the undelivered mailers, although about three-fourths had been delivered. In a settlement of the lawsuit, the government also agreed to consult with the Secretary of State's Office before sending any future communications about voting in Colorado.

I don't want to vote by mail. I want to vote in person.

The VSPC is open through Nov. 3 for the general election.

The center is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will be open a pair of Saturdays — Oct. 24 and 31 — from 8 a.m. until noon.

The VSPC will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta pointed out that anyone going to the VSPC will have to have a face covering and adhere to social distancing.

She also pointed out that longer wait times can be expected due to the length of the ballot.

Archuleta added a reminder that there is no electioneering within 100 feet of the courthouse, regardless of what business you are con-

■ See Voting A15



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Outdoors

Sen. Bennet meets with forest health group to hear about forest restoration work

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Last week, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado spent some time in the southwest region of the state meeting with Coloradans to hear their concerns and plans to keep everyone safe through this economic crisis, the pandemic and ongoing wildfires.

Bennet made a stop at Pagosa Springs' Reservoir Hill Park, where he met with representatives of the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) and heard their plans for funds received through a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), "Historic suppression of natural fire in the San Juan Forest and surrounding private lands has created a hazardous abundance of fuel."

In 2014, the SJHFHP began a project on Reservoir Hill where members and people from the community, including local high school students, worked to reduce the risk of a wildfire. Over a period of four years, much of the park was cleared of dead trees, dry brush, and other fire fuels that accumulated on the forest ground.

By removing these fire fuels, the forest was restored back to a more natural state and will provide more resiliency to wildfires.

Members discussed ideas to come up with the best solutions for reducing wildfires between both public and private lands, along



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado listens to JR Ford from the Forest Health Company about his ideas of using biomass energy to fuel local energy needs. Bennet made a stop in Pagosa Springs last week to meet with representatives from the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership to discuss funding options for public and private forestry work done in the area.

with what to do with organic materials that are removed from the forest in order to reduce wildfire risk and damage.

One of the problems that members from the SJHFHP are facing is what to do with organic materials that are not usable as building materials.

Most of the organic materials removed from areas with a high wildfire risk end up being turned into woodchips, which doesn't offer much of a financial incentive for private land owners.

JR Ford from the Forest Health

Company suggested that biomass subsidies from the government could encourage private land owners to do more restoration work.

He explained how the organic materials that would otherwise be turned into woodchips could be used to generate energy through biomass power plants.

According to Ford, it takes about 15 megawatts to power Pagosa Springs and he believes at least half of that could come from "forest waste."

Pagosa Ranger District Manager Kevin Khung spoke highly of the

Joint Chiefs' Initiative.

The Joint Chiefs' Initiative is a project that "brought partners and agencies together to work across boundaries to protect homes and secure resources vital to the sustainability of the surrounding communities," according to the USDA.

When speaking to Bennet about the program, Khung stated, "It's a gem... whatever you can do to keep it shiny, do it."

Khung also spoke of the importance of educating the public and the effect it could have on the way communities interact with each other in order to mitigate threats of wildfires.

Ryan Cox from the Colorado State Forest Service also commented, saying, "people need to see progress."

Along with Khung, Cox suggested he believes that educating the public about the forest and wildfires will spark change in the way communities manage their forests.

In an interview with Bennet after the meeting, he said, "What they're doing here could be implemented all across Colorado," in reference to the SJHFHP in Pagosa Springs and the CFLRP's being used to fund forestry projects in the area.

Bennet added, "This is one of the collaborative groups that is the farthest along and has the longest track record."

"I'm looking for opportunities to fund forestry in a different way and create different incentives," Bennet said.

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San Juan river reaches record low flow rate

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the San Juan River was flowing at a rate of 24.4 cubic feet per second (cfs) as of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Based on 84 years of water records, this is a record low flow rate for that date. The previous record low flow rate recorded for that date was in 1957 at 25 cfs. The average flow rate for the date is 156 cfs.

The highest recorded rate for that date was in 1973 at 1,350 cfs.

Lake report and water production

According to an Oct. 19 press release from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Manager Justin Ramsey, all five of Pagosa's local lake water levels are down.

According to the press release, Lake Forest is 4

inches from full, or 96.97 percent full. Hatcher Lake's water level is down 62 inches, or 80.86 percent full.

Stevens Lake is listed at 87.2 percent full, or 43 inches from full.

Lake Pagosa is down 13 inches, or 95.29 percent full. Village Lake is down 24 inches, or 88.89 percent full. Diversion flows remain at a total of 4.3 cfs, with the West Fork diversion contributing 3 cfs and the San Juan diversion contributing 1.3 cfs.

Water production from Oct. 9 through Oct. 15 was listed at a total of 13.87 million gallons. The Snowball water plant contributed 3.47 million gallons, while the Hatcher plant contributed 10.4 million gallons. The San Juan water treatment plant was shut off on Sept. 30.

Last year, total water production was listed at 11.18 million gallons for those dates.

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Voting

Continued from A14

ducting in the courthouse, which includes clothing items, buttons and hats with candidate names.

How can I be sure my vote is counted on Election Day?

Sign up to track your ballot at <https://colorado.ballottrax.net/voter/>. If it doesn't arrive within a few days of being mailed, contact your county clerk. Return your ballot to a drop box or through the mail, and the ballot tracking system will let you know when your ballot is accepted. That means your vote will be counted.

When do elections officials start counting our ballots?

Elections officials may start counting ballots 15 days ahead of the election, on Oct. 19. The early counting relieves some of the Election Day crush, but no results will be made public until after polls close at 7 p.m. Nov. 3. Not even elections officials know the results until then because computer software prevents the count from being revealed until after polls close. Even with the head start in the count, full results in super-close contests still might take a few days.

At the vote center

How do I become a poll watcher? Can I just show up and watch?

You can't just show up and hang out at vote centers. A poll or election watcher is a formal job that requires appointment by a political party or issue committee, as well as training on what the job entails.

Keep in mind that trying to intimidate voters at polling places is illegal, and Attorney General Phil Weiser told the Denver Post that his office will prosecute those who try to intimidate people at vote centers.

Can I wear my favorite political T-shirt or cap to the polls when I drop off a ballot or vote in person?

No. You can't promote or oppose a candidate or ballot issue within 100 feet of any building where a polling place is located. This is called electioneering, and includes T-shirts, buttons, hats or other apparel with reference to the election as well as signs. Campaign workers also are prohibited from offering water, food or anything else to people waiting to vote. Soliciting signatures for ballot measures or recall elections is also prohibited.

May I deliver ballots for other people in my family or neighborhood along with mine? Is "ballot harvesting" legal? Should I let someone else turn in my ballot?

An individual may turn in up to 10 ballots from family, friends or neighbors. People working for a po-

litical party or other organization also may only turn in 10 ballots, and often may reach out to people with that offer in trying to increase voter turnout. You should make sure you trust the person you allow to return your ballot. Other states have different laws on returning such ballots.

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Photos courtesy Carl Nevitt

Carl Nevitt, engineer turned stained glass artist, poses with one of his pieces. Nevitt's stained glass pieces are featured in churches around Pagosa Springs and nationwide.

Restoring history one window at a time

By John Finebrock
Staff Writer

About 30 years ago, Pagosan Carl Nevitt slowly began turning one of his favorite hobbies into a passion that he'd continue for decades: making and restoring stained glass windows.

Nevitt was born in Wichita, Kan., in 1954, telling *The SUN* in an interview last month that he had a "nice midwestern upbringing" in the "metropolis" of Wichita.

He studied industrial manufacturing engineering at Wichita State University and then worked for Boeing for 26 years.

Throughout his time working at Boeing in Kansas, Nevitt was lured to Colorado by one of his favorite places on Earth: the Conejos River.

"If you could go 30 miles [east] in a straight line from Pagosa Springs, you'd be on the Conejos River," he said, adding, "I fell in love with that place. I started going there when I was 21 and I've been back every year since."

Nevitt has had a small cabin on the Conejos River for decades, and moved permanently to Pagosa Springs in 2001.

But before that, in 1989, citing a nearly lifelong interest in stained glass, a friend of his told him he was going to stained glass classes, noting that the participants were nearly "all women," a perk for the newly single Nevitt, who had recently gotten out of a marriage.

"I just really enjoyed the art and I kept studying and I kept taking other classes and visited some glass manufacturers around the country, and the rest is history," he said. "I started making little things for friends and family and then had a couple people start bringing me pieces to be restored and I found that I really liked restoration."

Nevitt explained the stained glass work he's done in Pagosa and the surrounding area, which include:

- Currently restoring about 17 stained glass windows for Our Savior Lutheran Church.

"This is a big job," Nevitt said of the project. "I don't think there's anyone else in Pagosa that would take on this large of a job."

- Restored windows at the Pope John Paul II Church in Pagosa Springs, noting that his are the "windows around the cross and above the altar."

- Restored 12 100-year-old windows for a church in Montrose.

- Completed a stained glass window for the chapel at Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

- Restored about 11 stained glass windows at the United Methodist Church downtown that were over 100 years old, and made three new ones.

- Restored one window in a Catholic mission church in South Fork.

- Completed a variety of stained glass projects for churches from "Montana to New Jersey to Florida." Asked how one cuts through glass, Nevitt said, "You score it with a carbide cutter. You actually scratch the glass with a carbide cutter and then you just break it apart and put it together."

Nevitt also teaches the art of making and restoring stained glass windows, noting that in the last 19 years he's had 137 students who have "come from all around."

Nevitt explained that one stained glass window he restored at the United Methodist Church depicted Colorado Gov. Henry Buchtel, who was in office from 1907 to 1909, and relayed a story about a time the gov-

ernor visited Pagosa Springs.

"He was actually in Pagosa in 1908, on Lewis Street, to dedicate the church after it'd been destroyed in a fire," said Nevitt. "At the time he was a Republican governor, and I've often

wondered — at the very same time he was here, they were having the Democratic National Convention in Denver, and I think he skipped town. I think that may be why he came to Pagosa."

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PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

October 22, 2020



Photo courtesy Andy Butler

“Medusa on the Ridge” by Andy Butler took first place in the Creative category of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club’s annual Digital Photography Awards.

Photography Club announces annual awards

By Gregg Heid

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club held its annual Digital Photography Awards presentation on Oct. 14, by video conference. Winners of the third annual Pagosa Springs Digital Photography Competition were announced during the presentation.

The contest received entries from 21 Photography Club members in four categories: Landscape, People, Creative and Nature. In total, 112 photos were entered. The images in each category were judged by two professional photographers on the basis of composition, impact and technical quality. In addition, this year the images were also voted on by club members to determine “People’s Choice” images.

In the Nature category, winners were Chris Roebuck for his photo “Cougar.” Dave Anderson received second place for “Migration,” and Andy Butler’s photo “Sphinx Moth” was third. People’s Choice awards for the Nature category were Anderson, first for “Migration”; Darryl Saffer, second for “Colorado Columbine”; and third to Linda Pampinella for “the Stalker.”

The winning image in the People category was Fred Guthrie’s “Working Cowboy.” Guthrie also received second place for “Native Portrait.” Third place was

awarded to Lorie Butts for “Gym Brat.” Guthrie’s two images tied for first in the People’s Choice voting, as well. The third place People’s Choice image was Dean Dussell’s “Masai #1.”

Among the images in the Creative category, the judges’ selections were “Medusa on the Ridge” by Butler, in first place; “Stonehead” by Guthrie, second place; and “Spring” by Dussell in third. This category’s People’s Choice awards went to Bill Milner, first for “Crater Lake”; Guthrie, second place for “Stonehead”; and Anderson, third place for “Cold Dinner.”

In the Landscape category, the No. 1 image was Doug Coombs’ “Horseshoe Bend.” Second place went to Guthrie for “Escape from Alcatraz” and third place was “Tombstone Sunset” by Lorie Butts. The top People’s Choice vote also went to “Horseshoe Bend,” with Anderson in second place for “Photographing the Milky Way.” The People’s Choice voting resulted in a three-way tie for third place, between Dave Minkel for “Fire River,” Dussell for “Thermal Pools” and Butler for “Sunset at Morel Hoodoos.”

All of the winning photographs may be viewed on the Photography Club’s website at <https://pagosaprintphotoclub.org/news/>.

The Photography Club promotes educational, social

■ See Awards on next page

PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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The Pagosa Springs SUN Publishing, Inc.

(970) 264-2100

PagosaSUN.com

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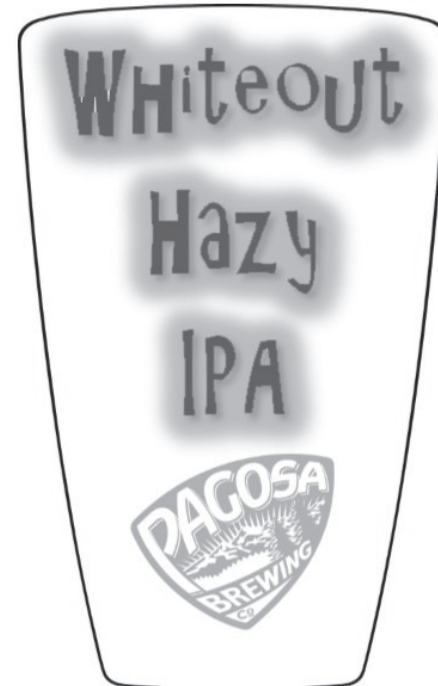
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Rotary announces fundraising effort for World Polio Day

By Sam Pittmon
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Join us, the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, as we celebrate World Polio Day on Oct. 24. Our Polio Eradication Initiative continues, but we are prohibited from soliciting public donations as we have done the past three years at City Market shopping center due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After decades of public support and grants exceeding \$2.2 billion since 1988, Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Initiative including the World Health Organization, U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Vaccine Alliance are proclaiming that the world is now free of polio except for only the two countries of Pakistan

Pagosa Peak Open School to present Let's Do the Time Warp Again!

By Alison Beach
Pagosa Peak Open School

On Oct. 30, Pagosa Peak Open School will show a 17-and-up-only cult classic film for the evening before Halloween. Think big red lips.

The movie will start at 8 p.m. at 7 Parelli Way in the parking lot, and entry is by donation. Concessions will be available for purchase. Suggested donation is \$20/vehicle.

This cult classic movie showing will be part of the school's final weekend of this fall's drive-in-style Movie Nights fundraiser series. Movie Nights will resume in the spring.

Email movies@ppos.co to reserve your spot or go to https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5RVLG6JANBXDG.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the school's capital campaign for building renovations. Pagosa Peak Open School is a tuition-free, public charter school.

Awards

continued from previous page and fun interactions between any and all who enjoy making and viewing great photography. The club sponsors educational programs and outings to help photographers hone their skills. Nonmembers are invited to attend a meeting to learn more about the club.

and Afghanistan.

We ask you the citizens of Pagosa Springs for your support to eradicate polio from the face of the earth by donating online at endpolio.org or mailing your check locally to The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs at P.O. Box 685, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

As per usual, the Gates Founda-

tion will match \$2 for every \$1 of all funds donated locally. Accordingly, last year, you, the public, and our Rotary members donated \$1,815 that was double matched for a total donation of \$5,445 to Rotary International Polio Eradication Initiative.

The Rotary Clubs of Pagosa Springs thanks you for your support.

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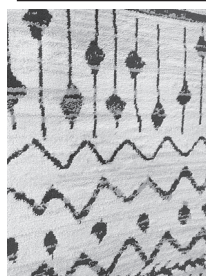


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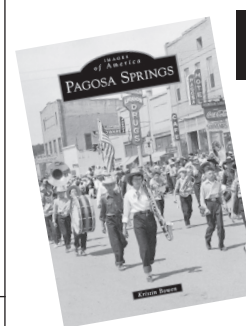


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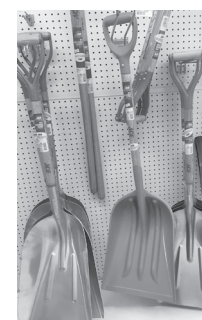
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Parents can create new Halloween traditions during pandemic

By Marc Ransford
Ball State University

If communities follow new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Halloween, families should consider creating new traditions that do not involve trick-or-treating, parties and get-togethers, said Jill Walls, an associate professor of Early Childhood, Youth and Family Studies at Ball State University.

The CDC recently posted guidance for the holidays, including Halloween. The federal agency warns people to avoid higher-risk activities, including door-to-door trick-or-treating; attending crowded, indoor costume parties; visiting indoor haunted houses; or going on hayrides or tractor rides

with strangers.

“The most important part of any holiday is spending quality time together and making memories,” Walls said. “COVID-19 has created a lot of uncertainty for families, but I think it’s possible to still have fun this Halloween season while staying safe. Parents should take time to prepare their children for some new traditions and provide reassurance about the other upcoming holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas.”

Walls suggested that families watch an age-appropriate Halloween-themed movie together, make a Halloween craft, play board games, bake holiday-themed food or have story time where someone reads a Halloween or fall-themed book aloud.

It also might be fun to “visit” friends in costume via Zoom or other online video platforms, she said.

And, for the little ones that just enjoy the costumes and treats, parents could set up candy bowls in various rooms of their home and have children trick-or-treat around the house or apartment.

If your community allows Halloween activities to go on in neighborhoods, Walls encouraged residents to place wrapped candy outside their homes in open bowls, instead of handing it out.

“I think about many hands reaching inside those bowls, which is not necessarily sanitary. Costumes with masks and gloves might be the best way to go this year!” she said.

Senior Center’s temporary dining room closure continues

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

The Pagosa Springs Senior Center is continuing its temporary closing of the congregate dining room due to coronavirus concerns.

In order to continue providing meals, we are offering take-out hot meals and a salad with a drive-up option under the portico at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

These meals will be available Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There is a \$4 suggested donation for lunch for those age 60 and better. If you need to have your meal delivered, please call 264-2167 to see if this option is available in your area.

The cost per meal for the public age 59 and under is \$8.50. The meals include a salad, hot meal, drink and dessert or bread.

Please call 264-2167 to make a reservation for pickup. We are also continuing our Meals on Wheels program.

There will be no games, classes, or presentations during this time. The staff will be available by phone. If you need to speak to a staff member, please call 264-2167.

Senior News

The Community Café menu

Thursday, Oct. 22 — Curry chicken sandwich, cucumber soup, milk, salad and pumpkin roll.

Friday, Oct. 23 — Baked cod, buttered corn, milk, salad and blueberry pie.

Monday, Oct. 26 — Roast turkey with stuffing and gravy, snap peas, cranberry sauce, salad, milk and pumpkin pie.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 — Beef taco, refried beans, cilantro lime rice, milk, salad and chocolate cake.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 — Bacon, vegetable strata, milk, asparagus Caesar salad and pumpkin roll.

Thursday, Oct. 29 — Pulled pork sandwich, potato wedges, milk, salad and dessert.

For your convenience, you can make your reservations in advance or have a standing reservation on

days you know you will always pick up. Please cancel if you cannot attend on your standing reservation days. We want to thank everyone for their support by observing our reservation policy. This helps ensure that everyone with reservations receives a meal and enables us to provide additional and healthier meals.

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Faith in the juggler

I hope all eyes are on God during these whirlwind times. He is the Master Juggler and only he can catch all of the cares of our nation and world.

It is hard to stay focused when there are so many things stealing our attention, especially that which causes fear to creep in, keeping us in a state of unrest.

After a dizzying year of this and that, I have finally settled down and, by faith, grasped the knowledge that God is sovereign. He will have the last word.

Written history proves his ability to set up and take down kings and kingdoms. I believe today is no different. And, it is only when we place our faith in him that we will know his mercy.

I can speak clearly of those times in my life when God had the last word and showed his mercy. Admittedly, I didn't always like the word received, but the resulting goodness that followed was undeniable.

There are too many times to count when I prayed, "Thank you, God, that you knew better than me. How I would have destroyed my life and family if left to my own devices."

On the other hand, I believe that there are those times when God let my stubborn self fall into whatever pit I dug. How else would I ever learn if I didn't bear the callouses of the climb out?

Over a year ago, concerned about our country, I was impressed to start a virtual prayer group to

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



lift up our president. No matter the number of times I put it off, the idea had a way of landing right back in my hands. God wouldn't let me rest until I stepped up and organized the weekly prayer effort.

I am amazed at how well I slept once I bought a videoconference subscription and set the virtual meeting into motion.

The mandate to pray for our nation and our community was loud and clear. I was given the scripture II Chronicles 7:14 as a prompting and brought the prayer team together under the guide, "If my people called by name ..."

It is a familiar scripture that I have known throughout my life. Mine now was to grab hold of it, to be part of something that was about to soar.

Over the next few months, I heard the same scripture that had been tucked away in my heart spoken by government officials across the nation. Never was it uttered more than on our National Day of Prayer. Countless people sat glued to their televisions as 70,000 people joined together to pray at our nation's capital. I can only imagine the tens of thousands that were doing the same from their homes.

During these days that seem darker than ever before, is it possible to think that there are those who are turning from their ways, to humble themselves in prayer? We would be foolish not to. The latter part of II Chronicles 7:14 says that it is then that we will be forgiven and see our land healed.

Our devotion this morning spoke to a calling in the lives of those who believe in Jesus. We are to be intercessors. I never saw myself in that way when I started my virtual meeting. I just knew that I needed to pray for our country and our community.

How could anyone not be weighed down by all of the problems we see swirling around us? It's almost overwhelming to think about all of the things we need to be praying for.

Therein lies the beauty of intercession. Ours is not to catch the ball, but to lift it in the air trusting God to catch it, then navigate it in his desired direction.

Yes, there are times when I felt like I threw all of the balls in the air only to see them come crashing to the ground. More often than not, I know that those same times were being guided by alarm or lack of assuredness. Thankfully, God is not motivated by fear, but by faith.

It has been that way since the beginning of time. Even David in the book of II Samuel 24: 13-14 said, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not

■ See Lane on next page

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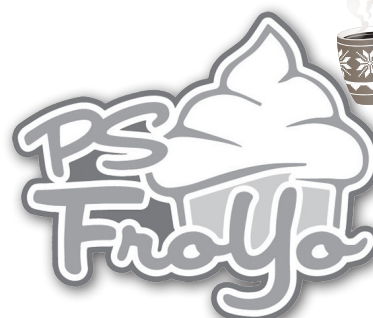
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UUs to host the Rev. Christine Robinson Sunday

By **Pauline Benetti**
Pagosa UU Fellowship

This year, 2020, will be remembered by so many of us as the most anxious of time. A time full of angst, whether for family, friends, frontline responders, the weak and vulnerable among us, jobs, home, county, the human condition and the list goes on. So much to be anxious about and so much of it out of our control. Where do we go for help? Whom do we listen to? Our guest minister this Sunday will reflect on answers to our questions.

The Rev. Christine Robinson has offered services to our fellowship in person many times over her 32 years with First Unitarian in Albuquerque. Her sermon this Sunday morning at our Zoom service will be, "Will you Listen to yourself!"

Robinson commented, "We are often told that the good life is one of 'being in the moment,' always aware of what is going on around us in the world. Dogs are really good at that and it is one of the things we love them for. But people are more complicated than dogs

because we have an inner life ... which we also need to 'listen' to and learn from."

Robinson is the minister emerita of the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, a gardener, church consultant and dog owner.

Join us

Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88284380641?pwd=ZnAycGppOUdZTVlJMlRYVGV6OVdQdz09>, telephone: (346) 248-7799, meeting ID: 882 8438 0641, password: 059944.

Our fellowship offers each individual support in our unique spiritual path and an opportunity to participate in positive social and environmental action. We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community. Please call this number with questions: 731-7900.

Religious Exploration (RE) classes have been temporarily canceled due to COVID-19. For more information about RE, contact Anna Ramirez at afrancis@hotmail.com.

Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha'i Faith

By **Paulette Heber**
Baha'i Community of Archuleta County

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

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

A weekly theme is reflected in

the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Oct. 25, our theme is equality of women and men.

"And among the teachings of Baha'u'llah is the equality of women and men. The world of humanity has two wings — one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly." — Abdu'l Baha.

The Baha'i Faith is a world reli-

gion whose purpose is to unite all people of the world in one universal cause, one common faith.

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

Lane

■ continued from previous page
let me fall into the hand of man."

We cannot echo David's words enough. Look around. Do we really want to fall into the hands of man?

Final brushstroke: As our country hangs in the balance, only one thing is for certain. We are in God's hands and only he will decide our future and the fate of our nation.

What he asks of us? To be humbled, pray, seek and then turn from our sinful ways. It is then and only then, as if cradled in the hands of a skilled catcher, that we will see our land healed.

Readers' comments

Send your comments to betty@bettyslade.com.



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Mama's jewelry box

By Jan Davis
Special to The PREVIEW

Joanie's grandparents sent her and her cousins, dressed in their Sunday clothes, to the backyard of her parent's house.

"Stay clean. Don't come back inside until called," her grandmother smiled with tears in her eyes.

The boys pitched an old ball back and forth, while the older girls sat Indian-style on the porch, entertained with a game of jacks. Joanie played with her doll in the yard until she became bored. She left her doll in the swing and walked to the side of the small framed house. She watched as a long black car appeared through the dust on the country road and pulled into the drive.

Four men dressed in dark suits stepped out. They walked to the back, pushed up the door and slid out a large wooden box. Daddy opened the front door as the men carried the long crate inside.

A few minutes later, the four men carried the same box down the steps and placed it back inside the car.

Grandpa hugged her daddy's shoulder and together they cried.

Something's wrong. Joanie sneaked into the back door. Her grandparents, aunts and uncles stood in tight groups around the small living room and talked in low voices. Joanie couldn't understand anything as she tiptoed through the room. Her aunts dabbed their eyes with hankies and blew their noses while her uncles stood straight, arms crossed in the back and stared out into space with red eyes. She didn't see her daddy anywhere.

Why is everyone crying? Joanie tiptoed past the adults and head-

A Matter of Faith

ed to her parents' bedroom and opened the door. I want to see Mama. The bed was made and a single rose lay on top of the pillow. Mama's Bible lay open on the nightstand. Everything in place, but her mama was nowhere in sight. With her arms crossed in stubborn determination, she set out to find her Mama.

Joanie's young life centered around the little house on the outskirts of town where she lived with her parents. She remembered the fun they had when Daddy would push her and Mama around in the wheelchair outside. Those were happy days before Mama became too sick to go outside and days were spent in bed.

Her daddy left early in the morning in the old family pickup. He drove a bright yellow school bus and picked up kids and dropped them off at school. Then he headed back home to care for her and Mama.

He fixed breakfast for the two of them in the kitchen and took a tray to Mama. He came back after a few minutes.

"Why are you crying? Is Mama OK?"

"She's fine baby girl. Everything is OK."

Joanie loved her daddy. She laughed when he wore Mama's apron and played house. They sat in the middle of the kitchen floor as he poured tea into the little tea set Santa brought her for Christmas.

"This is the proper way to hold

a teacup." He held his pinkie in the air.

Joanie loved her mama, too, and they spent hours together in her room. She couldn't remember when Mama wasn't sick.

Mama mended Daddy's socks or knitted a pair of booties for Joanie's doll before her strength gave out. She took a pair of old socks and made a hand puppet and told Joanie stories. Some were make-believe, others of when she was a little girl.

There were stories of growing up on the farm chasing chickens around the yard with her brothers and sisters.

It would be fun to grow up on my grandparent's farm.

Mama read "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs" out loud. Joanie enjoyed the tricks of the little pigs and hid under the quilt when Daddy appeared as the big bad wolf with a red scarf wrapped around his head.

Her favorite times were when Mama read from the family Bible kept on the nightstand. The stories came alive as she told about God's sky and cloud. Noah's big boat, Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, and Daniel in the lion's den were some of her favorites. Joanie wiped tears from her eyes when she heard the story of Jesus and how he died on the cross for her.

Jesus loves me and I love him.

Mama took lots of naps. That was OK. Joanie crawled up close, laid her head on her mama's breast and listened to her heart, before they fell asleep. Joanie felt loved and safe in her arms.

The night before the strangers showed up in the black car, Mama told a beautiful bedtime story about heaven. "Hi, baby girl, get

■ See Faith on next page



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Faith

■ **continued from previous page**
my jewelry box off the dresser and come sit beside me. I want to tell you my favorite Bible story.”

Joanie hurried to the dresser and climbed onto a little stool. She reached for the pretty box and carried it back to the bed and snuggled under the quilt.

“Thank you, sweetheart.” Mama opened the lid, withdrew two items and placed the box on the nightstand next to her Bible. “When Jesus died on the cross, he went back to heaven, where his Father lives. He promised to return some day and take us to heaven. We will live there forever with him.”

Joanie listened and nodded her head. She knew this story.

Mama handed her a gold ring. “This is my wedding ring. It’s too big for me now. I want you to wear it while I tell you the rest of the story.”

Joanie slipped the ring onto her small finger.

Mama chuckled, “Looks like it’s a little big for you, too. Someday when you are grown, it will be yours.”

Joanie smiled.

“In heaven, we will walk and run on solid streets, made of gold, like my ring.”

“Will you walk in heaven with me?”

“Yes, dear, I’ll hold your hand and we’ll walk together.”

“I can’t wait. Why are you crying?”

“I’m afraid you will have to wait for a little while sweetheart. You have a lot of growing up to do. Anyway, let me tell you more.”

She reached for the pearl necklace. “These are my pearls. A gift from your daddy on our first Christmas. Do you want to wear them?”

Joanie clapped her hands. “Yes, oh yes.” She scooted close and

leaned her head in.

Mama draped the pearls over Joanie’s neck, leaned back and smiled. “They look beautiful on you, baby girl. The first thing you see when you get to heaven are big gates made of solid pearl like my necklace, but bigger. Everything is huge in heaven.”

Joanie grinned. “Heaven sounds pretty.”

“It is. And the best part is, in heaven there will be no more pain. We won’t hurt anymore. Jesus takes it all away.”

“I’ll be glad when you don’t hurt anymore.”

“Me too.”

Her daddy walked in and smiled.

“How are my two favorite girls? You look pretty in Mama’s pearls. Why don’t we put them away for now and let her rest? Grandma made some chocolate chip cookies. We can eat some in the kitchen with a cold glass of milk.”

“Yummy. Can I have two?”

“We’ll see.” He chuckled and placed the ring and necklace back into the jewelry box. He gave his wife a kiss and picked Joanie up off the bed.

She leaned over and gave her mama a hug and kiss. “Night, Mama, I love you.”

“Night, Joanie. I love you, too, but Jesus loves you more.”

Joanie’s dad returned the box to the dresser as he glanced back at his wife. Without a word, their eyes locked on each other before he closed the door.

Mama was not in her bed. Joanie ran past relatives around the kitchen table and out the back door. She needed to find Daddy and ask him about Mama. She spotted him sitting alone on the swing in the backyard. Joanie hurried to stand in front of him. Daddy is crying.

“What’s wrong, Daddy?”

He pulled her up onto his lap

and handed her the doll she left behind earlier. They began to swing back and forth. “Remember yesterday when Mama told you the story about heaven and let you wear her wedding ring and pearls?”

“Yes, she said it was her favorite story and heaven sounded amazing.”

“It is.” He choked back the tears. “Well, last night Mama went to heaven and today she is with Jesus. She wanted me to tell you how much she loves you. She will wait for you inside the big gates and you will walk together on streets of gold.”

Joanie wrapped her arms around his neck and they cried until all the tears were gone.

Years later, Joanie sat by her dad’s bed.

“You’re wearing your mama’s gold band and necklace.”

“Yes, I think of her whenever I wear them and remember her favorite story. Tell her I miss her and love her whole bunches.”

“I will. Your mama would be proud of the woman you are today. You have a wonderful family. You have kept her memory alive through the stories you share with your own little girls.”

“I love you, Dad.”

“I love you, Joanie, but Jesus loves you more.”

Joanie wiped away the tears and watched her dad’s eyes close as a smile crept across his face.

Joanie’s granddaughter, Katherine, sat next to her in bed. They had spent the day together. Joanie told stories, “When I was a little girl ...” and shared memories of summers spent on her grandparent’s farm. Stories similar to the ones she heard as a child and shared with Katie’s mom when she was young. They laughed together while Katie snuggled close under the old quilt

■ **See Faith on next page**

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“This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.”

Acts 2:32

On the day of Pentecost, over 2000 years ago, Luke recorded in Acts 2 that a crowd of devout Jews came together. They listened as Peter took his stand with the apostles to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Christ. Jesus, the man, had been attested to them by God when he performed miracles and wonders and signs in their midst. (They knew for a fact that Jesus lived and did those things because they observed it.) By the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, they had this “man” nailed to the cross by the hands of godless men. But God raised him up and put an end to the agony of death. The apostles showed

Him to be the fulfillment of David’s prophecy in the Old Testament. The twelve said they were eyewitnesses of his resurrection. They said David did not ascend into heaven but Jesus did and now sits at the right hand of God as Christ and Lord.

The crowd, upon realizing they had put to death the very Messiah for whom they had been looking, was pierced to the heart. They asked, “What shall we do?” *To be continued...*

If you are asking, “What shall I do?” and we can help you spiritually please let us know.

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New Thought community to hear about ‘The Power of Group Intention’

By Lisa Burnson
New Thought Center
for Inspirational Living

“Thoughts are an actual ‘something’ with the capacity to change physical matter.” — Lynne McTaggart.

The power of intentions and of prayer has been demonstrated in many controlled studies. Do the intenders/prayers need to be in the same location of each other or with the receiver of their intention? Do the intenders need to be holding the intention at the same time? How many intenders are necessary to make a change in the target of their intention?

All are welcome to join New Thought Center for our presentation: “The Power of Group Intention” this Sunday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences with holding intentions.

Upcoming events

Meditation Circle is held each

Wednesday at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Band practice is every Tuesday evening. We welcome musicians and singers to join our band.

The Masquerade Party will be Friday Oct. 30, from 7 to 10 p.m. Bob Hemenger and The Retro Cats will be playing live. Appetizers and drinks will be available for purchase. Silent auction donations are welcome. Please call 309-6067 for ticket information.

There will be a prosperity class beginning in November. There will be day and evening classes, and participation by phone will be available in order to accommodate all who are interested. Date and time to be determined. Call/text 309-6067 for more information.

Library

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

day service or Meditation Circle.

About us

The New Thought Center promotes living a spiritually centered life, and promotes the philosophies of Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. New Thought honors all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine.

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

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of Best Western Lodge (elevator available).

Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling 309-6067. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought) or YouTube (Pagosa New Thought Channel).



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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Oct. 22

Sen. Bennet Office Time. Sen. Bennet's office will now be offering

office time to Archuleta County residents. Meetings will be with Janet Wolf. If you have a question or concern about any federal issue such as Veterans Affairs, the IRS or Social Security administrations or another agency, you are encouraged to contact Janet and schedule an appointment. Janet can be

reached at janet_wolf@bennet.senate.gov or 259-1710. Please include your name, address, phone number and issue you would like to discuss.

Rise Above Violence Coffee Talk. 9 a.m. Facebook Live. Learn more about Rise Above Violence and

■ See Calendar on next page

Faith

■ continued from previous page with her Nana.

“I love you, Nana.”

“I love you too, baby girl, but Jesus loves you more. Before we get cozy and fall asleep, jump down and bring Nana her jewelry box. I want to tell you a story about heaven.”

Life application: Joanie discovered life is not always fair and tragedy happens. Most of us have experienced the death of a parent, child or sibling and our world changes forever. Through God's mercy, we are able to face each new day. We learn to live in spite of our loss and move forward.

Her mom explained the promise of eternal life in Christ, free from sorrow, pain and sickness, no longer separated through death from those we love.

Because of Jesus, we find hope in His Word, which declares, “It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” — Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV).

Congratulations Rachel!

PSMC is thrilled to congratulate Pagosa native and PSMC's very own, Rachel Liverett, in completing her advanced practitioner degree.

Rachel Liverett, FNP-C, is accepting new patients of all ages. Call 970-731-3700.

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
the current needs of survivors in our community.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Due to the COVID-19 threat, Loaves and Fishes will continue to offer meals to the community as takeout only. There will be no sit-down service. Guests should come to the front doors of the Parish Hall, where they can pick up meals to go. This practice will continue until further

notice.

Tech Time by Appointment. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment or for more information.

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to

make an appointment.

Principles Before Personalities Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

Friday, Oct. 23

HER Story. 8:30-9:30 a.m., 140 Country Center Drive, Unit 2. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to grow and heal

■ **See Calendar on next page**

Holidays are coming!
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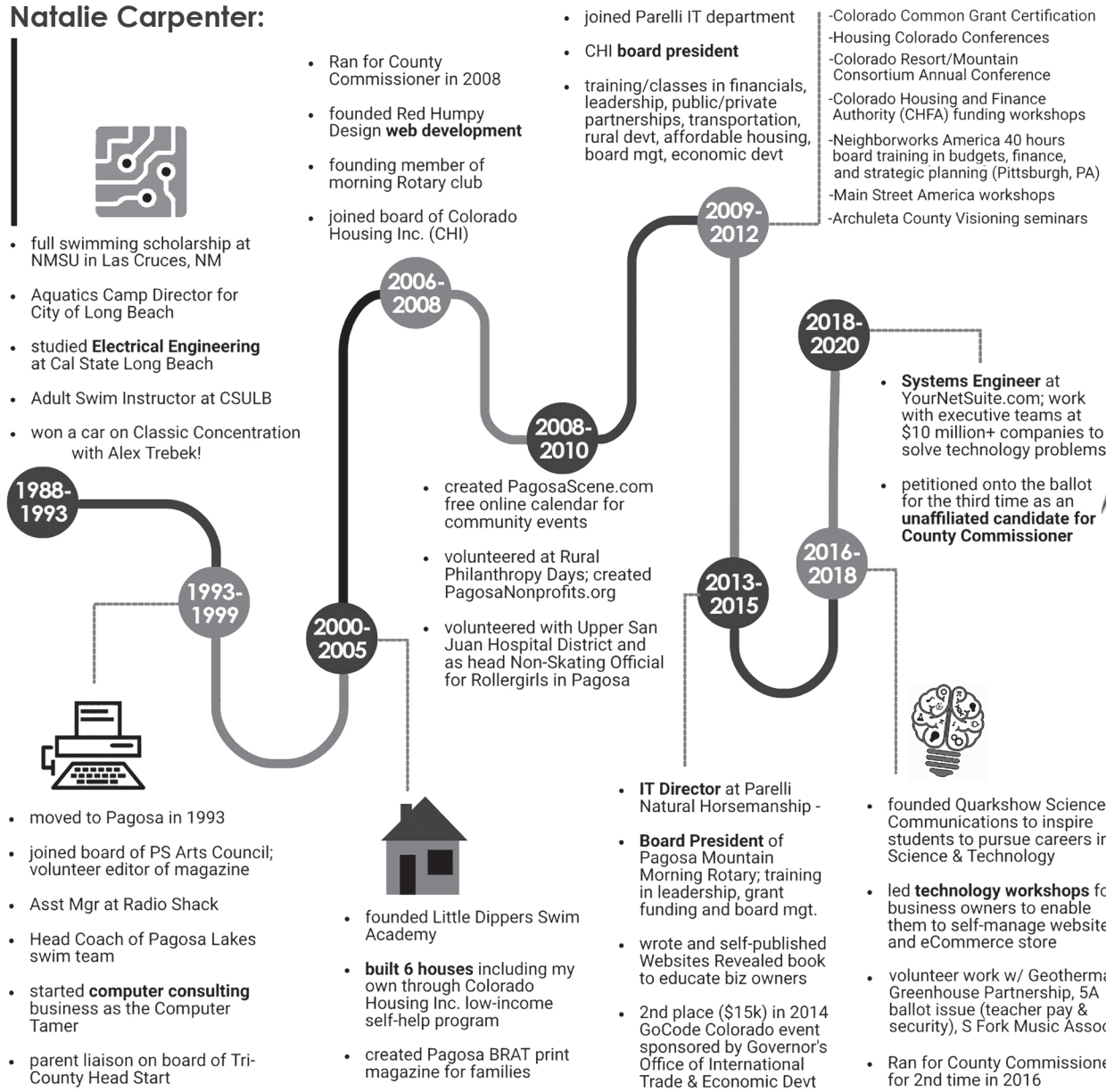
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I've worked with 100+ businesses all over the county in the past 27 years so I understand the unique business needs of our area. I've served on four nonprofit boards and have supported many others as an unpaid volunteer. I have extensive board training and business financial experience and after sitting through hundreds of hours of Town and County meetings as a concerned citizen, **I'm ready to be our next Archuleta County Commisisoner.**



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Natalie Carpenter, age 49
Self-employed Systems Engineer, mother of three, community volunteer and 27-year resident of Pagosa Springs.

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visit **VoteNat.com** to learn more about Natalie Carpenter.

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence.

Literary Ladies Book Club. 10 a.m.-noon, PLPOA Vista Clubhouse. Michelle Obama's autobiography, "Becoming," will be reviewed. Because of COVID-19, we would appreciate your notifying the club secretary via email if you plan to attend. Please email Marilyn Stroud at bakestroud@aol.com by Monday, Oct. 19.

Family Fridays at Four Mile Ranch. 1-4 p.m., Four Mile Ranch, 5053 County Road 200. These sessions will provide local students (target age K-4th) who might otherwise visit the ranch in the fall (via school) an opportunity to take an interpretive walk with their families. A scavenger hunt hand-out will be provided to students to work through as they walk with the signed loop and check off their findings. Additionally, we will provide some stations with enrichment content for the students and families to engage in. Once registered, participants will receive additional directions and cancellation policy to the ranch. All activities will respect Colorado-mandated recommendations that pertain to COVID symptom screening, mask wearing and social distancing. Visit <https://act.audubon.org/a/family-fridays-four-mile-ranch-20200925>. For more information, email Keith Bruno at kbruno@audubon.org.

Adult DIY. 2-3 p.m. Facebook Live. Book pumpkins. Join Brad on Facebook Live for a fun and easy DIY that turns an old book into a decorative pumpkin. If you miss the live event, the video will remain available on Facebook for viewing anytime. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Gaming. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect. Please note: Due to COVID concerns, we are only allowing a maximum of four participants in the gaming room. Masks must be worn at all times inside the library and social distancing must be maintained throughout the program. Call 264-2209 for more information.

The Good News Club. 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children K-6th grade. COVID mandates will be followed, including social distancing and masks. For more information or to register, go to coloradocef.org/GNC.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Discovery Time. 2:30 p.m. Facebook. For all ages. New videos are posted to Facebook each Saturday. View to explore new games,

art ideas, science experiments, history, activities, and more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Monday, Oct. 26

Pumpkin-Decorating Contest. For all ages. Pumpkins can be carved, painted or decorated. Original designs only. One entry per person. Please submit no more than three photos of your pumpkin. One must be taken in full light and one must include the artist. Photos of artists are used to verify that this is an original work and will not be posted or displayed without written permission. Photos of completed pumpkins must be emailed to ruby@pagosalibrary.org by noon on Friday, Oct. 30. Winners will be contacted and photos of winning pumpkins will be posted on our Facebook page. Pumpkin artists will enter their pumpkins into the appropriate age category: pre-school, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17 and adult. The library will have a limited number of pumpkins to give out a week before the contest. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs (WHIPS) October Scholarship Luncheon. 11:30 a.m., Timber Ridge Clubhouse. Halloween theme. Catered meal for \$12. Masks are required. All ladies are welcome. RSVPs needed; call 946-1895.

LPEA Virtual Town Hall Meeting. 7 p.m. In recognition of National Cooperative Month, La Plata Electric Association will host a virtual town hall meeting to connect with its membership and discuss future power supply options. Members are encouraged to register in advance for the meeting. After registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. All participants will be entered to win door prizes supporting local businesses. To register: https://us-02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_adtTysrgQ4a5ao4yHyJc2Q.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and associated members are invited. Social distancing is required at this time. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

Tech Time by Appointment. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment or for more information.

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or

email for more information and to make an appointment.

Community in Conversation Book Discussion Group. 5-6:30 p.m. Offering free weekly Zoom community discussions. Our purpose is to equip people with the tools

■ See Calendar on next page

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Ronnie Maez and Elsa White

**Natalie Woodruff
and Elsa White
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re-electing
Ronnie Maez
County Commissioner
District 2**



EXPERIENCE



These are just some accomplishments during my first term as county commissioner

Roads — Full reclamation of 6 miles of county roads with paving or lithification: 2 miles Trujillo Road, .5 mile Lake Forest Circle, 1 mile Trails Boulevard, 1.3 miles Piedra Road to Cloud Cap, .1 mile Piedra Backswing to Golf, .1 mile East Golf, .1 mile Backswing to Caddy Circle, .25 mile Masters Circle

Detention facility built
Sheriff's office completed

34 workforce housing units under construction
Department of Human Services office under construction

Moving forward to build courthouse
Broadband — Continuing support of making progress to strengthen connectivity in Archuleta County

And much more

As your county commissioner, I am available 24/7, (970) 903-0546

Volunteer Experience: Pagosa Fire Protection District board of directors 8 years, volunteer firefighter 11 years, Archuleta County Fair Board, Firefighter's Pension Fund Board, Archuleta County School District Accountability Committee, Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission.

I am asking for your support and the privilege to serve you another four years.

VOTE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ RONNIE MAEZ

incumbent for county commissioner district 2

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ronnie Maez



Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
they need to have meaningful conversations on difficult yet important issues. We hope to discover together some common ground, to find out what unites us rather than divides us. If you would like to participate, send an email to sarah.riehm@gmail.com.

Principles Before Personalities Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children ages 3-5. Includes Bible time, songs, crafts, games and more. COVID mandates will be followed, including social distancing and masks. For more information or to register, go to coloradocef.org/GNC.

Family Storytime. 10 a.m. For all ages. Join us for great stories and fun songs. Wednesday storytimes are on Facebook Live, so if you go to Facebook at 10 a.m., you can interact with Josie. If you have a Facebook account, you can log in and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon, or you can contact us and we can send you a link. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Tech Time by Appointment. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment

or for more information.
Dungeons and Dragons. 4-6 p.m. Teens and young adults. Join us on Google Meet for our ongoing game. Contact claire@pagosalibrary.org for details on how to join.

Thursday, Oct. 29
Sen. Bennet Office Time. Sen. Bennet's office will now be offering office time to Archuleta County residents. Meetings will be with Janet Wolf. If you have a question or concern about any federal issue such as Veterans Affairs, the IRS or Social Security administrations or another agency, you are encouraged to contact Janet and schedule an appointment. Janet can be reached at janet_wolf@bennet.senate.gov or 259-1710. Please include your name, address, phone number and issue you would like to discuss.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Due to the COVID-19 threat, Loaves and Fishes will continue to offer meals to the community as takeout only. There will be no sit-down service. Guests should come to the front doors of the Parish Hall, where they can pick up meals to go. This practice will continue until further notice.

Tech Time by Appointment. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment or for more information.

English as a Second Language by

Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

Principles Before Personalities Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

Friday, Oct. 30
HER Story. 8:30-9:30 a.m., 140 Country Center Drive, Unit 2. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to grow and heal as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence.

Gaming. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect. Please note: Due to COVID concerns, we are only allowing a maximum of four participants in the gaming room. Masks must be worn at all times inside the library and social distancing must be maintained throughout the program. Call 264-2209 for more information.

The Good News Club. 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children K-6th grade. COVID mandates will be followed, including social distancing and masks. For more information or to register, go to coloradocef.org/GNC.

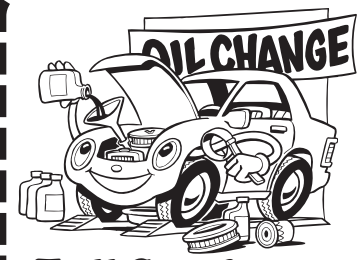
Pagosa Peak Open School Fund-raiser: Let's Do the Time Warp

Again! 8 p.m., 7 Parelli Way. Ages 17 and up only. A cult classic film for the evening before Halloween. Concessions will be available for purchase. Suggested donation is \$20/vehicle. Limited spots. Email movies@ppos.co or go to https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=SACZ8R8GBFRW6/ to reserve your spot.

Saturday, Oct. 31
Discovery Time. 2:30 p.m. Facebook. For all ages. New videos are posted to Facebook each Saturday. View to explore new games, art ideas, science experiments, history, activities, and more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Peak Open School Fund-raiser: COVID-Safe Trunk or Treat Plus Drive-in Movie. 6:30-9 p.m., 7 Parelli Way. Wear your favorite costume and mask. The evening will feature a Day of the Dead-themed movie. Treats for the Trunk or Treat will be prepackaged with social distancing following COVID guidelines. Admittance will require a movie reservation. Suggested donation is \$30/vehicle for entry. Limited spots. Email movies@ppos.co or go to https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=SACZ8R8GBFRW6/ to reserve your spot.

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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Three Halloween events and Meals on Wheels deliveries

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Join us for our annual free all-ages pumpkin-decorating contest. Pumpkins can be carved, painted or decorated. Original designs only and one entry per person, please.

Submit no more than three photos of your pumpkin. At least one must be taken in full light and one must include the artist. Photos of the artist are used to verify that this is an original work and will not be posted or displayed without written permission.

Photos must be turned in by email to ruby@pagosalibrary.org by Friday, Oct. 30, at noon. Judging will be in five age categories: preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17 and adult.

We will have a limited number of pumpkins to give out if you need one.

Pumpkin DIY for adults

Join Brad on Facebook Live tomorrow, Oct. 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. for a fun, free and easy DIY that turns an old book into a decorative pumpkin. If you miss the event, the video will remain online for viewing any time.

Spook-tacular creations

We invite you to take part in creating some spooky temporary community art until Oct. 31. Projects will be set up outside the library with instruction.

Library books via Meals on Wheels

Just a reminder that your library is in a special partnership with Archuleta Seniors Inc., the nonprofit organization that runs the Senior Center and oversees the Meals on Wheels routes for delivery both in town and out of town.

As meals go out to homebound clients, they can be accompanied by a special library bag containing books, audio books and DVDs especially selected to match each person's individual tastes. The personalized selection is based on a questionnaire they complete. If you or someone you know would like this service, please contact the Senior Center at 264-2167 to receive the introductory information pamphlet and preference questionnaire.

"We'd love to have the word passed on to others who are not aware of this service," said Meg Wempe, library director, "and we'd love to see increased usage. As well, if there are other avenues to help homebound people receive library resources, we are interested in discussing possibilities. Please reach out to me directly if you have suggestions or thoughts."

Library News

Free books for 4-year-olds

You have three more days, until this Saturday, Oct. 24, to pick up a free paperback book for your 4-year-old. "The Little Red Fort" written by Brenda Maier and illustrated by Sonia Sanchez is being distributed to children statewide, in either English or Spanish, as part of a special family literacy project.

The book features Ruby, who finds some old boards and decides to build a fort. Her brothers make fun of her, saying she doesn't know how to build. "Then I'll learn," says Ruby. And she does. We also will be celebrating with some "forts" set up in the library's garden, if the weather cooperates, for kids to read in.

DIY craft takeaway

Drop by your library for free DIY craft takeaways for youngsters age 10 and older. Just pick up a packet outside the library and follow the instructions.

Calling all teens

If you enjoy reading books, learning new skills and helping your community, we hope you will sign up to volunteer at your library. You'll be invited to write book reviews, make artwork for the teen area, help plan new programs, judge our pumpkin-decorating contest, prepare crafts for kids' programs and help keep the library organized.

Please stop by the library or apply online.

In-person gaming

Free in-person gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect for all ages has resumed on Fridays from 2 to 3 p.m. Due to COVID concerns, we are only allowing a maximum of four participants in the gaming room. Masks must be worn and social distancing maintained at all times.

Voter registration tutorial

Are you registered to vote? Do you know how to review your voter registration or update information to ensure you are eligible to vote? View an informative tutorial about these vital topics on the library's website at <https://pagosalibrary.org/election-2020/>.

Adult DIY on Facebook

A free fall-themed DIY event offers some crafty ideas of how to create several fall-themed decora-

tions.

If you have a Facebook account, log in to Facebook and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library.

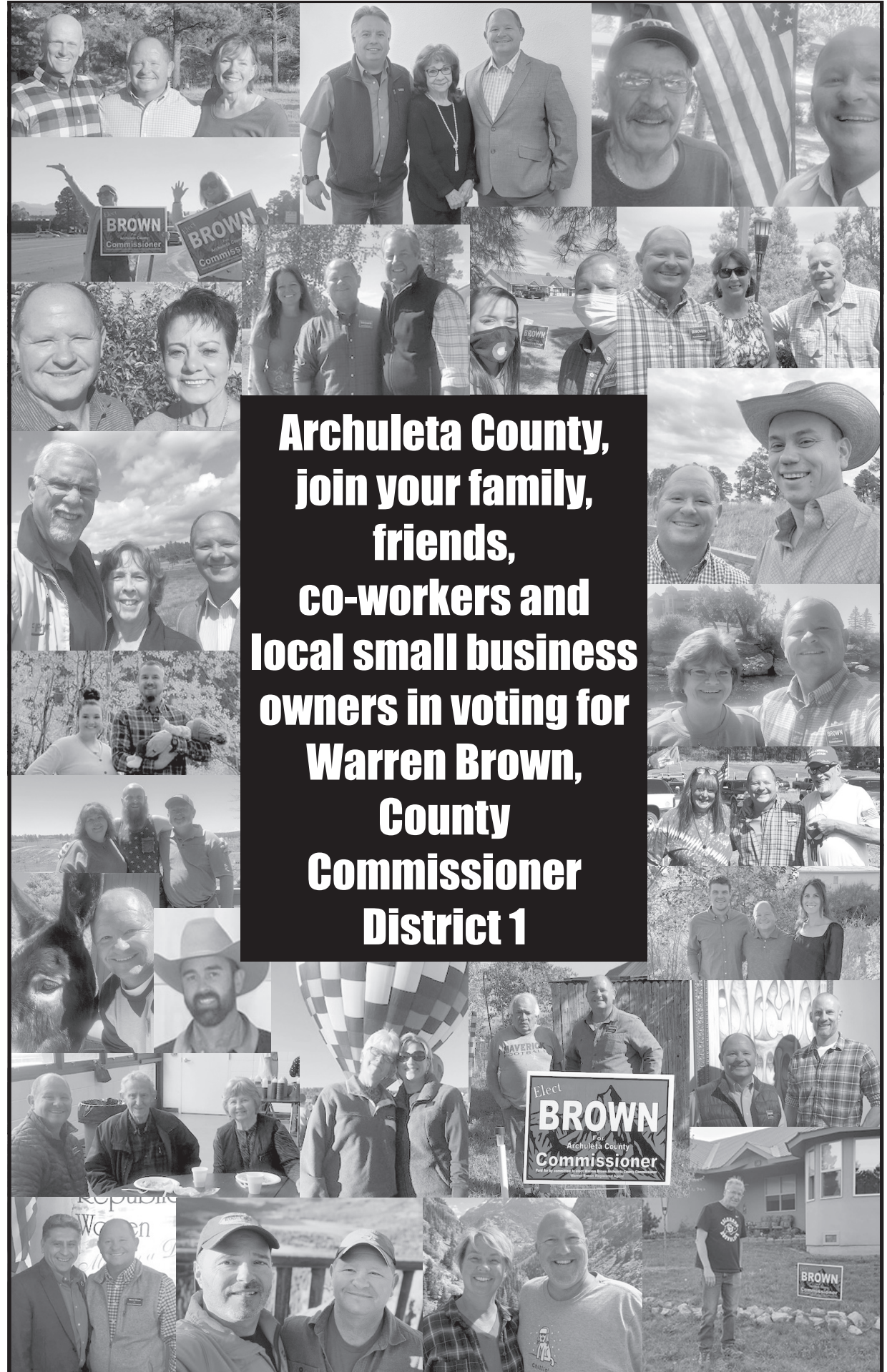
■ See Library on next page

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Paid for by Committee to Elect Warren Brown County Commissioner, Warren Brown, registered agent.

Library

■ continued from previous page

If you don't have a Facebook account, access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon (a lowercase f) in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Or, contact us and we can send you a direct link.

New Storywalk for kids

Every other Thursday, Josie posts signs outside the library that follow the sidewalk up toward the elementary school detailing a new free Summer Reading Storywalk for kids. The Oct. 22-Nov. 5 theme is creepy adventures. After you finish the walk, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library.

Tech Time

Make a 15- or 30-minute appointment for one of three free in-person slots available noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Brad will help one person (or one couple) at a time. If you have a Tech Time appointment on Thursday, phone from the parking lot or knock loudly on the front door to be let in.

ESL

Free in-person classes take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. by appointment. Please register so we can keep it to a small group in our limited open spaces. No walk-ins.

Dungeons and Dragons on Google Meet

Join us Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for Dungeons and Dragons free for teens and young adults. Contact claire@pagosalibrary.org for details on how to join. If you don't have Internet access, contact us anyway — we may be able to accommodate you in the library.

Children's programs on Facebook

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m., join us on the library's Facebook page for free children's programs. Wednesday storytimes are on Facebook Live, so if you go to Facebook you can interact with Josie. Saturday's Discovery Times — with games, art ideas, science experiments, history and more — are prerecorded.

If you have a Facebook account, log in to Facebook and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon (a lowercase f) in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Or, contact us and we can send you a direct link.

Adult learning

GED classes and other free in-person tutoring from Mark is suspended for October and will resume in November.

Summary of our partial reopening

- We're now open on Thursdays from 1 to 7 p.m. with 1 to 2 p.m. reserved for seniors and higher-risk populations.

- Other hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for seniors and higher-risk populations. Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays: closed.

- We are accepting meeting room reservations for small groups, with library programs having first dibs on the rooms. You can schedule only so far out, usually two weeks to a month, depending on where we are in the month.

- Up to 30 patrons at a time can come into the building.

- Hand sanitizers are available and there will be frequent cleanings inside the building throughout the day. Please practice social distancing and wear facial coverings while you are in the building. If you don't have a mask, we are happy to give one to you.

- Nine computers are available. In most cases computer usage will be allowed for three hours per day. Staff will clean and disinfect the computers between uses.

- One early literacy computer is available for youngsters Monday through Saturday.

- Curbside service continues Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except for Thursdays, when it's from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phone 264-2209 when you are in the parking lot so staff can bring the items out for you. If you put a hold on something, please wait for your usual alert (email, phone call or text) before coming to pick it up.

- You now can drop your returns of books, CDs and DVDs in the drop box at City Market, as well as in the drop box at the library. No donations in the City Market box, please.

- Notary service is available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. The cost is \$5 per notary.

- You can place holds on items from other libraries. They are in different stages of reopening, so items may take longer than usual.

- We're happy to provide tech help in person or over the phone for our online resources.

Illustrated poetry

"Dandelion" is a collection of poems written and illustrated by Gabbie Hanna about what it means to struggle with mental health.

DVDs

"They Shall Not Grow Old" features the voices of veterans and original archival footage in this documentary about World War I. "New Amsterdam" is season two.

Thrillers, mysteries and

suspense

"The Searcher" by Tana French brings a retired U.S. policeman to a new case in Ireland. "Dear Child" by Romy Hausmann follows a woman who escapes after being held captive for many years. "The Recovery of Rose Gold" by Stephanie Wrobel unites a mother out of prison with her daughter in a chilling tale of revenge. "Confessions on the 7:45" by Lisa Unger begins when two women strike up a conversation on a stalled train.

Other novels

"Missionaries" by Iraq War veteran Phil Klay examines the globalization of violence through the interlocking stories of four characters and conflicts. "Dune" by Frank Herbert is the sci-fi classic. "A Wild Winter Swan" by Gregory Maguire is an Italian American girl's coming-of-age story.

Books on CD

"Robert B. Parker's Fools Paradise" by Mike Lupica is a Jesse Stone mystery. "Chaos" by Iris Johansen features a CIA agent trying to save kidnapped schoolgirls in Africa.

Nonfiction

"Comfort Food" by Ina Garten offers recipes to satisfy your cravings and your soul. "Think Like a Monk" by podcast host Jay Shatty shares the wisdom he learned as a monk in India. We have four National Park mysteries by Scott Graham: "Mesa Verde Victim," "Arches Enemy," "Yosemite Fall" and "Yellowstone Standoff."

Downloadable e-books and audiobooks

We have a wide variety of downloadable e-books and downloadable audio books for patrons of all ages — children, tweens, teens and adults. Using cloudLibrary, you can download a book to read or an audio book to listen to. The items in cloudLibrary are purchased separately from physical items, so the books available are different — and it continues to use the consortium's contributions, not just those that we bought. That is why you need to select AspenCat Union Catalog when setting up cloudLibrary for use. Please email or phone us at 264-2209 if you need our help setting up this service on your device.

Donations

Please put your material donations into the drop box at the library — not at City Market, which is reserved for returns. Donations will undergo the same rigorous three-day quarantine process as returns.

Quotable quote

"Stop living this life like it's a dress rehearsal. This is the show!"

■ See Library on next page

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WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

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We're running special photo pages in our November 5 edition for Veteran's Day to honor those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

Please send your service picture along with your name, branch of service, rank and hometown to:

shari@pagosasun.com or our office at
P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 27.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST**

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

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457 LEWIS STREET • P.O. BOX 9

PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO 81147

Pagosa Springs was on the rise

John R. Curry, editor of Silver-ton's newspaper, published a letter written from Pagosa Springs in March of 1881. It said, in part, "Pagosa Springs, the largest, hottest, and most singularly curious hot springs of their class in the world, are no longer isolated, as they have been in times past,



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter



Photo courtesy John M. Motter

The first Pagosa Springs town hall was in this building on the bank of the San Juan River at the corner of San Juan and Pagosa streets. The town fire department was in the north end of the building.

By May of 1881, Pagosa Springs could boast of its first public bath house, a frame building erected by Thomas Blair.

Of Pagosa Springs, he said, "At Pagosa Springs, there are at present very slim hotel accommodations; it is certainly the best point for someone to locate and erect a hotel of 30 or 40 rooms that we know of in southwestern Colorado." He stayed overnight at the "Hotel de Blair."

By May of 1881, Pagosa Springs could boast of its first public bath house, a frame building erected by Thomas Blair. It had a large plunge bath, fully 4.5 feet deep, and several single bath tubs, sufficient to accommodate all visitors. Pagosa Springs was on the rise.

shut off from the great traveling thoroughfares of the country by a formidable range of mountains, a trip across which any season of the year, by such conveyances as were available, was unpleasant and tedious to the extreme.

"Now these difficulties have been overcome by the approach of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad, which was extended over the range in question and has a station at Chama only forty-five miles distant from the Springs.

"J. L. Sanderson and Co. and Wall and Witter have established lines of coaches between Chama and Durango, the flourishing city of the Animas Valley ... This has given initiative to hotels and building houses ... persons coming here now to see these wonderful springs and to bathe in their benefit-giving waters, can feel assured that comfortable lodging will be provided and something to eat at reasonable prices."

The letter was a response to Curry's unfavorable article the previous fall, when he reported traveling through Pagosa Springs. He chose to journey by freight wagon along the road between Silverton and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad ending atop Cumbres Pass.

Library

■ continued from previous page

There is only one performance. You don't have time for fear and hesitation. Pursue your dreams. Be yourself. Love who you love, openly. Be free. Also, stop procrastinating. Stop thinking that there is time later to do the thing you want to do ... Prudence is honorable and ensuring that there are things to pass on to the next generation is necessary, but also live your life

well right now. Tomorrow is not promised." — Columnist Charles M. Blow writing in The New York Times on Oct. 14 about the death of his elder brother at age 58.

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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ISAIAH L. 9/20

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Ben Bailey

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the mourning dove.

This dove, *zenaida macroura*, is known for the male's familiar, soft mating "coo" and for loud, alarming wingbeats from air rushing through wing feathers in a whistling noise as it takes off and lands. Fall migration is from southern Canada to as far south as central Mexico, although some remain through the winter in most of their breeding range. The flight pattern is orderly — first young doves, then females and, lastly, males. Warm climates and European settlements proliferated the dove's dispersal and population growth.

Ninety-nine percent of the dove's diet consists of cultivated seeds and weed seeds, and it is supplemented by snails and rarely insects. This bird uses suction to swallow water, rather than gravity and head tilting used by most birds.

Male courtship consists of cooing, loud wing beats, circular glides, puffed out chest and bowing. Who could resist? Males locate potential nest sites lower than 40 feet in trees, shrubs, sometimes on the ground or possibly in man-made structures. The female chooses the site and builds the nest of flimsy materials (twigs) provided by the male.

Two white eggs are laid and then incubated by both parents for 14 days. Known as "squabs," newly hatched are fed "pigeon milk" by both parents. This special milk of fat and protein is developed in and regurgitated from the crop of both parents. Five to six broods can be raised per year in southern climates.

Climate change will eventually reshape the dove's range. Threats will increase from spring heat waves endangering young in nests, from fire weather affecting their recovery and from urbanization that demolishes bird habitat.

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

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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Food Coalition engages community on several fronts

By Pauline Benetti
Archuleta Food Coalition

The Archuleta Food Coalition is always busy, actively engaged in the local food system, working with the community for the benefit of all consumers and producers with the needs of those who require more affordable food always in mind.

Right now, community engagement is intense and very exciting, as a quick review will reveal.

Let's start with the \$20,000 funding that the coalition has put forward to attract community proposals for projects that will both increase the local food supply and help make food more affordable for those who need that.

Monday of the last week was a Virtual Idea Collection session, which had good attendance and some excellent ideas, with Idea Collection continuing at Pagosa Springs High School and the food pantries. Any community member with an idea is invited to email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com for an immediate response to questions.

Project presentation will take place from Nov. 6-12 and voting on the winning proposal will occur from Nov. 14-22. For a quick review of the process and the timeline, those interested should consult the Coalition website, <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org>, and click on Participatory Budgeting.

A weekly event is the Wednesday Community Conversation where all kinds of lively topics relevant to community life and our food system are explored. Last week was particularly exciting. We heard from Dr. Amy Smith, working in the Boston area, who introduced her program involving partnerships between health care organizations and community food organizations. She explained how primary care providers and community food organizations and programs work together to make sure that community members have access to the healthy, nutritious foods they need.

The idea was greeted with excitement by our local health care providers and representatives of the WIC and SNAP food programs. Efforts are now underway to understand how that program might be implemented locally. Several upcoming community conversations will focus on the connections between food and our health. Email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com for the Zoom link to our Community Conversations from 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

And then the Food Pantry Network — Community United Methodist Church, John Paul II Catholic Church, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Amazing Grace Church,



Photo courtesy Vanessa Skean/Food Coalition

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Davis, local producers, with Vanessa Skean and Nicolai of the Archuleta Food Coalition. The Davis' recently donated over 300 pounds of grass-fed beef to the Food Coalition which is being distributed through the Food Pantry Network and partner food organizations.

Restoration Fellowship and the TARA Community Center — and community food organizations — Loaves and Fishes and the Senior Center — have their exciting news. We received 1,500 pounds of freshly harvested apples from the CSU Yellow Jacket Research Station near Cortez; disbursements went to elementary school, middle school and Pagosa Peak Open School; food pantries; Seeds of Learning; and the Department of Human Services.

And, second, we received 365 pounds of local, USDA-inspected, grass-fed beef donated by a local community member; the recipients love getting hamburger meat at the pantries.

Then, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is using grant funding to procure truckloads of nonperishable items for distribution to the community. In addition, these grant funds are supporting our local business. Also, 150 loaves of home-baked bread from a Cottage Food Certified baker, along with other locally produced foods, are making it to

■ See Food on next page

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ribbon cutting
at our new office,
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11:00 a.m.

Open enrollment for Part D and other supplements

By Kay Kaylor
PREVIEW Columnist

I advocate for residents in extended care and assisted living residences as the regional long-term care ombudsman. I also am a Senior Medicare Patrol and State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor, all as an employee of San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA). The many aging and care concerns will be addressed here.

The annual period to review Medicare Part D plans and enroll in or switch Medicare Advantage or other supplement plans began Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. The new plans take effect Jan. 1, 2021.

SJBAAA offers Medicare counseling over the phone during the pandemic with Zoom or other video options available. Call the number below to schedule an appointment or ask basic questions.

Even if you are satisfied with your prescription drug plan (Part D), it is recommended that you check the plans every year, because premiums and drug prices change, as well as the companies involved. SHIP counselors help you compare plans and enroll with the same

Area Agency on Aging

simple online form at Medicare.gov for switching to any company that covers your prescriptions for lower annual costs.

For example, one Part D company this year has a premium of \$7.30 and another raises its premiums every year but offers different lower-cost plans to those who bother checking and comparing prescription costs.

Rocky Mountain Health Plans, now a UnitedHealthcare Company, has notified enrolled beneficiaries that it no longer offers cost plans in Archuleta County, although it has more options for some Western Slope counties. Instead, for the 20 percent in health care costs that Original Medicare does not cover, people might want to enroll in a "Medigap" supplement with A, B, D, G, K, L, M or N benefit plans. The area also has a few Medicare

■ See Aging on page 20

Food

■ continued from previous page
our community members through the pantries and their partners. We couldn't have done this without the support of the community contributions.

Our Youth Group is also contributing to the excitement. This week, the youth team bagged nearly 300 bags of the apples that came from the CSU Yellow Jacket Research Station and delivered them to Pagosa Springs Elementary School parent/teacher conferences for parents to take home following their confer-

ence with teachers. Go, youth team. If you're interested in becoming a part of the youth team, DM our Instagram or Facebook page.

Finally, the new website is launched — <https://www.food-coalition4archuleta.org> — we invite you to take a look and discover what you did not know about our local food supply and get involved with the coalition. We also ask you to like us on Facebook at Food Coalition 4 Archuleta County or follow us on Instagram at foodcoalition-4archuleta.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to popcorn.

HAERTTE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Theater

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Long story
- 5 Went out with
- 10 Drop a line?
- 14 Make a pitch
- 15 Fluid buildup
- 16 "Field of Dreams" setting
- 17 Like some vaccines
- 18 Of great importance
- 20 Log-in entry
- 22 Flexible
- 23 Sudden outpouring
- 24 Pesky insect
- 25 Solution for dry eyes
- 27 Masquerade
- 31 On the double
- 32 Cropped up
- 33 Slippery one
- 34 Outfielder's cry
- 35 Dentist's advice
- 36 Work the bleachers
- 37 Ill-behaved
- 38 Horse pill
- 39 Analyze grammar
- 40 Heeded an R.S.V.P.
- 42 Whodunit feature
- 43 Fighting force
- 44 4:1, e.g.
- 45 Poetic measure
- 48 Gilligan, for one
- 51 Not germane
- 53 Verne's captain
- 54 At hand
- 55 Durable fabric
- 56 Lump of dirt
- 57 Like venison's flavor
- 58 Animal in a roundup
- 59 Film feline

DOWN

- 1 Hit the mall

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		

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- 2 That certain something
- 3 Prairies, e.g.
- 4 Pumpkin pie seasoning
- 5 Knock down a peg
- 6 Hold dear
- 7 Care for
- 8 Flightless bird
- 9 Mildew cause
- 10 Having limits
- 11 Scintilla
- 12 Origami bird
- 13 "Stop right there!"
- 19 Make giddy
- 21 Drop off
- 24 "Ick!"
- 25 Brazilian dance
- 26 Beelike
- 27 Haughty
- 28 Worthless one
- 29 Have a feeling
- 30 Church leader
- 32 Back street
- 35 Lacking shape
- 36 Discrepancy
- 38 Green mineral
- 39 Golf shot
- 41 Overly diluted
- 42 Tony, to Jeannie
- 44 Cooktop
- 45 Minor damage
- 46 Vicinity
- 47 Study hard
- 48 Give a hoot
- 49 Singer Tori
- 50 Jedi guru
- 52 Chow checker

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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

WORDS

- BAG
- BALL
- BUTTERY
- CARAMEL
- COB
- CONCESSION
- EXPLODE
- FAIR
- FLUFFY
- KERNELS
- KETTLE
- MICROWAVE
- MOVIE
- OIL
- PAN
- POPCORN
- POPPER
- POT
- SALT
- SNACKS
- SPICES
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Turning the soil one fork full at a time

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

When I was young, my mother made me weed garden rows every summer. My parents also assigned me to help my grandmother in her garden. By the time I left home, I was sure I wouldn't ever want to plant a garden again.

But time changed me. Instead of seeing the garden as a chore, I began to see it in different ways. One new way I saw it was as a stress reliever. My students struggle with the COVID virus, and I do, too. But if I can get out in the garden and work, I usually feel better. Much of that attitude started when I was working on my master's degree.

At that time, my wife, Donna, and I had two little girls. I was working lots of jobs to make ends meet, and stress was building in my life. I felt I needed an outlet.

As spring came, I looked out the back window of our apartment and saw a large weed patch beyond the parking lot. I called the apartment owners and asked if they would mind if I put a garden in a part of it.

The owner laughed. "Put a garden in all of it, if you want. I'd be happy to get rid of the weeds."

I priced the rental of a tiller, and it was out of my budget. I checked at the local farm store and found they had garden forks for only a few dollars, so I bought one and started turning the soil one fork full at a time. I thought I'd only do about a 10-foot by 10-foot spot. But each night when I came home, I would go out and work on the garden, releasing the stress that had built during the day from my math classes, and the garden spot continued to grow.

I would jab the fork forcefully into the ground, turn up the dark soil, and shake the dirt from the weeds before throwing them into a pile. With each fork full of dirt, I felt a little more of the stress leaving me. With nightly frosts, it was too cold to plant most things, so I just kept working the soil. As I did, the children from the apartments came out to watch me work.

"What are you doing?" one boy asked one evening.

"Planting a garden," I replied. "How big of a garden are you going to plant?" he asked.

"I don't know. I just planned to do a small one, but I keep making it bigger."

A little girl joined the conversation. "My momma said you were crazy. My daddy said you weren't crazy, just strange. So they said I could come watch you."

A little girl joined the conversation. "My momma said you were crazy. My daddy said you weren't crazy, just strange. So they said I could come watch you."

"I might be strange," I said, "but I find working the soil helps relieve stress."

"Can I try?" a boy asked. I showed him how to use the fork, and he turned over some dirt. Then all the other children wanted a turn. I let each of them try, and they kept asking for another chance until their parents called them in. I worked a while longer unhindered, then I, too, went in for the night.

"Mrs. Hampton asked how big

of a garden you planned to put in," Donna said. "I told her you had only planned to do a small spot, but you kept doing more to relieve stress. She said she hopes you get the stress all worked out before you run out of garden spot and start forking up the parking lot."

We both laughed, but the events of the evening helped me realize how strange I must seem to all the others in the apartment complex. In the next few evenings, I finished up the whole weed area, a spot probably 40 feet by 30 feet. My small audience of children continued to watch me and ask for turns to help.

"Why do you want to plant a garden?" one little girl asked.

"I love fresh fruits and vegetables," I replied.

A little boy wrinkled his nose. "I don't like vegetables. The only things I like from gardens are peas and corn."

I smiled. "Have any of you ever grown a garden?"

They all shook their heads.

And that night, as I finished turning up the last of the soil, I had a new purpose. I was not going to just do a garden for my family, but I was going to let all the children experience it.

To be continued.

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Aging

■ continued from page 18

Advantage plan options, which replace Original Medicare. SHIP counselors can explain these choices but do not do the actual enrolling. They have a new non-public tool for comparing local prices for plans through national Medigap companies.

Another open enrollment period occurs annually to change Medicare Advantage plans or return to Original Medicare with a separate Part D plan. The Medicare

Advantage Open Enrollment is Jan. 1 through March 31, 2021.

SJBAAA offers resources for people age 60 and older or on Medicare. For further information, please call or text 403-2165 or send an email to leadombudsman@sjbaaa.org.

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Signs of stress in children

Special to The PREVIEW

The global pandemic sparked by the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 caught many people off guard. Life changed seemingly overnight, causing a host of unforeseen consequences that people were still confronting months after the pandemic began.

The pandemic has proven stressful for many people, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that should not come as a surprise.

According to the CDC, fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming. Public health actions, such as the social distancing measures implemented during the COVID-19 outbreak, can increase anxiety and stress. That's even true among children, millions of whom have been separated from their friends and forbidden from participating in extracurricular activities for several months.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (USNLM) notes that children may not recognize that they are stressed. That makes it imperative that parents learn to recognize the warning signs that

stress is affecting children.

The USNLM says increased stress can manifest itself both physically and emotionally.

Physical symptoms

The physical symptoms of stress can mimic symptoms of other conditions, so parents should not jump to any conclusions before consulting their children's pediatricians. In addition, the CDC says not all children and teens respond to stress in the same way.

However, there are some physical indicators that may be warning signs that a child is stressed:

- Decreased appetite or other changes in eating habits.
- Unexplained headaches or body pain.
- New or recurrent bedwetting.
- Nightmares.
- Sleep disturbances.
- Upset stomach or vague stomach pain.

The CDC also notes that children may confront stress by using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Behavioral symptoms

According to the CDC, children and teens react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. So the ways in which adults are responding to the pandemic

could be affecting their children's behavior. Some of the behavioral symptoms to look for include:

- Excessive worry or sadness.
- An inability to relax.
- New or recurring fears, such as fear of the dark, fear of being alone and/or fear of strangers.
- Clinging behaviors, such as an unwillingness to let their parents out of sight.
- Anger, crying or whining.
- Inability to control emotions.
- Aggressive or stubborn behavior.
- Going back to behaviors present at a younger age.
- Avoidance of things enjoyed in the past, including family or school activities.
- Irritability or acting out, especially among teens.
- Difficulties with attention and concentration.

Many people, including children, have had to deal with heightened stress levels during the pandemic. Parents who recognize signs of stress in their children should consult their kids' pediatricians immediately.



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Potential substitutes when you're missing an ingredient

Special to The PREVIEW

When cooking or baking at home, few things can prove as frustrating as preparing a dish only to realize you're missing a key item from the ingredients list. Such realizations often force cooks to stop what they're doing and make emergency trips to a nearby grocery store. That can delay dinner time or make cooks feel rushed when they ultimately return from the store. But what if there was a way to substitute ingredients without risking flavor? Thankfully, there is.

According to AllRecipes.com, cooks can easily make their own ingredient substitutions if they suddenly realize they're missing an item listed in a recipe and don't want to run to the store. But many substitutions won't be direct, meaning 1 tablespoon of a particular ingredient will not always translate to 1 tablespoon of a substitute ingredient.

The following substitution guide, courtesy of AllRecipes.com, can help cooks overcome the last-minute surprises regarding missing ingredients:

- Ingredient: allspice
Amount: 1 teaspoon
Substitute: 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon ginger and 1/4 teaspoon cloves
- Ingredient: baking powder
Amount: 1 teaspoon
Substitute: 1/4 teaspoon baking soda plus 1/2 teaspoon of cream tartar or 1/4 teaspoon baking soda plus 1/2 cup buttermilk (decrease liquid in recipe by 1/2 cup)
- Ingredient: bread crumbs
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup cracker crumbs or 1 cup matzo meal or 1 cup ground oats

- Ingredient: brown sugar
Amount: 2 cup, packed
Substitute: 1 cup white sugar plus 1/4 cup molasses and decrease the liquid in the recipe by 1/4 cup or 1 cup white sugar or 1 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- Ingredient: butter (salted)
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup margarine or 1 cup shortening plus 1/2 teaspoon salt or 7/8 cup vegetable oil plus 1/2 teaspoon salt or 7/8 cup lard plus 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Ingredient: butter (unsalted)
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup shortening or 7/8 cup vegetable oil or 7/8 cup lard
- Ingredient: cocoa
Amount: 1/4 cup
Substitute: 1 1-ounce square unsweetened chocolate
- Ingredient: corn syrup
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 1/4 cup white sugar plus 1/3 cup water or 1 cup honey or 1 cup light treacle syrup
- Ingredient: egg
Amount: 1 whole (3 tablespoons or 1.7 ounces)
Substitute: 2 1/2 tablespoons of powdered egg substitute plus 2 1/2 tablespoons water or 1/4 cup liquid egg substitute or 1/4 cup silken tofu pureed or 3 tablespoons mayonnaise or half a banana mashed with 1/2 teaspoon baking powder or 1 tablespoon powdered flax seed soaked in 3 tablespoons water
- Ingredient: garlic
Amount: 1 clove
Substitute: 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder or 1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic or 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt (reduce salt in recipe)
- Ingredient: honey
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 1/4 cup white sugar plus 1/3 cup water or 1 cup corn

- syrup or 1 cup light treacle syrup
- Ingredient: lemon juice
Amount: 1 teaspoon
Substitute: 1/2 teaspoon vinegar or 1 teaspoon white wine or 1 teaspoon lime juice
- Ingredient: lime juice
Amount: 1 teaspoon
Substitute: 1 teaspoon vinegar or 1 teaspoon white wine or 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Ingredient: Mayonnaise
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup sour cream or 1 cup plain yogurt
- Ingredient: onion
Amount: 1 cup, chopped
Substitute: 1 cup chopped green onions or 1 cup chopped shallots or 1 cup chopped leeks or 1/4 cup dried minced onion or 1/4 cup onion powder
- Ingredient: semisweet chocolate chips
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup chocolate candies or 1 cup peanut butter or other flavored chips or 1 cup chopped nuts or 1 cup chopped dried fruit
- Ingredient: Shortening
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup butter or 1 cup margarine minus 1/2 teaspoon salt from recipe
- Ingredient: Stock — beef or chicken
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cube beef or chicken bouillon dissolved in 1 cup water
- Ingredient: Vegetable oil (for baking)
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup applesauce or 1 cup fruit puree
- Ingredient: Vegetable oil (for frying)
Amount: 1 cup
Substitute: 1 cup lard or 1 cup vegetable shortening

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How to protect outdoor gear before placing it in storage

Special to The PREVIEW

The right gear makes all the difference when spending time in the great outdoors. Outdoorsmen spend billions of dollars every year on gear, and that spending reflects outdoor enthusiasts of all experience levels.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, fully engaged outdoors enthusiasts were expected to spend nearly \$800 million on outdoor equipment in 2020, while even less engaged outdoor enthusiasts were projected to spend more than \$140 million on equipment (Note: Projections were released prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.).

Quality outdoor gear can be ex-

pensive, and outdoor enthusiasts of all experience levels can benefit from a refresher on how to protect seasonal gear before placing it in storage.

Summer gear

Before storing summer outdoors gear, make sure it's been thoroughly cleaned. Mud, dirt or sand can accumulate on gear over the course of a typical summer, and if the gear is not cleaned off before placing it in storage this can lead to otherwise preventable corrosion.

Carefully clean each item with an appropriate solution, and allow gear to dry before placing it in storage. It's imperative that gear be completely dry before being placed in storage, as moisture can

contribute to rust.

Gear made from fabric, such as tents, also must be cleaned thoroughly and allowed to dry completely, as any lingering moisture can lead to the growth of mold and mildew over the winter. Mold and mildew can spoil gear and, if undetected, can even contribute to health problems.

Winter gear

Like summer gear, winter gear also must be thoroughly cleaned, and this might require a little more elbow grease than cleaning summer gear. Skis, sleds and snowboards may accumulate more pesky grime, such as salt, so outdoorsmen may need to apply

■ See Storage on next page



Solve the code to discover words related to popcorn.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 22 = E)

A. 17 22 14 2 22 12

Clue: One piece of corn

B. 16 10 16

Clue: To burst

C. 4 23 12 6 22 5

Clue: Coated in salt

D. 7 21 6 6 22 14

Clue: Dairy ingredient

Answers: A. kernel B. pop C. salted D. butter

The complexity of color in the environmental movement

By Ernie Atencio
PREVIEW Columnist

This summer was a time of reckoning about race in every sector of American life and many of us are scrambling to respond in appropriate ways — including the environmental movement I'm a part of.

We would like to forget, but the environmental movement has racist roots. One of the founders of the National Park Service was Madison Grant, whose eugenicist views inspired Hitler, and the conservation heroes, John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt, both routinely disparaged Native Americans.

Trying to heal that legacy, environmental organizations for decades have talked about how to build diverse staffs, promote parks and public lands for everyone and seriously address environmental issues in poor neighborhoods or communities of color.

Thirty years ago, the Albuquerque-based Southwest Organizing Project wrote a letter to the "Big 10" national environmental groups outlining all the ways the movement was failing communities of color and calling for change. It was an alert that some groups took seriously. Others issued a bland statement about diversity and inclusion on their websites. Since then, change has been slight and slow.

I share this observation after working in the environmental world for over 25 years and before that as a park ranger and outdoor instructor. But as a Chicano from northern New Mexico, who grew up in a rough inner-city neighborhood in Denver, I am an anomaly.

I got into this work because I care about wild places, not as a diversity campaigner. But it's hard to ignore. When I returned to New Mexico in the mid-'90s to take a job with a river group in Taos, I may

Writers on the Range

have been the only Chicano in the entire state working as a full-time environmental advocate. Some called me the "Chicano poster child."

As an executive director or on staff with other organizations, I was similarly the "only" or the "first." The same was true during my years rangering and teaching. I stick with it because I care and I continue working for change from inside the mainstream. I relish the privilege of access to the public commons of national parks and wilderness areas and outdoor recreation, even as I recognize that many Americans of color do not have that access.

Trust me; it's harder than it looks being the only brown face in the room or even on a trail. Being the first to break this or that barrier and always having to explain to someone what it's like can get tiring.

I cannot count the number of times I've been asked to represent Chicano perspectives, or even all people of color, in a meeting. But it often ends up feeling like a half-hearted PC gesture for appearance sake or to satisfy a funder. Attitudes are fixed and systems in place and once I walk out of the room, I think my words are usually forgotten and it's back to business as usual.

Despite years of experience and knowledge, a few years ago I was fired from a job with one of those big national organizations because I was "not a good fit." For whatever best intentions this group may have had, I believe they wanted the credibility of a local ethnic face, but in the end the person behind it who did not think or act like them was

a threat to the order.

It's been a life of straddling worlds, hiding part of who I really am to try to fit in and often feeling like an outsider — and I'm not the only one.

At the same time, I sometimes feel a nagging sense of survivor's guilt because I escaped a rough life on the streets and am not out there in solidarity, protesting for change and getting tear-gassed and arrested. I was roughed up by cops enough in my youth that I don't need any more, but that does not assuage this internal conflict.

But whether you are black, brown or white, the exceptional privilege of being part of a big green group and having access to the sanity of outdoor spaces carries a responsibility to help change the status quo, to speak up for those who are not part of the mainstream dialog, to advocate for equitable access to the outdoors and, yes, to rattle a few cages.

Even though the evolution has been agonizingly slow, it seems that finally, some mainstream organizations are willing to listen and learn. This seems to be a moment of change — may the momentum last.

Ernie Atencio is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the west. He is an anthropologist, writer and a native of northern New Mexico living near Taos.

Storage

■ continued from previous page
a mild soap or product-specific cleaner to remove especially stubborn buildup.

Dryness also is essential before storing winter gear, as moisture poses just as significant a threat to skis, sleds and snowboards as it does to summer gear.

Snow sports equipment may benefit from a hot wax treatment prior to being stored away for the summer, but be careful to follow manufacturer instructions regarding application and removal of such products. Some manufacturers may recommend treatments

be left on over the summer, while others may suggest otherwise.

Storage

Standard garages typically provide ample protection from the elements for winter and summer gear. However, some equipment, including skis and snowboards, may need to be stored in climate-controlled environments inside the home.

Outdoor enthusiasts spend a lot of money on their gear. Savvy athletes know that such investments require careful attention to how those items will be stored during the off-season.

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The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program increases access to health care for local children

By Kalisha Crossland
San Juan Basin Public Health

One of the fundamental visions of San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) is to ensure that health care services are equitable throughout the communities we serve. One way the agency addresses this is by working to reduce barriers to care.

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, or HCP Program, has had great success in working toward this goal.

When Valerie was 4 months old, she was referred by her pediatrician to see a neurologist. For her Durango-based, first-time parents, this meant a two- or three-day trip to Denver with an infant with complex medical needs. Scheduling the appointment, taking time off from work, making lodging arrangements and navigating the city were just a few of the challenges her parents faced.

With the unknowns of rush-hour traffic and finding parking at the hospital, the family started their day at the crack of dawn to make sure they didn't miss their first appointment. Exhausted and overwhelmed on the drive back to Durango, the reality sank in that they would be faced with this challenging trip every four months. Questions raced through their heads: What were the next steps? How would follow-up work? Who would send neurology test results? How were they going to afford this amount of travel and time off from work?

After several challenging years of commuting to Denver for Valerie's health care, her parents got the welcome news that a pediatric neurologist from Children's Hospital of Colorado (CHCO) and Colorado School of Medicine (CU) would be traveling to Durango to provide clinics hosted by SJBPH.

"Specialty Outreach Clinics" provided the opportunity for physicians from CHCO/CU to travel to rural parts of the state so families like Valerie's could access care for their children within their own communities. This was truly a life-changing impact for Valerie's family and other families with their children who needed care not available to them locally. This included families who had not been able to make the repeated trips to Denver and so their children had gone without the care they needed.

Valerie, now 28 years old, met with the pediatric neurologist through the HCP clinics at SJBPH, sometimes up to four times per year until she was 21 years old. The HCP clinics hosted by SJBPH for pediatric neurology and pediatric orthopedics provided a registered nurse and family advocate who

scheduled appointments, assisted with preparation including travel, advocated for and connected the families to additional resources, and coordinated communication between providers.

Pediatric specialty outreach clinics have since expanded, with a variety of specialty types available. Services are available through "host sites" within each community and are offered in a variety of

in the communities we serve and strives to improve the health outcomes of local children who face barriers to health care. Programs such as HCP reflect the foundational belief of SJBPH that everyone deserves to reach their highest potential for health.

Kalisha Crossland is the director of prevention and population health at SJBPH.

Many of the children who are utilizing specialty outreach clinics are immune-compromised or have high-risk medical conditions that make it difficult to travel long distances.

ways: in-person and through telehealth platforms through SJBPH, Pediatric Partners of the Southwest and most recently, Pagosa Medical Group.

Telehealth services are a particularly invaluable resource right now, as everyone is forced to adapt to the constraints of the current pandemic. Many of the children who are utilizing specialty outreach clinics are immune-compromised or have high-risk medical conditions that make it difficult to travel long distances. Limiting the amount of potential exposure to COVID-19 these children receive by being able to provide specialty services closer to home is a welcome relief for families.

Through funding provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the HCP program provides care coordination for children and youth with specialty health care needs from birth to age 21. At SJBPH, the success of these clinics has relied heavily on partnerships with area providers and CHCO.

SJBPH continues its dedication to increase the services available

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Community Section B
The Pagosa Springs SUN – November 8, 2018

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Prevent pet-related damage to the house

Special to The PREVIEW

The benefits of having a pet are innumerable. Pets can be companions, protectors, service animals and even help produce products that can be sold, such as eggs from chickens. While there are many positive attributes to pets, one potential concern is the impact they have on the home.

Pet-related damage can occur when pets are angry or happy. Boisterous animals may scratch or claw at furniture and floors. Some animals may climb or chew. Woodwork and furniture can be damaged by pet paws and teeth, but that's not where it ends. The following are some potential pet-damage problems and how to avoid them.

Marking

Many animals use scent markers to establish their territory and communicate with other animals. As a result, both male and female pets may spray urine in certain areas of the house. While it may not eliminate the problem immediately, making sure to neuter or spay cats and dogs can reduce the likelihood that they'll mark indoors or attempt to seek out and mate with feral animals they smell canvassing the property.

Accidents

In addition to marking, pets that have not been properly trained or were trained and are experiencing a behavioral or medical issue may begin soiling in improper

areas, such as outside of the litter box or in the home. Obedience training can head off some issues, but if a medical condition is suspected, consult with a veterinarian promptly.

Dirt, fur and more

An investment in regular grooming can help keep certain damage at bay, states Home Advisor. Regularly brushing and trimming coats, keeping nails clipped and bathing will keep a home fresh and minimize damage. Other pets may not be groomed but require cleaning of cages or other habitats. Bird droppings and feathers can get on surfaces. Cleaning daily or very frequently can help keep a home tidy.

Provide toys and scratching posts

Pets need an outlet to tame anxiety and energy. If they don't have suitable outlets, pets may cause damage to a home. Cats will take to furniture to stretch their paws if they don't have scratching posts or special mats. Dogs, particularly puppies, can be orally fixated. When the urge to chew sets in, unless there are appropriate chew toys, furniture, moldings and other items around the house may become fair game.

It is important to note that declawing a cat to prevent damage should not be a consideration. It is a surgery that can cause ongoing health problems. Nail caps can be used as a safe alternative.

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AL-ANON MEETS EVERY TUESDAY at 6p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall. www.al-anon-co.org. As of 3/31, our meeting space is temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions. For updates, please text (303)815-8569. For a list of online and phone meetings, please visit al-anon.org.

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PRINCIPALS BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7p.m. at the Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive (between Boss Hogg's Restaurant and 1st Southwest Bank). Contact Charlotte or Ken at (970)903-9690 or Nate at (970)507-1004.

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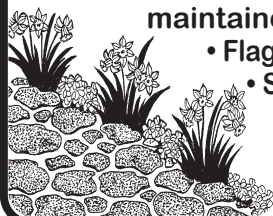
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PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for **Nutritional Service Workers** to prepare and cook food for hospital patients, staff, and visitors. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits including paid time off, medical, dental, vision, life insurance, retirement and flexible schedule. Scheduled hours between 6:30a.m. to 6:30p.m. Applications may be picked up at the hospital front tent, or downloaded at www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.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.

HELP WANTED

PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT is accepting applications for the position of Receptionist. For more information on job description, how to apply and to download an application, please go to <http://pagosafire.org/employment/>. Interested persons must submit an employment application form to Shirley Brinkmann at sbrinkmann@pagosafire.com. For any questions, please call the Administrative Office at (970)731-4191.

SEEDS OF LEARNING is accepting applications for a full-time, year round assistant preschool teacher. This person must have a warm, friendly personality, be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others and able to work with and relate well with children, families and co-workers. Must have a minimum of an associate's degree in Early Childhood (or related field) or be in the process of completing the degree. This person will actively participate in planning and implementing the curriculum as well as assessing the needs of individual children. A resume with education and experience is required. Please call Lynne or Dee at (970)264-5513.

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION HELP NEEDED. Reliable transportation required. Excellent pay based on experience. Please call (970)403 5119.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Patient Experience Leader**. This is a new position at PSMC. This position takes the lead in assuring our patients have a positive experience from the time they arrive until they are called for their appointment. This position is responsible to: greet patients, help patients find their way, and get our patients what they need to be comfortable and have a positive experience. The right person for this position is someone who is: positive, an excellent multi-tasker, a problem-solver, professional, courteous, friendly and committed to service excellence at PSMC. Applications may be picked up at PSMC registration or downloaded from www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.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.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Patient Screener**. This position will be responsible to greet and acknowledge all patients, family members, and visitors of Pagosa Springs Medical Center in a friendly, professional, courteous, and helpful manner. The screener will screen all patients, guests and visitors before entry. Clinical experience preferred but not mandatory. This position is four ten-hour shifts per week. Applications may be picked up at PSMC registration or downloaded from www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.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.

MECHANIC NEEDED. Archuleta County Public Works is accepting applications for a full-time Mechanic. These are full-time positions with excellent benefits. For job description and wage details, visit www.archuletacounty.org, submit application and resume to HR, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or fax (970)264-1879 or email rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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HELP WANTED

LA PLATA FAMILY CENTERS Coalition is hiring a Colorado Community Response (CCR) Family Advocate. The Family Advocate is a LP-FCC employee housed in the Archuleta County Department of Human Services (ACDHS). The advocate provides comprehensive, voluntary support services for families in Archuleta County. This position's responsibilities include obtaining all required advocate training, contacting referred families, periodic home visits if COVID-19 permits. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in human services area or minimum of two years of experience in family growth and development including community resource and referral services. The wage for this position is \$17 plus benefits. Please send a resume and cover letter to Contact@lpfcc.org.

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FIRESIDE CABINS. FRONT OFFICE clerk- 4 days a week Tuesday- Friday, 8a.m.-4p.m. Great work environment, will train. Work alone. We are looking for someone to work Tuesday- Friday 8a.m.-4p.m. Job description includes making reservations, guest check in, and some laundry. All major holidays Off. For more information, call (970)264-9204 or email Johnjessharper@gmail.com. Come in to preview our facility and apply at Fireside Cabins, 1600 E. Hwy. 160, Pagosa Springs. (East side of Pagosa just past Hwy. 84 and 160 junction, 1 mile from downtown area.) Must be dependable.

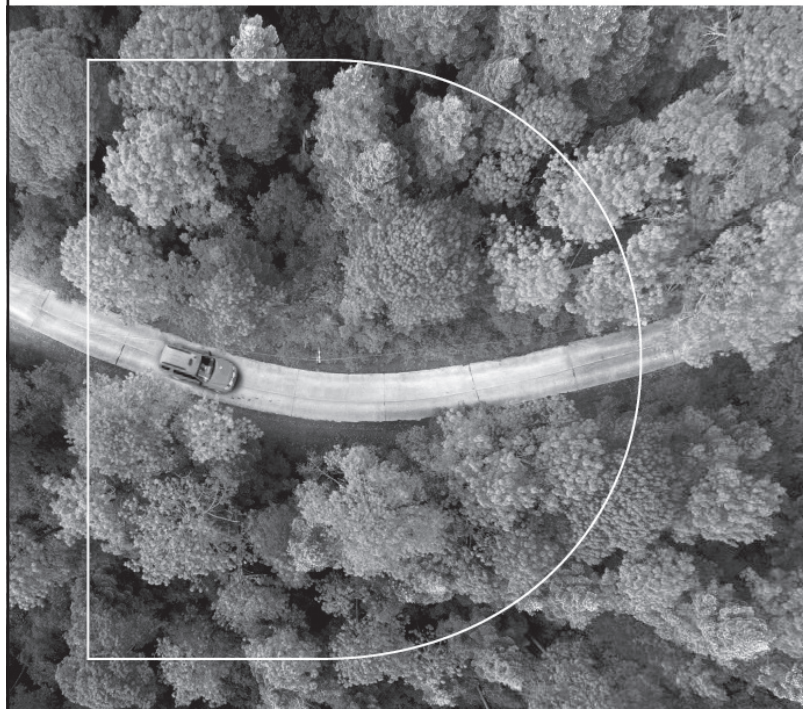
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PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for an experienced **Medical Assistant/Scheduler**. This person will be responsible for answering phones, scheduling patient appointments, and providing care to the patient under the direction of a physician or health care provider in the Oncology Clinic. Assist the Provider in delivering high quality patient care. This position requires accurate documentation in the patient chart specific to scope of practice for the MA role. Assist with basic procedures under the direction and supervision of a health care provider or RN. Administer and document medications and vaccinations appropriately under the direction and supervision of a health care provider or RN. Follow up with all outstanding patient orders, referrals, and prior authorizations. Applications may be picked up at PSMC registration or downloaded from www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.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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RUSTIC CABIN ON 2 ACRES is available for monthly rentals and is a fully furnished 900 sq. ft. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cabin with loft that backs up to National Forest where you can hike, mountain bike, ATV, x-country ski directly from the premises. Rent is \$1,500 per month and includes all utilities. Deposit and background check required. Available November 1st. Call (970)398-0573 now for availability.

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