



The Pagosa Springs

SUN

50¢

PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com

VOLUME 113 — NO. 6, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

Reminder: Ballots due by 7 p.m. Tuesday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Voted ballots for the Nov. 3 election are due by 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. Postmarks do not count.

As of Tuesday night, 5,510 ballots had been returned in Archuleta County, according to the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

Of those, 2,279 were from registered Republicans, 1,799 were from unaffiliated voters and 1,372 were from Democratic Party voters, with the remaining split between a number of other political parties.

As of early Wednesday afternoon, Election Administrator Tomi Bliss reported 5,805 ballots had been returned and accepted, out of about 10,300 voters, making for about a 56 percent return.

In 2016, the county had an 80 percent turnout for the presidential election, Bliss noted.

Statewide, 1,952,069 ballots were cast through Tuesday night, including 38,531 from in-person voters and the remainder via mail ballots.

About 130 people have voted in person so far in Archuleta County, Bliss explained.

"Coloradans have been making their voices heard this election with high turn-out during early voting. I hope this enthusiasm will help our state lead the nation in voter turnout this election," said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold in a Monday press release.

Those who are qualified to vote but who have not yet registered can

■ See Vote A8

'This tradition lives on': 20th annual Veterans Day breakfast set for Nov. 11

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

Every year since 2000, Pagosa Springs Middle School's (PSMS) eighth-grade class has been hosting a breakfast to honor and thank the veterans of Archuleta County for their service to our country.

Students, parents, teachers and other volunteers prepare and serve breakfast to all the veterans who attend. It's more than just a breakfast, however: it's an expression of respect and admiration. This event has become very meaningful to the veterans of our community.

Last year, then PSMS American History teacher Scott White wrote in an email to the SUN, "This has become way more than a school event. To me this is a true Community event ..."

And, despite the current pandemic, the breakfast remains scheduled to take place. The staff and students are making necessary adjustments to support safety precautions.

PSMS eighth-grade U.S. History teacher Steven Long wrote in an email that, "myself, Mr. White and the entire school district are committed to making sure this tradition lives on."

■ See Veterans A8



Photo courtesy Preston Bass/Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area opened Wednesday on a limited basis following a storm that dumped 2 feet of snow on the mountain. Conditions are powder and packed powder with very early season obstacles. A complete November schedule should be determined by Sunday.

Wolf Creek becomes first ski area to open in the U.S. this season

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

A dusting in town indicates snow in the mountains. Plenty of Pagosans welcomed this week's flurries, among them skiers and snowboarders. Wolf Creek Ski Area (WCSA) kicked off the season on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

As of its opening day, WCSA was the only ski area in the U.S. to be open, according to <https://www.onthesnow.com/united-states/open-resorts.html>. Oregon's Timberline Mountain boasts America's only year-round skiing, but was closed as of Oct. 28.

Preseason skiing

WCSA is in preseason, which implies a soft opening that ensures safety but allows skiers and boarders to get on the snow.

The preseason plan outlines COVID precautions. It points out that amenities have not yet opened — that means everyone should bring their own water, snack and lunch for the time being.

In a recent email to The SUN, Wolf Creek stated, "The only thing offered to participants

■ See Ski A8



Photo courtesy Preston Bass/Wolf Creek Ski Area



Photo courtesy Keith Pitcher/Wolf Creek Ski Area

PAWSD discusses new state wastewater regulations, new drought surcharge plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors held its regular board meeting Oct. 22, in which it discussed possible new wastewater regulations coming down from the state and a new drought surcharge plan.

According to District Manager Justin Ramsey, the town of Mt. Crested Butte has entered into

an administrative dispute with the state regarding new wastewater regulations.

The new regulations would require PAWSD to treat wastewater so that it is cleaner than the water initially taken in through their river diversions, Ramsey explained. This would mean the treated wastewater that gets discharged downstream would be cleaner than the water PAWSD takes in upstream.

Ramsey went on to explain how treating the wastewater to that extent may not be worth it,

given the next water district to pull from that water source is over 100 miles away.

According to Ramsey, this would be upward of a \$12 million capital investment project.

When asked in a phone interview about where the funding needed for a project like this would come from, he said, "We have no idea, that's the problem."

The board also discussed the possibility of

■ See PAWSD A8

County earmarks funding for new court facility

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

At the regular meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners held on Tuesday, Oct. 20, the board voted to approve the release of \$4 million of strategic reserve funds in order to ensure sufficient funding for the new justice system court facility set to be located at Harman Park.

Archuleta County Finance Director Larry Walton presented a new resolution, which will ensure that at least \$4 million is released into the unassigned fund balance, and permits the release of a portion of the Working Capital Reserve as well.

■ See Courts A8

Holiday Lighting contests announced

By Jennie Green
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board

The Pagosa Springs area will be bright with holiday cheer this season. The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board, The Pagosa Springs SUN and La Plata Electric Association are sponsoring a holiday lighting contest with the goal to make the holiday season shine.

There will be enhanced lighting in downtown Pagosa, as well as many other festive events taking place in and around the Pagosa Springs area through the end of December.

Participating addresses will be promoted to locals and visitors

■ See Lighting A8

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
10/20	71	30	-	-	-
10/21	70	30	-	-	-
10/22	68	29	-	-	-
10/23	65	31	-	-	-
10/24	64	32	-	-	-
10/25	55	38	-	-	-
10/26	41	25	S	3"	.43"

Pagosa Springs
603 S. 8th Street
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EDITORIAL

Life after the election

This week, we received numerous letters, some in support of candidates, others blasting some candidates, many supporting ballot issues and some opposing ballot issues. You won't read those letters in today's paper.

It's our tradition to not print political letters the week before the election. However, we received an email Monday that made us break that tradition.

Pagosa Springs High School science teacher Heather Miller's email explained that her science class analyzed the pros and cons of Proposition 114 as a final project for an ecology unit. Part of that project was writing Letters to the Editor. She submitted three of those letters for publication. It was the goal of her students to inform the public. We didn't want the hard work and efforts of these students to go unnoticed, so you will see them printed in a special section of the letters this week labeled "Letters from Students." We applaud these students for their research and forming their opinions and sharing them publicly.

This year's election, combined with the added stress created by the pandemic, is no doubt one of the most negative and divisive that we've ever experienced.

We were grateful to hear a message from Archuleta School District Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza at last week's Rotary Club meeting. She shared the "Reflection" portion of her Friday memo to her staff.

"This week, I am sharing the Colorado Association of School Board's Fair Campaign Practices Act — Do's and

Don'ts. Given we are coming up on Nov. 3 very quickly, it is a good reminder for us all on what we should and should not do, given our roles.

"I started thinking about this earlier in the week as ballots began to be delivered in our mailboxes. This year's election feels very 'electric' throughout our nation, regardless of any political affiliation, so I wanted to be sure we all were reflective of our accountability to FCPA," LeBlanc-Esparza read.

"Next week, I will also be meeting with counselors to talk about the bigger picture implication of the week of Nov. 3. I had to think back to 2016 and the week of Nov. 3 to realize that we, as educators, can do a lot to prepare for that week in a positive way.

"Much like 2016, there will be people who are elated with the outcome of the election and there will be those that are very unhappy with the outcome.

"I remember that I sorely underestimated the way that people would react in 2016, both those who were happy about the outcome and those that were disappointed. In the days following the election, we dealt with a lot of emotion in students, staff and families. Students cannot help but feel the emotion that the adults in their lives exude throughout this election season.

"Regardless of who wins this year's election, I would ask us all to do everything in our power over the next few weeks to reinforce a message of respect and kindness for each other.

"We have the ability to model for our

students what it means to respect each other, what it means to be kind, regardless of the outcome of an election.

"In the end, as we go forward from that week, we all continue to work together, to take care of one another and to respect each other as fellow citizens.

"Children look to us for reassurance and guidance that their world is a safe place. We give them that on a regular basis as educators.

"I believe that given the constant attention that television and social media is giving this year's elections, coupled with the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us, I think our kids will take their lead from us regarding how we treat each other and how we look to make a positive difference in our school and local community.

"I know we have an amazing staff who show up every day, expecting to make a difference with kids. I appreciate everything you do in ways big and small. I know you all will make that same difference during the month of November as we help students move forward beyond elections."

These words of wisdom from our superintendent of schools are important for us all to hear.

Whatever the outcome of this election, we are setting an example with our actions. Let's make it a peaceful and positive experience. Whether your side wins or loses, we all need to come together and move forward together for the betterment of our community.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 29, 1920

Teams are being sent over Wolf Creek Pass today to break the snow and make it passable once more. Unless another storm sets in shortly there is no reason why the pass will not be open for some time yet.

Several new cases of smallpox have been reported the past week and all are in quarantine. Among them are Miss Lucy McGirr, Floyd Andrews, Everett Dunagan, Carlos Hale, Stanton Keen, Elmeron Potter, one of the Crabtree children and one of the Lin Crawford children.

The fine plate glass windows for the Hatcher Merc. Co. and Sparks Hdw. Co. buildings will both soon be in place and will give a distinctly metropolitan atmosphere to Pagosa's main stem.

Work was commenced this morning at the local D.&R.G. depot in removing the old wood platform and putting in a cinder one. Efforts were strenuously made for a cement platform but it could not be obtained at this time.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 2, 1945

Evert Dunagan expects to have one of the new Chevrolets on his floor within the next few days. Watch for announcement. Rationing of automobiles was discontinued this week. However, Mr. Dunagan says it will be several months before many new Chevrolets will be available.

A deal was completed Monday, whereby L.E. Martin, of Las Vegas, N.M., became the owner of the Charles F. Rumbaugh businesses and real estate property on Pagosa Street. Included in the sale are the Metropolitan Hotel, cafe and liquor store, the Liberty Theatre, and the buildings housing these and the Slater Billiard Parlor, Bussing Drug Store, post office, and Pagosa Telephone Company, on lots 27, half of lots 26 and 28, and lots 5 and 6 in block 21. The consideration was not made public. Mr. Martin has a partnership arrangement with W.H. Diestelkamp, who will manage all of the Pagosa Springs property, Mr. "Dee" announces that Mrs. Pearl McComas is in charge at the hotel and that Herman Willets will continue in charge at the liquor store, and as operator at the theatre.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 29, 1970

Cloud seeding in these parts is now officially underway. The clouds are seeded when weather conditions, temperature, and cloud cover are at a certain level. Believers, and non-believers, will have an opportunity to further their opinions as the winter wears on and is either heavy, or not so heavy.

Lt. Col. Jim Irwin, of the space center at Houston, Texas, was a visitor here last Saturday. The astronaut is one of the crew of Apollo 15 that will be going to the moon. He made the trip to visit with a friend, Bert Balinik. Lt. Col. Irwin is with the United States Air Force and is in training at Houston. The astronaut told the SUN that his space venture would take the crew to the surface of the moon where they would remain for 66 hours. During that time trips will be made in a moon dune buggy and much valuable information about the moon's surface will be gathered.

Federal assistance for the Town of Pagosa Springs has been approved. The federal funds will be used to repair damage to the pipeline and intake structure of the municipal water system. The damage was caused by the flood waters this fall. Work is now underway on the repairs.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 2, 1995

The Nov. 7 date for returning general election mail ballots is fast approaching and the majority of local voters are apparently waiting to cast and submit their votes. Archuleta County Clerk June Madrid said Monday her office has received back "a low percentage of ballots" sent to local voters in early October. Her office mailed out 4151 ballots and as of Monday had received only 726. Madrid said that regardless of how registered local voters choose to mark their ballots, the ballots must be back in the county clerk and recorder's office by 7 p.m. on Nov. 7.

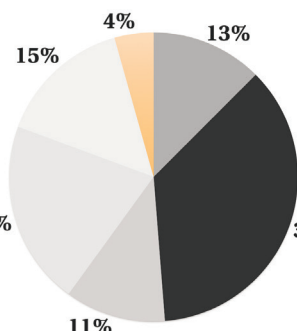
A new footbridge now spans the San Juan River behind the county courthouse. The addition to the San Juan River Walk provides citizens a safer route to the post office and the Great Hot Springs, and provides tourists an interesting view of the river.

WHADDYA THINK?

What is your favorite Halloween movie?

Poll results (160 votes)

Halloween — 13 percent
It is the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown — 36 percent
Rocky Horror Picture Show — 11 percent
Hocus Pocus — 21 percent
Beetlejuice — 15 percent
Ernest Scared Stupid — 4 percent



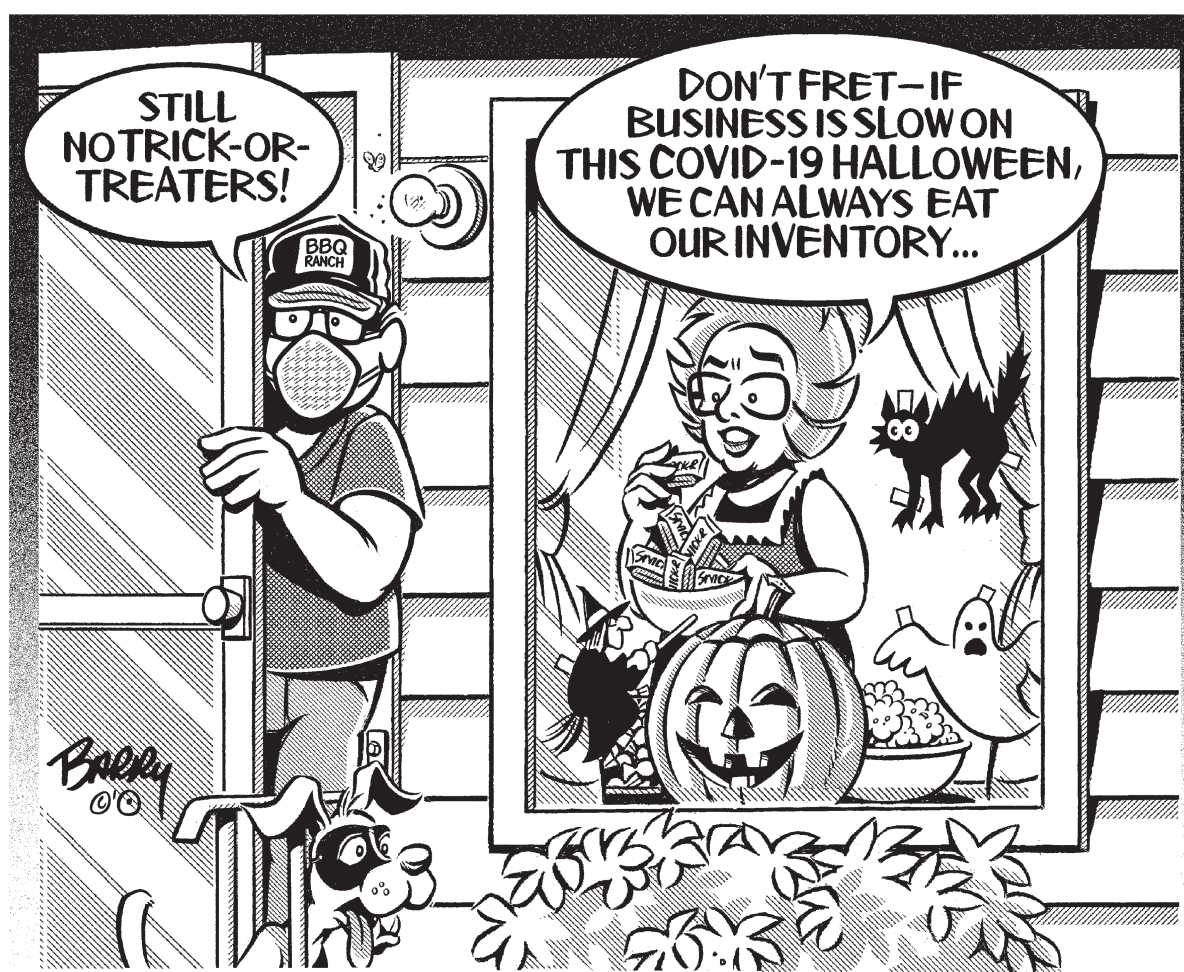
Vote this week online:

Do you have plans to travel out of the area for Thanksgiving?
www.pagosasun.com

LOOKING BACK



From the Oct. 6, 1983, Pagosa Springs SUN. A TOAST — To golden years and golden memories at the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration last Saturday night for Ray and Genelle Macht. "We thought we'd celebrate by doing what we most like to do, dance," the Macht's said. The scores of guests danced to music played by The Regals.



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.

'Shame'

Dear Editor:

What's the difference between the civil unrest, protests, and mayhem of the late 60's; specifically 1967, and those of 2020?

I was here in the U.S. and experienced the circumstances of each era.

In 1967, I was living in Toledo, Ohio; 50 miles south of Detroit, which was in flames in July. I kept a Newsweek magazine dated August 7, 1967 with the fiery fierceness forging the cover.

Now. In the autumn of 2020 the disorder and societal disharmony differs. In 1967 the shooting, looting, and firestorm lasted four days with 43 people dead, and an area of the City of Detroit in ruins. Currently, the civil unrest although less destructive is socially insidious.

But that's not the real, genuine difference.

So, what is it?

My contention is that the 2020 discordant demonstrations are being personally and politically ignited to effect an incendiary purpose symbolized by fear, conflict, and societal division based on race, gender, religion, national origin (immigration), political power, and financial prowess.

Even though the 1967 National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder implicated local police forces as a primary source of civil unrest, along with other societal and racial disparities; this year's civil unrest shows signs of being intentionally kindled, inflamed, and aroused. This intentionality was not present during the unrest of 53 years ago.

Probably the most disconcerting for me...and those of us who went through the trauma of the years... We produced laws undoing discriminatory practices.

Affirmative Action laws were passed and corporations complied. In 1975 I was hired by a Fortune 500

company, to a position previously only allowed to men.

Much progress was made in rights for all Americans; blacks, women, disabled. Title IX of the Education Amendments to Civil Rights Law of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities.

Since then women's sports, especially in colleges and universities has soared in popularity and prosperity. Not to mention the powerful effect on girls and women who are now accepted as esteemed athletes.

This current provocation of conflict, clash, and battles to promote personal and political agenda is entering an all-time high.

Self-aggrandized militias are now raising their ugly heads.

Recently, the FBI thwarted a plot to kidnap a state governor, effect a make-shift criminal trial, and execute the state official.

The difficulty as I see it, is that people are fitting into some comical, yet descriptive assignments such as "sheeple" and "lemmings". We the People seem to be turning into a fearful gaggle of conspiracy theory cult followers.

Personally, I won't be manipulated. My beliefs are not available as a ploy to exalt another's greed for money, winning, and power. I refuse to be a pawn in someone else's chess game.

Accordingly, I am militating against such unscrupulous maneuvering, and misrepresentation. The word "shame" comes to mind. This current political situation shames us in front of the rest of the world and God.

Constance d'Angelis

State patrol survey

Dear Editor:

Colorado is a vibrant, diverse state — whether describing our residents or our terrain. As your Colorado State Patrol, we provide many services and programs in an effort to make our communities a safe place to live, work, play, and travel.

I wanted to draw your attention to an important opportunity. From October 27 to November 24, 2020, the Colorado State Patrol will conduct a Public Opinion survey to better understand how well we are serving our communities. I am inviting you to complete the survey by visiting www.cspsurvey.com.

Our mission is to ensure a safe and secure environment for all persons as we provide professional law enforcement services that reflect our Core Values of Honor, Duty, and Respect. We want to know how safe you feel about traveling on Colorado's highways, the professionalism of our members, and our services at the State Patrol. Your answers will help us better understand how we can serve you now and in the future.

Completing this survey takes 5-10 minutes. We appreciate you taking the time.

This is a state-wide survey, so the more people who participate the better the insights we will have going forward. Ideally, by the end, we will have feedback from each region around this diverse state. Please, share the link to this survey with your friends and family.

Thank you in advance for your participation. Your feedback is important to me and the future of the Colorado State Patrol.

Col. Matthew Packard
Chief, Colorado State Patrol

Lessons from a book


Dear Editor:

I was shopping at City Market

the other day and although I very rarely look at the new books, one with a picture of a US Army General Officer who looked very stern caught my attention. I don't know why it did but I immediately picked it up and headed to the register. The title is "Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World" and is written by Retired Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster. Even though I have only just started reading it, I'm on page 53. I already understand how the Russians meddle in the internal politics of ours and other countries, to include elections. McMaster's background in the National Security community lends credibility to what he describes. He has over 100 pages of acknowledgments to personnel also involved in the subject, and specific references.


How many of us actually know what "fake news" is and wondered how Russia could meddle in an election. Not just ours but elections all over the world. Russia, primarily President Putin, penned the plan to destabilize the Western democracies not through force of arms, but, get this, our social medias, depending on the avarice of sites like Facebook, Twitter, etc. to pass it on. Have you seen an enticing story in one of the boxes on the right of a Facebook page or on the lead page of the Google search engine, or during a search for something else on YouTube? These are often the start of a tree of other topics by them telling you that the next item will start shortly. In the instance of a Russian entry it will slowly but surely lead you to something that is meant to sway your opinion in the direction they want you to go. Facebook will have bogus stories, fake news, that incite a negative change of opinion to what they want you to believe. These are quite often written by singular agents with a plethora of nom d'plumes so that numerous responses can be entered, extending support for their ideas. There are instances and public disturbances right now that have been stirred up and are even now destabilizing sensitive areas of our free world society. And you know what, at face value they seem legal under the First Amendment, but beware they are seditious. It is very hard to identify and filter out

■ See Letters A4



VOTE WARREN BROWN

COUNTY COMMISSIONER



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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

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
PO Box 9,
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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.



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**At the Wyndham
Welcome Center
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**CLUB
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Letters

■ Continued from A3
these lines of communication and delete/shut them up.

I don't know if General McMaster is going to suggest a possible solution later in the book, but in my mind a website, or group site, should be set up. It needs to get a proper reputation for being totally accurate, and not only debunk the disinformation, but also track down the source so that they can be caught and their entries eliminated. They also need to be thorough in their investigation of new authors who would attempt to wreck the credibility of the site. They are

this effective. It could sort of be like Agent Ness's Untouchables.

Doug Roberts

The envy of the world

Dear Editor:

with reference to MR. Charles Wenzel's letter of 10/22.

Since when has America been "the longest running Constitutional Republic"?

The republic of San Marino was founded in AD 300, Bosnia Herzegovina in 1189 and the country of Georgia shortly after the year 1000.

I can assure MR. Wenzel that a lot of things were happening in this world long before 1776. As for "the envy of the world", where exactly has this Constitutional Republic arrived such that anyone would be so envious of it?

The USA for all of its wealth resources and creativity, the warmth and generosity of its citizens, consistently lags behind the rest of the world in quality of life. We are the only industrialized nation that does not have a health system. There are not many wealthy nations providing such meager aid to its poor and needy people as does the USA. We

have the highest incarceration rate in the world, and our obsession with guns and mass killings, borders on insanity. Life expectancy in this country is the lowest amongst the 12 highest-income countries. American children consistently score low in math and literature compared with other industrialized nations. Our political system is awash with overflowing with corruption and indifference to the plight of so many American families. Racism and ethnic intolerance thrive as if the civil war never ended. The envy of the world, really?

Anthony Steventon

Letters from Students

Pagosa Springs High School science teacher Heather Miller wrote the following in an email to The SUN this week: "I had my Science class do a project where they analyzed the pros and cons of proposition 114 as their final project for our Ecology unit and write letters to the editor to inform the public. I was hoping to get some of the letters published..."

The SUN typically does not print political letters the week before the election, but is printing the following letters so the community can see what these students learned from their project.

Letters to the Editor are printed as received and are not edited for grammar or punctuation.

Vote against Proposition 114

Dear Editor:

Pagosa Springs' economy and its people thrive off of the outdoors and wildlife. Tourists and snowbirds come to enjoy one of the most serene views in Colorado. Vast land and lush vegetation makes this the perfect place for ranchers and their livestock. Wildlife brings hunters, and many different opportunities such as; hide tanning, fishing, taxidermy, and much more. Bringing wolves to western Colorado however would put all this at jeopardy.

Wolves would threaten to disrupt our already fixed way of living. Colorado right now is a safe place for our animals and livestock, but wolves would change that. The Humane Society of the United States has kept record of loss of cattle across America, there data shows that in 2015 alone 10,165 cattle had been killed by wolves. It is true that three times the number of cattle were killed by health maladies and weather, but we shouldn't make the death toll higher by bringing more wolves.

4.7% of Pagosa Springs' income comes from agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting. It may not sound like much but it doesn't put into account how many tourists hunting season brings that affect small family businesses. As well as how many families depend on the hunting season to get their food, not only in Pagosa, but from all over the United States. Wolves would reduce the amount of wildlife and thus, hunting. The Official Blue Book argument 1 states, "Deer herds in some areas have fallen below population goals established by state wildlife managers, and introducing another predator would put further pressure on these herds." It is likely that wolves would eat and run out our wildlife and leave nothing for the people.

If that isn't enough to make us all second guess voting for proposition 114 let's remember that the funding needed for the project would come from taxpayer dollars. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Chief Conservation Officer Blake Henning states, "A forced introduction of wolves to Colorado would cost untold amounts of taxpayer dollars, redirect already limited wildlife management resources and would have a significant nega-

tive economic impact to the state." We don't even know if the project will succeed, there are way too many variables to waste our money on an "experiment."

Our portions of the Rocky Mountains are the only piece from Mexico to Canada that doesn't have grey wolves, and it should stay that way. Wolves bring too many unknown variables and problems. Our area has done fine in the past without wolves and can continue to do so. If wolves are already surrounding us, isn't that enough? Western Colorado has always been one of the most beautiful, hunting, ranching, and tourist communities there is. So let's keep it that way. Vote no for proposition 114.

Karissa Foster

Reintroduce wolves

Dear Editor:

I would like to state my opinion on proposition 114, the reintroduction of wolves into Colorado. I believe wolves should be reintroduced because of their vital position in ecosystems, their success of rebalancing Yellowstone, and their ability to boost tourism.

Wolves play an important role in ecosystems as a keystone species, one that the ecosystem depends on heavily. With the lack of wolves, an ecosystem could go crazy, changing numbers of each species drastically. According to nywolf.org, the wolves position is so important because by hunting prey like deer and elk, the wolves allow vegetation and other animals to flourish and live healthily. Also, according to tufts.edu, deer behaviour around wolves changes, and they stop moving around and grazing as much in different places, staying in a general area. This allows the soil to be ready for new plant life. This keeps the ecosystem balanced, thanks to the wolves.

Yellowstone National Park is a beautiful place, with many animals and plants that have the wolves to thank for the ecosystem's success. According to usatoday.com, 25 years after the reintroduction of wolves, they've helped parts of the park rebalance. The rebalancing of Yellowstone's ecosystem was and is thanks to the wolves hunting their prey. The wolves are regulating elk and deer populations and preventing them from eating too much of the plants in the area. This has allowed the vegetation and other animals in Yellowstone like beavers, songbirds, and others, to recover and thrive. Also, according to national geographic.com, the hunting of deer and elk by wolves has helped deer and elk populations. By hunting the weak and sick,

they make the herds more resilient, and by hunting bulls during years of scarce food, the wolves allow the cows to reproduce, keeping the population going steady. I have to admit, 25 years is a long time, and with full recovery of Yellowstone still not complete, it seems like this process is ineffective. However it is not, because though the process is long, it works. And though not completely done, huge areas in the park are recovering. This means we should start the reintroduction process as soon as we can, because we want our state's ecosystems back to normal as soon as we can.

Tourism is what little towns like Pagosa thrive on, making money from those who want to see Colorado for themselves. If we reintroduce wolves, our economy could improve thanks to the influx of those who want to see wolves. According to connectusfund.org, when wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone and other areas of the United States, an influx of tourism occurred in those areas. This happened because lots of people like excitement, danger, and new experiences. It attracts them to said area. This influx caused an economic boost for the local economies, with many of the governments choosing to use the money for preservative and protective methods for their endangered species and forests.

In conclusion, I would like the people to vote for the reintroduction of wolves, because of the great impact it can have on our ecosystem, and because our sweet little town of pagosa springs could use some extra tourism. The gray wolves are a beautiful species that deserve to live and spread out, because while they may be scary and powerful, this is a big, scary, and powerful world, and in our pocket of this world, we need gray wolves.

Jai Loveday

Wolves: Positive impact

Dear Editor:

As wolves have become a part of the upcoming ballots, I believe that we should encourage people to see them as a positive impact, and to vote for Proposition 114. We need to reintroduce wolves in Colorado because we need to heal our trophic cascade, restore balance to our ecosystem, and learn to coexist with them.

In the 1940s, the last wolf was killed off in the state of Colorado. As we are the ones that killed off the species, we need to be the ones to bring them back. We caused a trophic cascade, as explained by John Emerick in Rocky Mountain National Park. He showed evidence

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Proposed plans presented for land south of Yamaguchi Park

By **Chris Mannara**
Staff Writer

The results of a best-use analysis and a plan for public engagement for land south of Yamaguchi Park was presented to the Pagosa Springs Town Council at a regular meeting on Oct. 22.

THK Associates is conducting the analysis of the site, as hired by town council to master plan the Yamaguchi South property, also known as the former sewer lagoon property, according to Town Manager Andrea Phillips.

According to Phillips, the property is 26.5 total acres.

THK representatives have visited the site and have gathered various forms of information from floodplain information to land use information, according to agenda documentation.

Town council wanted the best use analysis to find out what the demand options were for future uses for the site, Phillips noted.

THK has done a little bit of public engagement in talking with the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, but also want to further those efforts more, Phillips added.

According to agenda documentation, town staff budgeted for a cost of \$75,000 to hire a design and engineering firm to consult for the planning of Yamaguchi south, with THK's contract being for \$73,370.

Town staff applied for a Department of Local Affairs Planning grant for \$25,000 and was awarded the grant; the project may extend into the first quarter of 2021, agenda documentation notes.

According to THK Project Manager Julie Gamec, THK used drone technology in analyzing the site.

Within THK's executive summary, the recommended uses for the 26.5 acre site include two baseball/softball fields, a multipurpose area with amphitheater potential, pickleball or tennis space and additional pavilion or picnic areas.

There are currently some "really

great opportunities" on the site that THK has identified. One is the potential for river access all along the boundary of the site, Gamec noted, adding that THK will look to preserve vegetation on the site.

Best-use analysis

In conducting a market analysis of the site, THK Principal Peter Elzi noted that many things were considered, from recreational uses to affordable housing units, for the site.

"We skipped single family. There's obviously a demand for some single-family-type housing in the county," Elzi said. "The site itself, the location we didn't think was very well suited for single-family development."

There is also demand for recreational vehicle use on the site, Elzi added.

"One of things we spent a fair amount of time on was looking at recreational uses, whether it be uses that would be contained within a rec center-type facility," Elzi said. "One of the things that surprised me during our analysis was there is not a swimming pool available to the public in the area. It's a short season, but when we looked at the demographics of the area, age, gender, participation in a number of different recreational activities, it became pretty clear to us that there really is a demand in the area for a rec center."

However, despite the fact that there is a significant demand for workforce and affordable housing in the area, which would be supported by the market, the economics of developing that site for that type of use would be "counterintuitive to affordable and workforce housing,"

Elzi added, citing floodplain and geotechnical issues.

"Even after we looked at the uses for what could be some market rate-type things, we came to the conclusion that the vacant portion of property, we should add at least two more baseball or softball fields," Elzi explained, adding that because the town shares fields with Archuleta School District, not all fields are 100 percent accessible at all times.

Additionally, Elzi explained that Pagosa Springs is without an accessible tennis court and could definitely extend its picnic areas and has some overflow parking issues that could be rectified with development.

"The site from a geotechnical and a floodplain issue is bringing us to a conclusion that this 26 and a half acres should be developed for additional outdoor recreational uses," Elzi said, adding that enhanced access to the river could be incorporated.

Mayor Don Volger explained that he was pleased with THK's analysis and thought it was a good idea to accept the firm's recommendations for what to do with the site.

"There seems to be a whole lot of advantages to their recommendation," Volger said.

Council member Matt DeGuse explained that it came as no surprise to him that recreational space was the best fit for the project, but added that he would like to see natural and open park land as well as a dog park on the space if council proceeds in that direction.

More and more people are using the town's parks and trails for walking dogs and the community wants a place to play with their pets, Volger

noted.

Community engagement

The town is at the point where it wants to take the information from the analysis and take them to the community for its feedback and desires, Phillips explained.

"Instead of saying to the community, 'Hey we're open to any kind of use here and give us all of your recommendations,' we really wanted to make sure we were on the right track about coming to this sort of conclusion," Phillips said.

For the first portion of the public outreach effort, THK would like to use an online platform in some form, Gamec noted.

THK and the town would like to inform the public about the progress made to date on the property, and the market study recommendations, she added.

Part of what is being proposed is a public survey, Gamec added, with the survey touching on how existing town facilities meet the needs of the community.

A two-day work session is also being proposed that would be in-person and open to the public, she added.

"There's just no substitution for face-to-face contact and having a face-to-face conversation with people, she said, adding that despite COVID-19 concerns, this project is a big undertaking and THK wants to get stakeholder feedback.

Part of getting the public involved in the work session is having them get engaged during the design process, Gamec noted, adding that this helps keep momentum throughout the project.

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Operation Christmas Child: Bless a child with a shoe box gift

By **Linda George**
Operation Christmas Child

Today, millions of little children around the world don't have a toothbrush or a bar of soap to wash their face. They've never had a Christmas present or a stuffed animal to cuddle.

With the help of Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse that reaches 160 countries, you have opportunity to bless a child this year with a shoe box gift.

You and your family, small group or business can be part of the world's largest Christmas project. It's really easy here in Pagosa because youth groups like 4-H and over 20 local churches have red and green shoe boxes just waiting for you to fill. You can also find them at Ace Hardware, Dollar General, OK Nails, San Juan Salon and UPS.

Just pick a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and go shopping for basic items like a toothbrush, soap, washcloth, crayons, a pencil and a coloring book or notebook. Throw in a stuffed animal, a doll or soccer ball with a pump, shirt and pair of socks. You can even personalize your gift with a note of encouragement and a picture of yourself or the entire family. Don't include candy or toothpaste so it will meet customs regulations.

Labels are provided in every box along with an envelope for the \$9 postage plus the schedule and address for drop-off.

Join us in reaching around the world and touching the lives of needy children. Our collection week for all shoe boxes is November 16-23. The drop-off location is Crossroad Christian Fellowship, 1033 Park Ave., next door to the Recreation Center.

For your convenience and protection during this COVID pandemic, volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves, and taking your boxes in a drive-thru setup in the parking lot.

Please return your filled boxes during the following times and bring hope to a child this Christmas:

Nov. 16, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 17, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 18, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 19, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 20, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 21, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 23, 8 to 10 a.m.

Obituaries

Dena D. Eliason

Dena Eliason left us peacefully the morning of Oct. 17. Dena, or Grandma to many official kin and numerous unofficial ones as well, leaves behind her partner and husband, Earl, of 70-plus years, eight children, 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Grandma and Grandpa, as many who've come to know them locally, have traveled to numerous locations, starting in South Dakota. From telephone operator, Den/

Club scout leader, Tupperware home host, choir member, square-dancer and even a calendar model, Dena/Grandma has seen a lot, accomplished a lot and mentored a lot.

Per her wishes, a small service will be held locally with a larger "Celebration of Life" planned by the family once all these restrictions are a thing of the past. In lieu of flowers, Mom asked that a donation or two be given to the local Humane Society, the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park (off U.S. 84) or one of her favorite charities, "Best Friends" (an animal sanctuary in Utah). We miss her every day, but we are blessed with the 88 years she stayed.

Michael Joseph McCrudden III

Michael Joseph McCrudden III was born to Rosemary Gamwell McCrudden and Michael Joseph McCrudden Jr. on Feb. 18, 1944. He was the first born of four brothers: Christopher, Stephen and Philip. As a youth, he excelled academically, found a passion for competitive sailing during family summers at Brant Beach, N.J., and found his singing voice and appreciation for choral music while attending All Saints Church in Wynnewood, Pa.



It was at All Saints Church that he met Lynne Herbert. They dated in high school and college, and would marry on Aug. 20, 1966, following Michael's graduation from Trinity College. Their first son, Michael Joseph IV, was born June 20, 1968, in Philadelphia, while Michael completed his master's degree in business administration at the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania.

Following the completion of his graduate degree, Michael and his young family moved to Annapolis, Md., where his second son, Ian Charles, was born March 11, 1971. Michael's work life focused upon the burgeoning cable television and telecommunications industry. Over these years, Michael continued to foster and celebrate his joy of sailing while a member of the Annapolis Yacht Club.

The family moved to Denver, Colo., where Michael and Lynne would welcome their third son, Colin Philip, born March 16, 1979. These, now five, McCruddens would become true Coloradans

over their 10-plus years on the Front Range. Michael discovered a love within himself for skiing and the mountainous environment while fostering the same in his sons, with weekend ski trips to Summit County, Colo., or summertime camping ventures.

In 1984, Michael became a vice president for Time Inc. and moved his family to Darien, Conn., and then in 1989 he retired and returned to Annapolis, Md. As their sons grew and moved on from the nest, Michael and Lynne began their work of crafting a life they would enjoy together as family life changed. Be it on Bald Head Island, N.C., or in mountainous environs of Pagosa Springs, Colo. As his family grew, with the introduction of daughters-in-law Jennifer Crews, wife of oldest son Michael, and Annica Bejhed, wife of middle son Ian, Michael's greatest joys were found in the company of his sons, their wives and his grandchildren, Miles, Kathryn, Elton and Rosemary.

Michael died Oct. 14 in the company of his friend, lover and companion in marriage through 54 years. He is survived by his wife, Lynne; his three sons; his four grandchildren; and two of his brothers, Christopher and Stephen. The songs his soul sang play on in the hearts of us all. A celebration of Michael's life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. This will be a family-only service, but streaming of the service will be available. Contact the church at 731-5801 for information on how to stream. Contributions in Michael's name may be made to St. Patrick's Music Fund, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., or Wings Early Education Center, ACEC, 74 Backswing Court, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

Charlotte Ann Hemauer

Longtime resident Charlotte Ann Hemauer (nee Lemke), 75, gained her wings on Oct. 20, surrounded by her loving family at her home in Farmington, Minn. Char fought a courageous seven-year battle with PSP (progressive supranuclear palsy), a cruel and debilitating disease.



Char was known around town for her sense of whimsy, passion for life and selfless care for others. Many of you remember her as your friendly dental hygienist (the first in Archuleta County) bringing innovation and grace to the dental office of Dr. Randall Davis.

Char also lovingly applied her organizational skill, eye for detail and amiable manner as bookkeeper and taskmaster for Hemauer Construction and Fawn Gulch Outfitters, local businesses she built with her husband, Dave Hemauer. Their presence in the mountain community grew quickly and solidly, and those for whom they guided hunts or built homes and commercial properties soon became longtime friends.

Upon their retirement in 2006, they were led from the Colorado mountains to the lakes of Minnesota where they could further enjoy their growing family. Char was a social gal who brought life to every gathering with her unique laugh and quirky sense of humor. She had a caring heart for all who knew her and a special tenderness when visiting aging relatives.

Char is survived by her husband, Dave, of 41 years; their son, Dustin (Katie) Hemauer; granddaughters Aubree and Charlee Hemauer; her former husband, Dave Lythjohan; their children, Tami (Garry) Minor; grandsons Derek and Hunter Minor; great-grandson Harrison Minor; Scott (Jean) Lythjohan; granddaughter Miranda Lythjohan; sisters Bonnie (Ed) Kissinger and Sue (Donald) Lythjohan; nieces and nephews; and many other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Bernice (nee Kroll) Lemke.

We hope to celebrate Char's life in the spring of 2021. Expressions of love and condolences may be sent to Dave Hemauer, 1346 200th St. W., Farmington, MN 55024. Donations to further the research of this rare and incurable PSP disease can be made in Char's name at psp.org/iwanttohelp/ways-to-give/.

Patricia Richardson

On the evening of Oct. 20, Patricia Richardson, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., and Scottsdale, Ariz., passed away in Pagosa Springs at the age of 85.



Patricia was born to Donald and Kathleen in Albany, N.Y., met and became engaged to her lifelong husband, Richard Richardson, at Castleton State College in Vermont. She received her bachelor's degree at Webster College in St. Louis, Mo. She helped her husband serve as founding president of Northampton County College in Bethlehem, Pa. She later received an MBA at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., and went on to have an 18-year career in commercial lending and management with United Bank of Arizona, Southwest Savings and Loan and finally Wells Fargo Bank, where she retired as vice president for commercial lending in the Tempe, Ariz., branch. As a commercial lender, she became the first woman to serve as president of her professional association, Robert Morris Associates of Arizona.

She volunteered in every community where she lived, serving as president of the United Way of Bethlehem, Pa., president of the League of

Women Voters of Bethlehem and as a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. In the Phoenix area, she served as president of the United Way of Tempe, Ariz., and as president of Habitat for Humanity of Phoenix. In New York City, she served as member of the Steering Committee of Friends of the New York Philharmonic, and a volunteer for fundraising events and educational presentations for children and adults with the Metropolitan Opera Guild. In this capacity, she was proud to have had the opportunity to accompany both Julie Andrews and Luciano Pavarotti at separate Guild fundraising events.

Her greatest passion and joy were always her immediate and extended family and close friends. Her sister, Pinky, and her brother, Richard, preceded her in death. She is survived by her beloved husband of 65 years, Richard, her three sons (and their spouses), Rick (Mary Kay), Mike (Carol) and Chris (Kitty); eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother; and many beloved nieces and nephews. It is impossible to adequately express how much she was loved and will be missed by her family and friends.

A virtual service celebrating her life will be offered through Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ in Phoenix, Ariz., on Nov. 21.

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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.

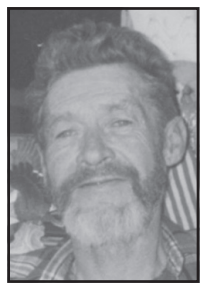
The crowd, upon realizing they had put to death the very Messiah for whom they had been looking, was pierced to the heart. They asked, "What shall we do?" To be continued...

If you are asking, "What shall I do?" and we can help you spiritually please let us know.

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Harry Andrew (Andy) Havens

Andy Havens passed from this world on Oct. 25 in Pagosa Springs, Colo. Andy was born on Aug. 10, 1946, in Chromo, Colo., to Fitzhugh T. Havens Sr. and Margaret J. Young Havens. He was the youngest of five children: sisters JoAnn Bamrick (deceased) and Kay Havens, of Spokane, Wash.; brothers Fitzhugh T. Havens Jr., of Golden Valley, Ariz., and Walter G. Havens (deceased).



Andy married Sharon B. Washington and became father to Leandra K. Havens, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., and John A. Havens, of Noble,

Okla. He was uncle Andy to eight, grandfather to seven, great-grandfather to 12 and great-uncle to 15.

He grew up in Chromo and attended school in Pagosa Springs. Later, he was in the U.S. Navy and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea. Andy was a "Jack-of-all-trades," but loved operating the front-end loader the most. He loved to fish, listen to country western music and have a good time with family and friends. He dearly loved his family and friends and just life in the beauty of this place. He will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved him.

There will be no services, but as he wanted, there will be a "Celebration of Life" picnic in his name next summer, details to follow. "Dad, no one will miss you more than I. Love you always, George."

Free community closet event Nov. 7

Sign up now for Christmas assistance

By Kim Hamilton
Special to The SUN

A free community closet event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Airport Storage from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day only.

We are in need of these items for the event in excellent condition and clean, separated by sizes in bags/boxes.

Please do not bring torn, stained or items that should really go in the trash.

Needed are all sizes of gloves, hats, but especially boys' and girls' warm winter clothes and coats from NB-6, all sizes of snow

boots and snow/ski pants.

Anyone whose donation was turned away previously, please contact Kim Hamilton with what you had and we can probably take it again now. We just had way too much at the time, but we got rid of quite a bit.

Volunteers are also needed for this event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This will also be a bike drive for our upcoming adopt-a-family for Christmas project. Bring any bikes you'd like to donate to the cause. Would like them to be in excellent to very good condition. We have some people who will

See Assistance A14

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Political sign thefts reported ahead of election

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

Political campaign signs have been stolen from yards, notably around Pagosa Lakes, and elsewhere in town.

First Vice Chair of Archuleta County Democratic Party John Porco said on Oct. 27, "Dozens, literally dozens, of signs have been stolen. A couple larger signs have been destroyed or defaced ... One member set up a camera and caught a fellow driving up, getting out and walking back to his SUV with their sign."

Porco added, "You can say it's just a campaign sign, but it is still trespassing and theft."

Sue Wood, who had two Democratic Party signs stolen from her yard near Village Lake, said she wasn't too worried about the trespassing but that, "It's stupid because people in this part of the country have been known to get shot for that."

She added, "I wonder if they're nervous on the other side."

Constitutional rights

Aside from illegal trespassing, there's the question of the moral blow.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

President Donald Trump's campaign website, <https://www.armyfortrump.com>, encourages supporters to come up with ways to take action in the community "to achieve a specific goal,

and future involvement," but does not encourage breaking the law or acting immorally.

Keith Bruno spoke of these constitutional rights, saying, "It's heavy ... having my freedom of expression suppressed."

Bruno's \$100 custom sign made by a friend was defaced and stolen.

"The first time it was kicked, the second time it was spray painted ... The third time it was stolen and thrown into a ditch," Bruno said. He has recovered the sign and is in the process of restoring it.

Having never been someone who voted before, Bruno said, "There's more at stake this time. It's my duty to get out and express myself for a better future."

How many political signs have been reported stolen?

As of Oct. 22, the Pagosa Springs Police Department records only showed one reported attempted theft within the last six weeks in the city, Police Chief Bill Rockensock wrote in an email.

Derek Woodman, undersheriff for the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, wrote in an email about the county, "As of October 23rd we have had a total of six political signs reported stolen and one reported defaced."

But others indicated more signs may have been stolen without being reported if victims and police didn't have enough information to file a report.

Diane Cirksena wrote in an email, "Our Biden/Harris sign was taken from our yard 8:39pm Wednesday. Our trail camera caught a

man ... taking the sign, and then the vehicle as it went down the street. We didn't get the license plate, which is unfortunate."

She said, "The police came and looked at the pictures, but the license plate wasn't clear so a report was not made."

"We specifically asked of our members through our email list, we have 2,000 democrats on our email list, not to retaliate," Porco said. "I haven't heard of any Trump signs stolen."

When queried, Vice Chair of Archuleta County Republican Central Committee Deborah Van Gundy said, "A couple people have had their signs stolen."

She also indicated some may have just replaced the signs without reporting a theft.

"I'm sure if they have had them stolen, they've gotten in touch with whatever candidate and had them replaced, instead of making a public complaint," she said.

Effectiveness of sign theft

Both Wood and Cirksena stated that having their signs stolen hasn't changed much.

"I'm a lifelong Democrat," Wood said.

Cirksena wrote, "Since the theft? We're just even more committed to the legacy of pure water, air and land for our grandchildren."

"It's not been very effective," Porco confirmed, "People come in and get new signs, maybe even more, because they're furious."

This is the case for Bruno.

"I have vinyl signs up in replacement but my battle-worn sign will be going back up. This is my freedom," he said.

simone@pagosasun.com

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Town council approves more pedestrian flag locations around town

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

In order to expand the existing pedestrian flag program, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the installation of more flags at crosswalks located at 7th Street, 6th Street, 3rd Street, 2nd Street and the River Center during a regular meeting on Oct. 22.

This item was previously discussed and approved for recommendation to town council by the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission during a meeting on Aug. 25.

The pedestrian flag program was implemented at two locations in downtown Pagosa Springs in 2018, according to Planning Direc-

tor James Dickhoff.

The program was started after canvassing was done of various local businesses, Dickhoff noted.

According to Dickhoff, 120 responses were received to a survey that was put out by the town on the flag program.

"For the most part, we feel that the respondents did support the program. They felt that it did provide more safety for pedestrians crossing the highway," Dickhoff said.

Some questions were received about other pedestrian crossings and whether or not those locations could have flags added to them, he explained.

"We do have a more extensive

crosswalk improvements plan as part of the corridor master plan," he said. "In essence, that corridor plan is identifying bump outs and rapid flashing beacons for all the crosswalks throughout town."

According to agenda documentation, there is a line item for U.S. 160 crosswalk improvements with the anticipated costs for the project being \$9,000 for poles for mounting signage and flag trees where a crosswalk pole is currently not installed.

Additionally, \$500 has been budgeted for a flag tree that holds flags on the side of the street, \$500 for pedestrian instruction signage and \$2,500 for flags, agenda documentation notes.

Dickhoff noted that the town is projected to spend about \$12,500 of a total \$30,000 amount budgeted for the flag program.

According to council member Matt DeGuise, community feedback he has heard is that there is excitement about flags being put in on 2nd Street.

"In terms of bang for the buck, I think in terms of the safety they afford for a mere \$12,000 is pretty impressive. I do wonder if there would be a benefit to at the entrances to, specifically downtown, it just be noted that there's a lot of people crossing the highway. We're a pedestrian-friendly community, keep your eyes open, something just alerting drivers that we're not a fly-through community," council member Mat deGraaf added.

chris@pagosasun.com

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

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 departmental hearings. 8:30 a.m. 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://us-02web.zoom.us/j/7186713647>,

meeting ID: 718-671-3647.

Friday, Nov. 6

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

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

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- Served as one of the commissioners leading the county out of 2008 financial crisis
- Business owner solid waste company, construction company, retail tire sales company, home builder
- Previously employed as vice president of operations for Waste Management in southeastern New Mexico
- Volunteer coach 24 years, started Youth Football Program
- Driving force behind South Pagosa Park and recycling for Archuleta County
- Citizen of the Year 1999, Supervisor of the Year 1998
- Archuleta County Fair "Super Volunteer" Award 2006

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Ski

■ **Continued from front** are the lifts and restrooms. No other amenity will be offered such as indoor lodging/seating areas, food service, ski school, rentals, etc. The pre-season plan will allow for access to the lifts only."

Bonanza, Treasure and Nova lifts are currently open. All major trails have been groomed also, making for 600 acres of open ski terrain.

"We wanted to ensure we got approval from the State and didn't want to over-complicate the plan," WCSA President and CEO Davey Pitcher relayed the morning of the opening.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as well as the multicounty Silver Thread Public Health District have approved this pre-season operating plan and the CDPHE is working on approving the plan for a full opening.

"We're not sure how long we'll go with the pre-season. We have to make sure we're operating smoothly and that people understand the guidelines," Pitcher said.

All guests should familiarize themselves with WCSA's COVID-19 policy and procedures as well as the state's guidelines and the Colorado dial level showing the status level of COVID-19 in all counties in Colorado.

Go to <https://wolfcreekski.com/2020-pre-season-covid-19-plan/> to read WCSA's full and current 2020 Pre-season Covid-19 Plan.

Positive survey feedback

A survey was conducted in late August to gather feedback from the community in preparation for the

differences this season requires.

Pitcher noted just how useful the feedback was and how that encouraged WCSA's early opening.

"Of the 4,900 people that participated about 98 percent said they'd follow any state mandates or regulations as long as they get to ski this winter. That really showed the people's desire to keep from having an outbreak," he said.

Pitcher said the survey was "overwhelmingly positive."

He added, "The message really is people want to ski and they understand and are willing to work with us and the state."

Holiday forecast

When asked about possible limitations on capacity moving into the winter, Pitcher mentioned the ongoing uncertainty.

He said, "We weren't sure if we were going to be mandated to have restricted numbers. We're going to be careful coming into Christmas. The state chose not to require ski areas to have a capacity cap. We may still do that but need to see how things go."

Measures will be taken to maintain control over not bringing COVID-19 into the ski area as well.

"One thing we're doing is advertising on the website that the state is requiring if you test positive quarantine may be asked, or you may be asked to cancel your trip and go home," Pitcher said, referring to people visiting the area to ski.

Pitcher stressed that locals and out-of-towners alike should check the dial level. The COVID-19 dial dashboard gives a regularly updated status report by county and is available at: [https://covid19.](https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/covid-19-dial-dashboard)

[colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/covid-19-dial-dashboard](https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/covid-19-dial-dashboard).

"If we saw cases going up on the dial, we do have mechanisms in place to require a capacity cap," Pitcher noted.

Reservations: recommended, not required

While reservations are currently not required, WCSA is recommending purchasing tickets in advance.

"It's a much better experience for the customer. We'll have staff outside handing tickets out — it really speeds things up," Pitcher said, reiterating the uncertainties of what Christmas will bring during the pandemic. "We're going to be open for Christmas. It'll be interesting to see what happens ... Again, if the COVID dial heats up and there is some alarm in cases, we have mechanisms to make it where online is the only way to buy tickets."

'...Excellent for early season!'

A complete November schedule will be determined Nov. 3 after closing for Nov. 1 and 2. WCSA will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. until then.

"We're happy to be reopen. We're glad to see some relief to firefighters with the recent snow," Pitcher said. "We're hoping for a mellow season working towards normalization."

WCSA's email states, "The skiing is excellent for early season!"

WCSA reported 24 inches of snow with conditions described as powder and packed powder (with very early season obstacles).

simone@pagosahun.com

Vote

■ **Continued from front** do so up to and including Election Day either in person or at GoVoteColorado.gov, though ballots can no longer be mailed for the current election.

The same site can be used to check or make changes to your voter registration.

This year's ballot — which is 19 inches long, printed front and back — includes a number of county, state and federal offices, as well as 11 statewide ballot questions and judicial retention questions.

County offices included on the ballot are county commissioner for districts 1 and 2, as well as county surveyor.

State-level offices include the State Board of Education member for Congressional District 3, state representative for District 59 and the district attorney for the 6th Judicial District.

Federal offices include presidential electors, U.S. senator and congressional representative for District 3.

Registered voters within the Aspen Springs Metro District and Los Pinos Fire Protection District will each have an additional ballot

PAWSD

■ **Continued from front** raising the monthly sewer service base charge from \$32 to \$47 in 2025.

Board Treasurer Glenn Walsh pointed out that although a \$15 per month increase doesn't seem like a lot of money, "those expenses add up."

In the meeting, Ramsey explained that PAWSD could fight the state on the imposed regulations.

PAWSD has already hired an attorney to assist with the matter. According to Ramsey, PAWSD chose to hire attorneys with Law of The Rockies, who are currently representing Mt. Crested Butte in its dispute.

Walsh referred to the new regulations as "an absurd anti-environmental standard on the San Juan Treatment Plant."

The board is willing to fight the imposed regulations, but, as Ramsey explained, it is important to not "dig a hole we can't get out of."

He explained that although it could be financially beneficial to

fight the legislation, the chance of losing the dispute and then having to complete the project would be an even bigger expense.

According to Walsh, the revised intergovernmental agreement with the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) "clearly stated that expansion and/or modification was a joint expense."

PAWSD and the PSSGID entered into the agreement for PAWSD to treat the PSSGID's wastewater.

The board also discussed the possibility of implementing a new drought surcharge rate plan. The new plan would include five stages of drought, progressing from a voluntary stage to stage four.

The triggers used to determine the drought stage would include the San Juan River flow rate and the Hatcher Reservoir water level, along with the call date on the Four Mile diversion and the date when snowpacks on the mountains have melted away.

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from when they are sent to when they are processed by signing up for BallotTrax at GoVoteColorado.gov.

VSPC hours

The Archuleta County VSPC will be 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 Saturday, Oct. 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 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 previously explained that there is no electioneering allowed within 100 feet of the courthouse, regardless of what business you are conducting in the courthouse, which includes clothing items, buttons and hats with candidate names.

The Election's Office can be reached at 264-8331.

randi@pagosahun.com

Take precautions: Wildfire season is not over

By Bill Trimarco

Wildfire Adapted Partnership

Here in Pagosa Country, it is easy to get complacent. We have watched as California continues to burn, thankful that we are not dealing with catastrophic wildfires here in our backyard.

The Grizzly Creek and Pine Gulch fires in Colorado blackened our skies this summer, but are finally contained. Usually, by October, we begin to forget about fire except for making sure we have enough wood for the stove all winter. This year, it is way too early to think that the wildfire season is over for Colorado.

The Cameron Peak fire, west of Fort Collins, has burned over 200,000 acres since the middle of August and is still only 51 percent contained. On Oct. 17, the Calwood fire, near Boulder, started and has already grown to over 9,000 acres.

On Monday, Oct. 19, a fire started near the Ice Lake trailhead, just outside of Silverton. Within a day, it grew to 300 acres. Campers at Ice Lake were helicoptered out to safety. Air tankers, helicopters and ground crews are trying to save the campground at the trailhead. Ironically, this is the same area that was flooding due to heavy rains in late July.

We are in a drought. Hopefully some moisture is expected to move in at the end of October, but we

still must be vigilant. Archuleta County is still under fire restrictions. This is not the time for campfires and fire pits.

It is a good time to perform fall clean-up chores around your home. Most of the homes lost to wildfire each year are ignited by blowing embers igniting something on or near the structure. Those embers can blow a mile or more out from a fire. Keep anything combustible off of your deck and away from the house. Rake the leaves and pine needles for 10 feet around your home and deck. Clean combustibles out from under decks and stairs. Mow grass and weeds to 6 inches or less for 30 feet around structures. And the part no one likes to hear: keep your firewood pile at least 30 feet away from the house.

Take extra care if you are closing up your second home here for the season. Anything you leave now at the end of this fire season will be waiting for the spring fire season to start. You probably wouldn't feel too good if the doormat you left out in the fall turned out to be the kindling that burned down your house while you were gone.

We are in a long-term drought, our climate is changing, and we are experiencing hotter and drier weather. Wildfire season has been starting earlier and ending later pretty consistently for the last few years. Don't let your guard down yet; it's not over until it's over.

Veterans

■ Continued from front Call to military personnel and volunteers

All current and past military personnel are welcome to attend. Members of the community are invited to come decorate the Ross Aragon Community Center or help serve the veterans.

Those interested can contact Long for details at slong@pagosa.k12.co.us or reach him by phone at

the middle school.

Long wrote, "Many of the guidelines have changed ... so we please ask that you stay patient as we navigate these uncharted waters."

As always, it will be held at the Community Center. This year it will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 7 a.m. to noon.

There are limitations to how many people will be allowed in the breakfast at once. Veterans with

last names beginning with A-H can participate from 7 to 8:30 a.m., last names I-P from 8:40 to 10:10 a.m., and last names Q-Z from 10:20 to 11:50 a.m.

Masks will be required to enter the Community Center. Temperature screenings may also take place as an extra precaution.

"We know this is not ideal, but we are doing what we can to ensure the safety of students and veterans," Long wrote.

clayton@pagosahun.com

Courts

■ Continued from front

According to County Administrator Scott Wall, the next resolution presented on this topic will establish a new purpose for the funds that were released.

According to the meeting's agenda, "Both the Strategic and Working Capital reserves are subsets of the Committed Fund Balance Reserve established by resolution 2014-55."

According to Commissioner Ronnie Maez, the county is re-

quired by law to provide court facilities or pay the state to construct the facilities.

Archuleta County was previously awarded \$1.9 million in grant funding for the construction of a new court facility, with the understanding that the county would either obtain the remaining funds through other means, or commit the remaining funds for the construction project.

By adopting this new resolution, the county has guaranteed that

a minimum of \$4 million will be transferred from the General Fund to the Justice System Capital Fund. The resolution also approves and appropriates a minimum of \$5.9 million in capital expense for the new justice system court facility.

The new resolution states, "Additional grant funding shall be pursued. If awarded, it shall be applied to the costs of the project, pursuant to the terms of each grant awarded."

clayton@pagosahun.com

Lighting

■ **Continued from front** for everyone to enjoy the light displays.

Residential contest

The Holiday Residential Lighting competition will test participants' creativity and award cash prizes for first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third (\$250) prizes.

Participating residential properties must decorate by Nov. 27. Starting on this day, judges will begin reviewing entries.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 17.

We ask residential properties to

turn on their lights every Friday and Saturday evening between Nov. 27 and the end of the year.

Business contest

The Holiday Business Lighting Contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a storefront or property to decorate. Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 27. Starting on this day, judges will begin reviewing entries.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 17. Each category will be awarded first, second and third prize. Business prizes will be awarded as advertising

in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Lighting event

Visit Pagosa Springs will host a lighting event at the Visitor Center on Nov. 27. At around 5:30 p.m., the star on Reservoir Hill and the cross at the east end of town will light up. The lighting of the star and cross will be the signal to light up the rest of the town. Santa will arrive at the Visitor Center via a firetruck and will light the building and adjacent park.

To enter the contest, please complete the following form: <https://forms.gle/oDSakifC1CDU72fh6>.

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Celebration



Photo courtesy Barbara Hendricks

Sencion Quintana Aguilar celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct. 22. Five generations of her family are pictured, right to left: Stephanie Pillard, granddaughter; Sencion Quintana Aguilar; Barbara Hendricks, daughter; Mar-eyna Gallegos, great-granddaughter; and Naima Velasquez, great-great-granddaughter.

PFPD boards hear about pension funds, schedules

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Oct. 13, the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) held its two regular meetings, one with the Board of Trustees for the Firemen's Pension Fund and one with the district's Board of Directors.

The Board of Trustees' meeting was held first on the night, with the trustees listening to a presentation about the department's volunteer pension fund from Wells Fargo Advisor Mark Aizenberg.

According to the presentation from Aizenberg, the year-to-date value of the pension is at \$3.618 million.

In a phone interview, PFPD Chief Randy Larson explained that after 10 years, volunteers are eligible to claim their portion of the pension, which would be \$325 a month.

Up until about two years ago, the PFPD was an all-volunteer department.

"We're pretty new in the paid fire department side of things and we still rely heavily on our volunteers," Larson said.

He added, "If it weren't for our volunteers, we'd be in deep trouble. They're the backbone of our department."

According to Aizenberg and Larson, the pension fund is in good standing and is performing accordingly to investment plans.

Larson commented, "I'm happy it's in good standing."

According to Larson, the fire district administrators have very little action to take with the pension fund.

Larson explained that the district has an investment firm that oversees all the logistics of the pension fund, which helps ensure that all the funds are allocated and proportioned correctly.

The Board of Trustees also reviewed its preliminary budget for 2021.

According to the trustees, the total budget for 2021 is predicted to be at \$3,806,405.37. This is up from the 2020 budget of \$3,615,334.

The total operating expense predicted for 2021 is \$2,579,183. This is down from the 2020 operating budget of \$2,866,336.

Board of Directors

After the Board of Trustees meeting, the board members took on their roles on the PFPD Board of Directors.

The directors heard from PFPD Lt. Jared Wirth, who proposed a change in firefighters' shift sched-

ules.

According to Wirth, under the previous shift schedule it was difficult for the firefighters to commit to their second jobs and have time for their families.

He explained that nearly every firefighter in the district has a second job.

The proposal was to switch from what is known as a "modified Kelly schedule" to a "48-96." Under the "modified Kelly schedule," firefighters were required to work a series of four days with one day on and one day off and then repeated, then followed by four consecutive days off.

Under a "48-96" shift schedule, firefighters would work two consecutive days (a 48-hour shift) and then have four consecutive days off.

Wirth explained that this format would give the firefighters more flexibility with their second jobs and have more meaningful time at home with families.

The directors voted to approve the shift change, with only one abstaining vote from Jason Webb and none against.

Larson commented, "I think it's going to help the morale of the department."

clayton@pagosasun.com

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



Marine Corps birthday celebration canceled

By Col. Sepp Ramsperger
Special to The SUN

Our Marine Corps was formed on Nov. 10, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress with the first marines enlisting under Commander Samuel Nicholas at Tuns Tavern, Philadelphia, Pa. But it was not until 1921 that the corps began celebrating that historic day officially as its birthday.

The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. Perhaps it is best summarized in stanzas of our Marine Corps Hymn. I quote, "... we have fought in every clime and any place where we could take a gun."

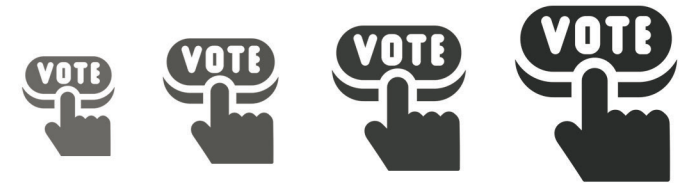
It concludes with "... if the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's Scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines."

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we are unable to find a venue this year where we could celebrate our 245th birthday. We will wait until next year to double our celebration.

I take this opportunity wish each of you "Happy birthday, stay safe, semper fidelis."

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Vote **NATALIE CARPENTER**
for County Commissioner, District 2



MOVING ONWARD AND UPWARD, NOT JUST FORWARD

Moving forward and making progress with a "get 'er done" mentality resulted in bloated, over-budget projects with long-term debt that bypassed voter input. County projects touted as "accomplishments" have resulted in a financial mess. With only short-term goals in mind, where is our county really headed?

REAL progress should involve long-term strategy, but this is difficult to do when the county isn't following or communicating a defined plan.

Moving forward aimlessly while borrowing from one account to pay another is *not sustainable*.

What are our GUIDING PRINCIPLES?

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264-2100

Business

Town selects firm for future property acquisition

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Following the decision to table any action on awarding a contract for a town realtor and/or broker services on an as-needed basis by the Pagosa Springs Town Council on Oct. 6, council revisited the talking point and entered into a professional services agreement with a firm at a regular meeting on Oct. 22.

A request for proposal (RFP) was issued for town realtor and broker services on an as-needed basis and received four proposals from firms and individuals, according to Town Manager Andrea Phillips during the Oct. 6 meeting.

According to Phillips, three of the firms were interviewed by herself and Town Attorney Clayton Buchner, while one firm withdrew.

Following the interviews, Phillips noted that it was recommended that the as-needed contract be awarded to CBRE, which is not a local firm.

However, following council dis-

ussion, council members raised issue with not choosing a local firm due to their specific expertise of the area.

Town council has had a goal for a long time of achieving some strategic priorities that serve a public purpose, Town Manager Andrea Phillips explained during the Oct. 22 meeting.

"Frankly, staff does not have this expertise in real estate and would really like to have a firm or an individual realtor on deck to assist the town as needed. It feels a little bit more fair if we have gone through some sort of professional services competitive process to select a firm rather than just randomly kind of picking whoever we happen to think of at the time," Phillips said.

CBRE was the recommended firm because of its overall experience, strength in working with public agencies, and breadth of tools and experience with it being a larger firm, Phillips explained.

"Council gave feedback at the last meeting that it really felt like having a local realtor would be ad-

vantageous as the local realtor may be aware of parcels that are not yet on the market and may know some of the players and that sort of thing," Phillips noted.

Town council was impressed with CBRE, but wanted to look at the scope of work within the town's RFP, Phillips added.

Additionally, CBRE noted that it would work with someone locally to assist the town in parcel acquisition.

Phillips noted that the one firm that withdrew is once again interested in being considered for the position.

"From my perspective, I didn't know and wasn't able to foresee all of the background work that's going to go into this," council member Mat deGraaf said. "I understand now how important it is to have all of these things in place and I think what we have in front of us is exactly what we asked for."

CBRE has all the expertise and knowledge that town staff cannot take care of, which is exactly what the town wanted, deGraaf noted.

"I'm really glad that CBRE said

they would work with someone locally. One of my concerns was having them recommend a property for us to purchase without actually having seen it," council member Shari Pierce said.

If CBRE is chosen as the primary option, Phillips explained that she would be looking to town council on what it thinks should be the local firm to work hand-in-hand with CBRE on helping the town acquire property.

CBRE Mountain States Regional Manager Karlen Beitman explained that it has experience working with local firms, and added that if CBRE does not have a local presence already, it will seek out local firms to work with.

Pierce suggested that CBRE could first look into working with some of the firms that responded to the RFP when it was put out initially.

Following more discussion, the motion to enter into a professional services agreement with CBRE was approved unanimously by town council.

chris@pagosasun.com

County's Building Department receives new ISO rating

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners held a work session in which it heard a report about the county's Building Department.

According to Archuleta County Development Director Brad Callender, the county has received a new Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating from the state.

The new ISO rating of four out of 10 is an improvement from the previous rating of a nine out of 10, which was given to the county in 2016.

According to Callender, a rating of 10 is the worst rating the county could have received. A rating of 10/10 means there is essentially no Building Department, codes or permits within the jurisdiction.

According to Callender, the county hasn't changed its building permit process in the last four years. He explained that the new rating

is due largely to the county's responses to surveys from the state.

Callender explained that the ISO performs a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) for each jurisdiction and it uses the BCEGS for everything from commercial to residential lines of insurance.

Every building permit issued starting this year, 2020, will receive the new ISO rating of four out of 10.

As stated in Callender's presentation, "This can have a major influence on the economic well-being of a jurisdiction and the safety of its citizens."

The new rating does "ultimately provide a benefit," said Callender. Folks that will be building in Archuleta County starting this year, and from this point on, can expect to see some sort of reduction in their insurance rates.

Callender mentioned it is important to note the new ISO rating is not retroactive, meaning that buildings constructed with the

old ISO rating will not be able to use the new rating for their insurance plans.

According to Callender, this year has been slower than usual in the building department, which he attributes to the effects felt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As mentioned in Callender's presentation, to date this year there have been 263 permits issued, which is a 23 percent reduction compared to last year's record (since the 2008 financial crisis) of 323 total permits issued at this time.

Callender also mentioned that the Building Department hopes to continue to process permits in a timely manner, within five to seven business days.

County Commissioner Ronnie Maez gave a few comments in response to Callender's presentation saying, "Brad, I think you're doing an excellent job ... it's a big plus for the community," in regard to the new ISO rating.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Lottery still open for 2021 Business After Hours

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area
Chamber of Commerce

Pagosa Springs needs to continue to watch small gatherings. We are hoping that Archuleta County will continue to monitor our exposure and continue safe protocols all throughout the county in our businesses and public spaces.

With a hopeful prognosis for the community, the Chamber is moving forward with scheduling our 2021 Business After Hours (BAH).

At this time, we have available BAH slots for the months of February, June and/or July and December. Businesses that were scheduled to have a BAH in 2020 were given first priority to rebook their event for 2021. Those that canceled or had a BAH in 2020 opened up slots in 2021.

We are encouraging businesses that are new Chamber members or even new businesses to host a BAH

in 2021. You must be a Chamber member to host this type of event. These new Chamber member businesses will be given first priority to host a BAH.

Second priority will be given to those businesses who have never hosted a BAH previously. Except for these guidelines, the BAH selections are conducted through the lottery system. The lottery will be held at the beginning of November after all the requests are processed. BAH are great networking events that introduce people to the location and products or services that you have to offer.

Here is a brief guideline of what it will take to host a BAH in 2021. We want to make sure first that a business has the size or space to host the event. If it is a winter month, outside use of space is limited, so the business must have a space large enough to host approximately 30-40 people. The business provides the

food and the Chamber provides the beverages. All food must be served, even if a buffet is offered. There is no self-service allowed at this time per the state guidelines. A business could also pre-plate appetizer options for the attendees.

Businesses need to make sure there is distancing in effect and room for smaller groups to congregate. If the BAH is held during a month conducive to outside gathering, this is a great way to space the event out. Another option is to partner with a neighboring Chamber member business or businesses and have a "block party." In this way, several businesses can gain exposure and the event has even more room to spread out.

Upon registration at the event, the Chamber will add some additional safety measures for our attendees such as hand sanitizer upon entering and masking unless eating or drinking. While we want to move forward

with integrating some socializing, we also want to make sure that we adhere to state health guidelines and follow protocols to keep the health of our community a priority. We feel that protocols can be managed and, at this time, smaller events can be held.

If you are interested in hosting a BAH in 2021, call Rick Artis, membership coordinator at 264-2360 or go to the Chamber website, www.pagosachamber.com, and download an application. Applications are due Friday, Oct. 30. Let's plan carefully and move ahead.

Masks still available to obtain or to sew

Thanks to the many volunteer hours that were committed to sewing masks these past months, the Chamber still has a selection of masks available to business community for free. Businesses are welcome to see Business A11

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Town's local emergency disaster declaration to remain in place until end of the year

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At a regular meeting on Oct. 22, the Pagosa Springs Town Council made no decision or action on its current local emergency disaster declaration, leaving that declaration in place until Dec. 31.

Town Manager Andrea Phillips noted that town council had previously talked about this item at a meeting on Oct. 6 as part of a discussion regarding the town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following disaster declarations made nationwide and statewide, the town followed suit and declared a local disaster on March 16, which was then ratified and extended at council's next regular meeting.

Town council has renewed this local emergency disaster declaration four times since March and most recently, on June 4, ap-

proved Resolution 2020-21, which extended the emergency disaster declaration through Dec. 31.

"The purpose of declaring a local emergency is to enact specific emergency response plans that the town may have and also when we coordinate with our local EOC and other emergency response agencies," Phillips said. "We are signaling with that declaration of a local emergency that we may be doing some things differently and we did have to this year."

Other purposes for declaring a local emergency are to ensure that the town is making emergency purchases as needed and to access federal or state funding to respond to the emergency, she added later.

"Town council has this authority within the home rule charter," she added. "This is a matter of local concern where the town council, acting as a legislative body, can

declare a local emergency."

The local emergency disaster declaration can be present as long as the disaster still exists and can be terminated by the town at any time, Phillips noted.

According to Phillips, there are no specific limits within the town's charter or state statute for how long a local emergency disaster declaration can be in place.

Additionally, Phillips noted that local citizens signed a petition that was emailed to town council, San Juan Basin Public Health, Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs Medical Center and requested that the disaster declaration be rescinded.

According to agenda documentation, that petition alleges fraud and also questions local powers to enact a declaration of emergency.

Archuleta County extended its local disaster declaration on Oct. 20 and it is in effect until Dec. 15,

according to Phillips.

"I think since that the county extended theirs to Dec. 15, I feel like we're pretty in line with the county right now and maybe we just revisit it at our first meeting in December," council member Matt DeGuise said.

Council member Madeline Bergon noted she is in favor of keeping the decision made within Resolution 2020-21 active and not rescinding the order.

"I don't believe that a state of emergency is all that necessary any longer," council member Mat deGraaf said.

deGraaf explained that being in a state of emergency has its benefits, and the town used those to its advantage for the local community, but also added that being in a state of emergency and being "completely open for business" is an issue.

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Business

Continued from A10

come to come by and select masks for their employees or to give out at their business. The Visitor Center also has Pagosa Springs-logged bandannas available in limited

quantities. Please call and reserve some masks or come by our offices and pick up a batch.

We also still have mask kits to be sewn. If you took a break from sewing and may have less outdoor

activities planned for the near future, we could certainly use your help in getting more masks sewn. The bias tape and material are provided, along with instructions. We make these masks available to our

business community and guests for free. If you are interested in sewing some masks, please contact Mary Jo at 264-2360. Thank you, Pagosa Springs sewing community and individuals.

County dispatch to receive new radio consoles

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

At the regular meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners held on Oct. 6, the commissioners voted to approve a new contract with Motorola that will provide Archuleta County Combined Dispatch with upgraded communication equipment.

An email to The SUN from Emergency Communications Director Kati Harr reads, "The current Dispatch radio consoles are end-of-life, unserviceable, and have had multiple operational issues and failures in the past few months alone."

In the same email, Harr mentioned that emergency radio communications with dispatch are crucial as they provide a lifeline for first responders, as well as "the relay of pertinent, real-time info that impacts response and citizen safety outcomes."

The new Motorola MCC7500 radio consoles will be directly linked to the State DTRS (digital trunked radio system).

According to Harr's email, "The two most notable benefits are: allowing field unit transmission audio during console takeover, (this is a significant officer safety consideration), and the use of fewer channels during patching and multi-select transmissions, which is key during large scale incidents."

According to Harr, the Board of County Commissioners "approved a request to the Public Utilities Commission for a surcharge increase earlier this year. This additional, much-needed revenue will fund this critical equipment replacement."

According to Harr, installation of the new MCC700 radio consoles should align with the dispatch center's move to a new facility next January.

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Education

Principals report on school reopening

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The principals of each of Archuleta School District's legacy schools gave the district's Board of Education a reopening update on Oct. 13, discussing the ups and downs of each school's phase of reopening.

It was also announced that Pagosa Springs High School anticipates moving to four days of in-person education next week, on Nov. 2.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School Principal Justin Cowan was the first to speak, with Cowan explaining that the elementary school moved to four days of in-person education per week on Oct. 5.

"I think I could summarize how we're doing with a card from a little girl that I got last week that said, 'Principal Cowan, thank you for bringing us back to school. I was tired of cleaning my house,' Cowan said, earning laughs from the board. "So ... they're happy to be in school is the story."

He added that the teachers are also happy to be back in school with all their students.

Cowan noted that the A/B hybrid schedule, where half the students went part of the week and the other half of students went on different days for four days, helped the school to have a smooth and successful transition, citing as examples the divided playgrounds (to separate cohorts) and where to walk in each direction in the hallways, among other things.

Cowan explained that it's harder to keep the kids as distant now, but the kids were still following the protocols.

He also noted the support of the school's departments, such as the IT, transportation and food service departments, in helping everything

work well.

"So, I think the four-day is working really well," he said, reiterating that it's the result of a lot of collaboration and again highlighting that the school's teachers are happy.

Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Chris Hinger gave the board two thumbs up regarding the

"I miss smiles. I think that's the hardest thing," he said about the masks, adding that things are quieter and it's harder to read people and get to know the kids. "A lot of what we read is right here in the face." — Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Chris Hinger

fifth and sixth grades going four days per week — the same response he explained he got from his staff.

"I'm really pleased with the four-day," he said before giving the board a thumbs up.

Hinger suggested the continuity has been "really tough," indicating that teachers asking kids to talk about things they discussed several days prior is difficult.

"It's like having Thanksgiving break every ... week," he said, adding

that was the biggest notable change to transitioning students to four days of in-person learning per week.

While noting that the health protocols are "great," he acknowledged it is hard to get kids to distance coming into the buildings.

He explained there are 23-24 kids per class.

Regarding expanding to four days of in-person education per week for the seventh and eighth grades, he noted that staff is hesitant, especially because this year's eighth-grade class is the largest in the district at almost 150 students.

That, he added, would bump class sizes up to about 28, which will mean kids sitting closer together, but that it will be fine if students carry on with health practices.

He noted that the school would start moving toward four days with seventh- and eighth-graders on Oct. 19.

Board member Bob Lynch asked Hinger how the kids were dealing with the pandemic and the protocols, with Hinger responding that the kids are used to it, but that the eighth-graders are resisting the most because they want to be close with their friends.

He added that the students are very good about masks, washing hands and cleaning their spaces.

"I miss smiles. I think that's the hardest thing," he said about the masks, adding that things are quieter and it's harder to read people and get to know the kids. "A lot of what we read is right here in the face."

Pagosa Springs High School Principal Sean O'Donnell began his report by noting the high school is still on the hybrid schedule with two days of in-person education per week, which he said is a definite shift for teachers.

"We had to paint that picture ourselves," he said, adding they're

getting into a pattern now, but teachers put in a lot of planning time.

He added that the high school is seeing mixed levels of engagement with three remote-learning days a week, suggesting that while online education works well for some students, it doesn't work well for students who need more relationships and external motivation.

"That definitely is an issue," he said, explaining that teachers can't control the learning environment on remote learning days.

He then announced the new target day of Nov. 2 for moving to four days of in-person education, which he confirmed on Oct. 27 is still the plan unless there is a spike in local cases.

Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza explained to the board that the district had to make a choice: to let the high school students choose their classes, or the school assigns classes in order to keep the students in cohorts.

"And we made the choice to give our kids the option," she said, adding, "which meant it limited the amount of cohorting we could do because of the size of our school."

That made for more planning when it comes to expanding to four days per week, she noted.

Stewart Bellina, principal for the new San Juan Mountain School, the district's alternative high school, informed the board that her school, which is currently using space in the district's vocational building until its building is installed at the high school campus, does not have space to move to four days per week with all the students.

Bellina said there has been a lot of investment in masks and other health protocols, and indicated the students have been able to get outside where they can learn without masks.

She noted that the school has 48 students currently and has a wait list, pointing out they originally planned to limit the school to 40 students.

"We're looking really great," she said, adding they're having a "fabulous" year.

"At this point, school is going well. We're really fortunate," LeBlanc-Esparza said, pointing out the schools' leaders are doing everything in their power to keep kids in school.

Bruce Dryburgh, board president, thanked the administrators for their good work, noting he feels Archuleta School District is doing a better job than his grandchildren's schools elsewhere in the country.
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'Experience Your Nature': Capitol Christmas Tree essay contest open to Colorado fourth-graders

Gov. Jared Polis' office

Gov. Jared Polis and First Gentleman Marlon Reis, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, announced the opportunity for Colorado fourth-graders to take part in sending the Capitol Christmas Tree to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Colorado students are invited to describe why Colorado's vast, great outdoors are important to them for a chance to win an exclusive tour of the Colorado State Capitol. In July, Polis announced the kickoff of the 2020 Capitol Christmas Tree project.

The essay theme, "Experience Your Nature," asks young people to share how they've spent time outside in Colorado during this challenging year and why the state's forests are important to them.

"Coloradans cherish our state's natural beauty, forests and magnificent outdoor spaces and this is an exciting opportunity for our fourth-graders to help share stories of their special and personal relationship with the vast, great outdoors," said Polis. "In this challenging time, we all look forward to seeing one of Colorado's magnificent Engelmann spruce on full display in our nation's capitol to help our country ring in the holiday season and spread joy."

The winning essay will be hand-selected by Polis and Reis, who, like many Coloradans, are passionate about outdoor conservation and recreation and using writing as a creative outlet.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Colorado's fourth-graders to express their value of our great outdoors through their writing skills. This year has not been easy, but our outdoors have served as a refuge for our community and have always been a beacon of inspiration for our state. We are honored that Colorado can help the rest of our country share in spreading joy and peace this holiday season," said Reis.

Further information:

- Essays should be submitted either as a typed document or as a scanned hand-written document.

- This contest is open to current fourth-grade students.

- The essay should include the name of the student, the best email for the student's family, the name of the student's teacher and principal, and the name, address and phone number of the student's school.

- Students are also encouraged to submit supplemental photos and videos of their experiences in Colorado's outdoor spaces. For more details, please visit <https://www.uscapitolchristmastree.com/essay>.

The essay contest is operated in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service's "Every Kid Outdoors" initiative, which invites all U.S. fourth-graders and their families to experience the places that are home to our country's natural treasures, rich history and vibrant culture. Each year, a different national forest provides a tree to light up the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol building for the holiday season. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests in partnership with nonprofit partner


Choose Outdoors and Colorado Tourism will bring this special gift from Colorado to Washington, D.C., for the 2020 holiday season with special events in 10 communities along the way.

All fourth-graders who submit an essay will also have access to the Every Kid Outdoors program, which was created so fourth-graders and their families could discover our wildlife, nature and history for free. Visit everykidoutdoors.gov to start your adventure and access your free pass to national lands. Fourth-graders are also eligible for a free Christmas tree cutting permit with their Every Kid Outdoors pass or paper voucher. This year's Christmas tree permits are now available online through Recreation.gov.

The tree's journey officially begins Nov. 6, when it will be cut on the Uncompahgre National Forest. A livestream of the ceremony and cutting will be available for viewing online on the GMUG National Forests Facebook page.

Students should send their 500-word essay to CapitolChristmasEssay@state.co.us by Nov. 9. For more information about the Capitol Christmas Tree, visit <https://www.uscapitolchristmastree.com/essay>.

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Board considers site for building trades, construction of alternative high school

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 13 work session and meeting, the Archuleta School District Board of Education discussed and considered two new education buildings slated to be built near Pagosa Springs High School — the career and technical education (CTE) building and a building to house the San Juan Mountain School (SJMS).

CTE building

Pagosa Springs High School Principal Sean O'Donnell began the conversation surrounding the CTE building during a work session that focused on possible locations for the building.

O'Donnell recapped the history of the project, explaining that around 2016-17, the high school and district were approached by area builders (later known as Build Pagosa) about a building trades program, which was created.

In 2019, the district and Build Pagosa entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding a facility for the CTE program, with that agreement outlining that the school district would provide the land and Build Pagosa would fund the facility, which would then be owned by the district.

The district and an architect, he indicated, met with representatives of the different CTE programs — building trades, culinary arts, health sciences and, at the time, the Pirate Achievement Center (which has now become SJMS) — to help determine required space.

They also, he explained, evaluated the current space, the Worthe Crouse Vocational Building that opened in 1998, which could be remodeled for other programs if there is a facility for building trades.

Through that process, the architects proposed possible locations for a new building trades facility.

"I will say that when this process started it was very important to me that, as we visited other places like Cortez High School, where they have all of their CTE classrooms in a wing, in a hallway of the building — kids never have to leave the building to access those. It was always my hope through this process that we can do something where, for safety purposes, where kids wouldn't have to leave the secured location," he said, before noting there were issues with that.

He then walked the board through each site and some of the problems with each.

He also told the board that the

area where athletic fields are now was not considered because in earlier master planning, that area was always considered for a future elementary school.

The first of the sites O'Donnell presented to the board was to have the new facility attached to the existing vocational building, but he noted that drainage would be expensive and could cost as much as the building.

In response to board questions, O'Donnell noted that he didn't have the exact square footage determined to be needed with him at the meeting, but that they were looking for room for students to move safely and a space with an airport hangar-style door where students could build a tiny house inside and then move it out.

The next possible site he told the board about was a vocational wing attached to the main school building near the auditorium and into the current parking lot.

That, he told the board, would block the mountain view and would come with a little more cost because it wouldn't be a metal building.

The third possible site presented is on land owned by the district that is adjacent to the parking lot and South 8th Street, where the district is constructing a building for SJMS.

That site, O'Donnell explained, is fairly level, does not have drainage issues, and has three-phase electrical, as well as access to South 8th Street.

In showing the board the site, he also showed potential future expansions for both the CTE building and SJMS to show the site has room for both.

"We have students attending school that need this program," he told the board.

In response to a question from board member Bob Lynch, O'Donnell explained the Worthe Crouse building can house ag and welding programs, and there's a grease trap there already, meaning a catering kitchen could go in. It could also be remodeled for space for Pueblo Community College, he noted, explaining that space will be reimaged.

Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza then told the board the district was in the process of submitting a strong grant application for about \$350,000 worth of equipment, which would show commitment to Build Pagosa.

"Ultimately, without Build Pagosa, this doesn't happen," O'Donnell told the board later, adding ASD will pay for the design

process and through receiving blueprints and will provide the land, but the facility will be built with private funds.

Further discussion touched upon the possibility of having students help build the facility if possible and the fact that a 42-foot grow dome has been constructed near the Worthe Crouse building.

Following more discussion, Bruce Dryburgh, board president, suggested that the agenda for the regular meeting could be amended to include approval for a site, which he then did.

The board approved the 8th Street location unanimously.

SJMS construction

The board also considered the SJMS site development during the regular meeting after hearing that, ultimately opting to delay the project and look into building a bigger facility for the new alternative high school.

LeBlanc-Esparza explained that the building is purchased and built, but cannot be moved in until site development is complete.

"We've gone through a number of contractors over time looking for folks to do that job," she said. "The challenge at this point is that we've gotten a bid that has stuck with us and we wanted to talk through that bid with everyone, with the context of it, because the board really needs to help us decide how we move forward in this process given the amount of the bid, the time frame involved and the implication for the kids."

O'Donnell then explained things were moving along over the summer, but that there were some engineering issues involving the soil that delayed the process, and the contractor and the company lined up to do the dirt work had to move on to other jobs.

"And that's just kind of been a domino effect throughout the summer. Anyone in the building industry can tell you that it's booming a little bit right now. There is a lot of building going on," he said, adding the district has been working to get bids for the needed work, without much luck.

O'Donnell explained that they were getting close to not being able to do the dirt work and concrete this year, as well as tie into the water system, due to the weather.

Project manager Todd Stevens, he explained, was able to get a bid from Alcon, the company building the new town maintenance facility near the school.

"They did put in a bid for us. It was kind of breathtaking the num-

bers they threw at us to do the project," he said. "It was high."

That bid was \$244,000, he explained, to do basically start to finish on the project. They would essentially serve as the general contractor instead of Stevens.

There was a hiccup that week, O'Donnell continued, explaining that Alcon's concrete contractor had to leave until January, but that a local one had been found who thought they could do it in November.

"At this point, that's the only bid we have to do the project," O'Donnell said, noting that is the only way that SJMS could have a building to occupy this school year.

The cost of the building, Finance Director Mike Hodgson told the board, was \$170,000.

The board and staff then considered the overall cost of the project being \$435,000.

Hodgson told the board that board policy dictates that the board approves bids if they exceed \$150,000, but added that policy was written only to include federal money.

He suggested the process could be rebid, which means there would be nothing until spring, but it would be opened up statewide.

LeBlanc-Esparza added that SJMS students are attending classes in person two days per week and are some of the district's most at-risk students, but that there are concerns about the cold and the concrete work moving into the fall.

Hodgson noted it will cost \$450 per month from October to June to store the building.

The board then weighed the risk of construction costs rising over the winter.

Board member Dana Hayward asked SJMS Principal Stewart Bellina how she would feel about not having a building until next summer.

Bellina responded that she has come to terms with it, but that she needs the kids there four days per week, noting that their engagement is lower than normal.

In response to more questioning, Bellina added that she was confident SJMS could grow to 75 students by the end of the year if space allowed.

LeBlanc-Esparza explained that alternative education enrollment grows over the year, and Hayward suggested that would mean looking at a large capital expense now and the expense of an expansion soon.

"I think we need to wait," Dryburgh said.

LeBlanc-Esparza added there's really nothing to lose if they wait and bid the project out, but suggested the board at least consider renting space elsewhere for the school.

She added later that there's a mindset in alternative education that they get what's left and investing in those students is helpful psychologically.

Board member Dr. Tim Taylor then asked if it would be reasonable to redesign the foundation for growth and expand the building to start with, which Dryburgh agreed was something worthwhile to look into.

The board came to a consensus to pause on the site development, put it back out to bid for next spring, consider the expanded facility and look into space to rent for SJMS until the building is complete.

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Pagosa Peak Open School announces capital campaign

By Alison Beach
Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School has begun a three-year capital campaign for building renovations and programming needs.

This past spring, with help from donors and grants, our Building Corporation was able to purchase our building, but the building is in need of repairs and upgrades. Pagosa Peak Open School is reinventing our education setting to meet statewide COVID guidelines and encourage social distancing.

Our board has approved additional programming and funding initiatives such as a greenhouse, playground redesign, academic remediation and distance learning

targets.

This capital campaign, once fulfilled, will ensure that our school continues to give the best education possible to our small, rural, mountain community. This campaign will fund:

- Necessary school building repairs and upgrades (\$750,000).
- Schoolyard redesign (\$150,000).
- Outdoor learning supplies (\$60,000).
- Distance learning materials and support (\$40,000).
- School counselor (\$60,000).
- The education of our youth (priceless).

Pagosa Peak Open School is a tuition-free, public charter school serving Archuleta County. We offer

learning opportunities through real-world activities, multiage classrooms, character development and discovery-based education. PPOS is designed to be an intentionally small school with a ratio of one teacher to 15 students.

Anyone interested in donating to this capital campaign is more than welcome to please email Alison Beach at abeach@ppos.co or call 731-6188. We are very thankful for the ongoing support of our generous and caring community.

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School boards hear NWEA test results

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Academic achievement data was presented to the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education and the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors at their most recent meetings, giving the boards a look at how distance learning due to COVID-19 may have impacted district students.

ASD

Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza and Assistant Superintendent Laura Mijares presented academic achievement to the Board of Education on Oct. 13 as part of the state-of-the-district report.

The academic achievement conversation began with a rundown of Colorado's accountability systems, beginning with school performance frameworks.

"The state of Colorado gives us a school performance framework as a district and then one for each school. They give us one that looks at a one-year snapshot, and then they look at a three-year average because they want to know and they want to be fair to districts to say, 'If you have a weird anomaly year, we don't want to pound you on the head when you've been performing really well and, at the same time, we also want you to look at that and say, hey, is there something going on that you need to address?'" LeBlanc-Esparza explained.

That data, she noted, are used to build unified improvement plans (UIPs), which the board approves.

"But as far as the school performance framework, we use those to ask ourselves the question, are all our students succeeding and growing at the rate we want them to?" she said.

The framework, she explained, looks at academic achievement, academic growth, participation in the test and breakdowns of the data.

LeBlanc-Esparza then walked the board through how the district looks at the academic data and noted that the data used in the presentation was from two years ago because no testing took place in the spring.

She suggested that, in the school-level data, the piece the administration loves to look at is academic growth, noting that the growth is looked at as a measure of a healthy system.

The Colorado Department of Education is carrying over last year's performance frameworks due to the fact the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) test was not administered last school year due to coronavirus.

For 2019, ASD was ranked as "Accredited: Low Participation" in the framework.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School and Pagosa Springs Middle School were each ranked as "Performance Plan: Low Participation."

Pagosa Springs High School was ranked as "Performance Plan."

PPOS was ranked "Priority Improvement Plan: Decreased due to Participation."

Mijares then presented comparative NWEA MAP or Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress, assessment data for the elementary and middle schools.

Mijares explained that there are only two years of data to compare currently because the norms for the assessment are updated every four to five years.

The assistant superintendent presented the information in terms of the percent of students at or above grade level.

"The class of 2031 lost a large percentage (from 38% to 24%) of students who were at or above grade level in reading," Mijares' presentation states of this year's second-graders. "They were able to maintain the same level of students who were at or above grade level in math."

According to the presentation, the class of 2030, or this year's third-graders, "gained a large percentage of students (from 28% to 47%) of students who were at or above grade level in reading."

The class also gained 7 percentage points in terms of students at or above grade level in math.

The class of 2029, or this year's fourth-graders, gained 6 percentage points in the number of students who are at or above grade level in reading and were stable in terms of math.

The report notes, "4th grade reading is the only tested area where more than 50% of students were at or above grade level. Students scoring at or above grade level in math changes from 26% in 2nd grade to 37% in 3rd grade to 43% in 4th grade."

The class of 2028, or this year's fifth-graders, gained 8 percentage points for reading and one percentage point in math in terms of the number of students at or above grade level.

"The Class of 2027 gained 7 points in the percentage of students ... who were at or above grade level in reading with a loss of 9 points in math," the presentation states.

The class of 2026, or this year's seventh grade, gained 11 points in reading and lost two points in math.

The class of 2025 gained six points in reading and lost two points in math.

"Scores show that about 50% of students are reading at or above grade level," the presentation states. "About 40% of students are at or above grade level in math."

Mijares pointed out that students did better in reading, which could be because reading lent itself to distance learning more than math.

"So it really does reflect the COVID spring," board member Bob Lynch said of the scores.

On Oct. 20, Mijares provided additional NWEA data to The SUN in the form of a presentation made to principals.

For first-grade math, Pagosa Springs Elementary School students logged a mean score of 157.2, compared to the normed mean score (which is based off the bell curve) of 160.

"Currently, 37% of students at or above grade level, which is much higher (11 points) than percentage at or above grade level last year," the presentation states.

For first-grade reading, students had a mean score of 155.7, compared to the normed mean of 155.9, with 54 percent of students at or above grade level — 16 points higher than last year.

For second-grade math, students had a mean score of 166.8, compared to the normed mean of 175, with 26 percent of students at or above grade level.

For second-grade reading, local students logged a mean score of 162.9, compared to the normed mean of 172.3, with 24 percent of students at or above grade level.

For third-grade math, local students had a mean score of 181.6, compared to a normed mean of

188.5, with 37 percent of students at or above grade level.

For third-grade reading, local students had a mean score of 183.6, compared to the normed mean of 186.6, with 47 percent of students at or above grade level.

For fourth-grade math, local students logged a mean score of 195.5, compared to the normed mean of 199.5, with 43 percent of students at or above grade level.

For fourth-grade reading, local students had a mean score of 194.3, compared to the normed mean of 196.7, with 51 percent of students at or above grade level.

For fifth-grade math, local students had a mean score of 206, compared to the normed mean of 209.1, with 42 percent of students at or above grade level.

For fifth-grade reading, local students logged a mean score of 202.4, compared to the normed mean of 204.5, with 48 percent of students at or above grade level.

For sixth-grade math, local students had a mean score of 209.7, compared to the normed mean of 214.7, with 36 percent of students at or above grade level.

For sixth-grade reading, local students logged a mean score of 209.6, compared to the normed mean of 210.2, with 52 percent of students at or above grade level.

For seventh-grade math, local students had a mean score of 216.3, compared to the normed mean of 220.2, with 44 percent of students at or above grade level.

For seventh-grade reading, local students had a mean score of 211.5, compared to the normed mean of 214.2, with 50 percent of students at or above grade level.

For eighth-grade math, local students had a mean score of 219.9, compared to the normed mean of 224.9, with 40 percent of students at or above grade level.

For eighth-grade reading, local students had a mean score of 219.4, compared to the normed mean of 218, with 55 percent of students at or above grade level.

For third-grade reading, PPOS students scored a 186.8, compared to the national norm of 186.6.

For fourth-grade math, PPOS students scored a 189, compared to the national norm of 199.5.

For fourth-grade reading, PPOS students scored a 185.4, compared to the national norm of 196.7.

For fifth-grade math, PPOS students scored a 198.5, compared to the national norm of 209.1.

For fifth-grade reading, PPOS students scored a 200.9, compared to the national norm of 204.5.

For sixth-grade math, PPOS students scored a 197.9, compared to the national norm of 214.7.

For sixth-grade reading, PPOS students scored a 205.3, compared to the national norm of 210.2.

For seventh-grade math, PPOS students scored a 203.9, compared to the national norm of 220.2.

For seventh-grade reading, PPOS students scored a 213.5, compared to the national norm of 214.2.

Board President Ursula Hudson noted that it looked like PPOS is doing great in light of the pandemic, and Reali Crossland discussed, among other things, that while drops with some cohorts are to be expected, there should be growth the school can be proud of by the end of the year.

In an email to The SUN, the school director explained that individual grades do not have enough students to publish data related to grade-level achievement and that she had combined grades in order to provide that information.

For first and second grade, 46 percent of students are at or above grade level in math, with 37 percent at or above grade level in reading.

For third and fourth, 32 percent are at or above grade level in math, and 44 percent in reading.

For fifth through seventh grade, 11 percent of students are at or above grade level in math, and 44 percent in reading.

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Pagosa Peak Open School

The charter school's board heard that school's information on Oct. 19, with School Director Angela Reali Crossland providing more data to The SUN on Oct. 27.

On Oct. 19, Reali Crossland presented the PPOS's scores as compared to the national norm, as well as comparative data dating back to 2018.

In presenting the data, she informed the board that the national norm does not take into account loss of learning related to last spring's remote learning due to COVID.

She noted that one estimate was that there would be half a year lost in terms of literacy and three-quarters of a year in terms of math, though PPOS didn't see those losses.

For this year, in first-grade math, PPOS students logged a score of 160.7, compared to the national norm of 160.

For first-grade reading, PPOS students scored 153.6, compared to the national norm of 155.9.

For second-grade math, PPOS students scored 165.9, compared to the national norm of 175.

For second-grade reading, PPOS students scored a 169.2, compared to the national norm of 172.3.

For third-grade math, PPOS students scored a 190.1, compared to the national norm of 188.5.

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- Family 2: Boys' 1.5 snow boots.
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- Family 4: Men's 36x32 pants/jeans.
- Family 5: Boys' 5T snow pants, boys' 5T pants/jeans.
- Family 6: Girls' 4T snow pants, women's size XS-S long-sleeved tops, women's size 6 snow boots,

girls' 7 toddler snow boots.

• Family 7: Men's jeans in excellent condition 31x30 or 33x30, women's jeans in excellent condition, size 10-13.

• Family 9: Boys' 6-7 pants and coat, boys' size 12 snow boots.

• Family 10: Girls' 6 coat, boys' 5T coat.

• Family 11: Men's size 9 snow boots.

• Family 12: Girls' size 8 or 9 snow boots for a 2-year-old, girls' 6 months snow suit and winter clothes.

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ARTS & LIFE



Youth working to promote healthy relationships around Pagosa Springs

By John Finefrock and Cheryl Bowdridge
Rise Above Violence

Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to an end this weekend, but Rise Above Violence's work to assist victims and teach local students about healthy relationships continues all year long.

For about three years, Rise Above Violence has facilitated an elective at Pagosa Springs High School called YouthRise. YouthRise students focus on social justice issues that affect the community, including high school teen dating violence, bullying, cyberbullying, mental health and sexual assault awareness. Due to the limited availability of local schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rise Above Violence is now offering YouthRise outside of school on Fridays at 2 p.m., which is now open to seventh- through 12th-grade students from any school in the community and/or home-school students.

At Rise's annual "Art Above Violence" event earlier this month, Rise Executive Director Carmen Hubbs commented on the work Rise's youth advocates have historically done with the young people of Pagosa Springs.

"Our youth advocates — they're teaching children who are in K-12 schools that their hands are not for hitting, that no one deserves to be hit or hurt. No one. Ever," she said. "Our youth in middle schools are learning about Internet safety so they can be safe from Internet predators — because that's becoming more and more of a threat. Our high-schoolers, they're learning now about healthy relationships — they're learning what equity and respect means in relationships."

Hubbs said that Rise's advocates "truly want to work ourselves out of our jobs." She cited one of Rise's national partners, who made the ambitious goal of "ending sexual violence in one generation."

"I absolutely believe it can be done in one generation. That's an ambitious goal, but I think we can get there," Hubbs said at the Art Above Violence event, adding, "Our youth are our key, that's where we're gonna make this change, that's where this is gonna happen ... They're our key to reach those ambitious goals that we're talking about. Can it happen in one generation? I hope so. That's the goal."

YouthRise is offered each Friday at 2 p.m. and all seventh- through 12th- grade students are welcome. We're currently meeting at the pergola at Yamaguchi Park, though that meeting location could change as the weather gets colder. For more information about YouthRise, contact Cheryl Bowdridge at 946-5276.

YouthRise students are currently planning a Mindfulness Walk scheduled for Nov. 8, starting at noon, for a chalk art contest, and 1 p.m. for the mindfulness walk around Yamaguchi Park and on the Riverwalk. So, parents, mark your calendars, and seventh- through 12th-grade students: come help us plan on Fridays at 2 p.m. Stay tuned to the pshs.youth.rise Instagram account or the Rise Above Violence Facebook page for more information about the event.

With the help of Pagosa students and other community members, we will work towards ending domestic violence and sexual assault in one generation. Join us.

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.

Local nonprofits will hand out treats during charter school Halloween fundraiser

By Alison Beach
Pagosa Peak Open School

During Pagosa Peak Open School's (PPOS) COVID-safe Trunk or Treat + Drive-in Movie Fundraiser, local nonprofits including Rise Above Violence, Pagosa Coders, BOCES and Aspire will be handing out prepackaged treats along with some family volunteers and charter school staff.

The COVID-safe Trunk or Treat is an extension of PPOS's

drive-in style movie fundraisers and evening will feature a Day of the Dead-themed movie. This will be one big night of fun. Join us at 7 Parelli Way in the parking lot Oct. 31 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wear your favorite costume (and mask).

Treats for the Trunk or Treat will be prepackaged with social distancing and following COVID guidelines. Admittance to the Trunk or Treat will require a movie reservation. Suggested donation

is \$30/vehicle for entry. Limited spots. Email movies@ppos.co or go to <https://pagosapeakopen-school.org/covid-safe-trunk-or-treat-movie-at-ppos/> to reserve your spot.

This will mark the end of the drive-in style movie night fundraisers until spring 2021. All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the school's capital campaign for building renovations. PPOS is a tuition-free, public charter school serving Archuleta County.

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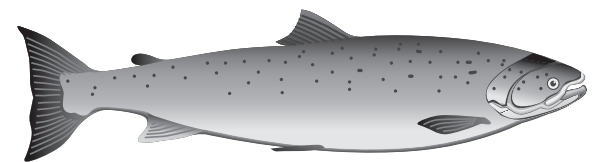
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How to prepare and cook pumpkin seeds

Special to The PREVIEW

Nutrition and Halloween do not necessarily go hand in hand. While many parents may go to great lengths to ensure their youngsters' Halloween treats offer at least a little nutritional value, the bulk of costumed kids' hauls still tends to be candy.

Pumpkin seeds are one delicious yet often overlooked Halloween treat. According to Healthline, an online medical resource that aims to educate readers as they pursue their health and overall well-being, pumpkin seeds provide a host of health benefits.

Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that a single cup of pumpkin seeds can provide as much as 22 percent of a person's daily recommended value of dietary fiber. In addition, pumpkin seeds are loaded with vitamin K, which plays a role in blood clotting and bone metabolisms and helps to regulate blood calcium levels.

Pumpkin seeds tend to be easily accessible come Halloween, as they're right inside the pumpkins many who celebrate this ghoulish holiday turn into jack-o'-lanterns. When carving pumpkins this Halloween, people can forgo relegating pumpkin seeds to the garbage can in favor of cooking them. The following are some tips to help Halloween celebrants prepare and cook pumpkin seeds.

- Remove seeds from the inner cavity. Pumpkin seeds may sometimes be covered in excess pulp. Upon removing the seeds from the inner cavity, wipe off the pulp and then spread the seeds out evenly on a paper bag, allowing them to dry overnight.

- Place the seeds in a single layer on a cookie sheet. Once the seeds have dried, they can be placed in a single layer on a cookie sheet. Roast the seeds in the oven at a

temperature between 160 and 170 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 to 20 minutes.

Whole Foods notes researchers found that roasting pumpkin seeds for more than 20 minutes can lead to unwanted changes in the fat structure of the seeds. To avoid such changes, make sure the seeds are not roasted for more than 20 minutes.

Once they have been roasted, pumpkin seeds can be served

as-is as a delicious snack. Whole Foods notes that seeds also can be sprinkled into mixed green salads. Pumpkin seeds can even be ground with fresh garlic, parsley and cilantro leaves and then mixed with olive oil and lemon juice to create a delicious salad dressing. Chopped pumpkin seeds also can be added to cereals.

This Halloween, don't forget to add a little nutrition to celebrations by roasting some pumpkin seeds.

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A walk with friends

My Sweet Al and I decided that it was time to take care of our friendships. Being quarantined on the Blanco has given us a great excuse to care for everything around us, just not so much for those far or away.

Social media is a great lifeline to keep conversations going. But, nothing compares to a physical hug, catching a wink after a familiar comment or the feeling people share when sitting in the company of each other.

Like a treasure found along life's journey, no value is great enough or relevant enough to compensate for what our friends mean to us. They block the path of pitfalls, pull us up and even talk us down. They are by our sides as we walk, an arm to hold us up when we don't have the strength to do it on our own.

We have let time lapse since we have seen some of our beloved friends. A few have passed on into the twilight before we could see them once again. We chide ourselves and say that we should have made time to spend with them before it was too late. Unfortunately, with life, late always has the final word.

Bound and determined, my Sweet Al and I decided to stop any unnecessary trend. After just a day's drive, we were sitting in the home of a couple we have known for over 30 years of our lives. There was no hello, just a call for dinner and a continuation of laughter that started decades ago.

We have a rich history together. Even when life took us in different directions, it's fair to say that we continued on the same path. They

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



are family to us, as we are to them. One word is all it takes and we are right back to where we left off.

For years, the four of us sat around each other's breakfast table and studied the word of God together. We would share what we learned and they would do the same. We've walked in total honesty with them. Nothing is hidden, even when there are differences between us.

Our friend, who was studying for her Sunday school lesson, said her topic that week was on idolatry. It didn't take but just a minute for my Sweet Al to perk up.

"Dollar Tree? I love the Dollar Tree."

In the safety and comfort of our friendship, we laughed. Then each person related to the response, leading to an even funnier conversation about hearing aids.

My friend recalled the time when she spent \$6,000 on hearing aids for her husband. He didn't like wearing them so he kept them in his shirt pocket for safe keeping. My friend said that the only way she could appreciate the investment that she made was to talk to her husband — by talking to his pocket.

Fun and levity have become a cornerstone in our friendship. And, as we age, we have found even more

to laugh about.

My friend shared a book with me with a perfect title. Its called "The Gift of Years" by Joan Chittister.

"There are three stages of 'old' in our society. There are the young old, 65 to 74 years old. The old, old, 75 to 84. and the oldest old, at 85 years and over. All of these stages have some things in common — and each of them face specific issues at the same time," it reads.

The writer continued, "The burden of regret is that, unless we come to understand the value of choices we made in the past, we may fail to see the gifts they have brought us. The blessing of regret is clear — it brings us, if we are willing to face it head on, to the point of being present to this new time of life in an entirely new way. It urges us on to continue becoming."

I hadn't before defined what was called out as the various "old" stages in society. But, one thing is for certain, each has its own special blessing. Whether as a product of regret or through the continuation of becoming, there is a value that comes from our choices, even those we choose to laugh at.

Final brushstroke: I wondered what to expect when I started thinking about turning one year older in a few days. Thankfully, it will be on the same path that I started on 79 years ago, one that has been filled with joy because of the friends that have accompanied me along the way. Yes, there have been the occasional regrets, but even with that, how beautiful to know that I am still experiencing the fullness of who I am yet to become.

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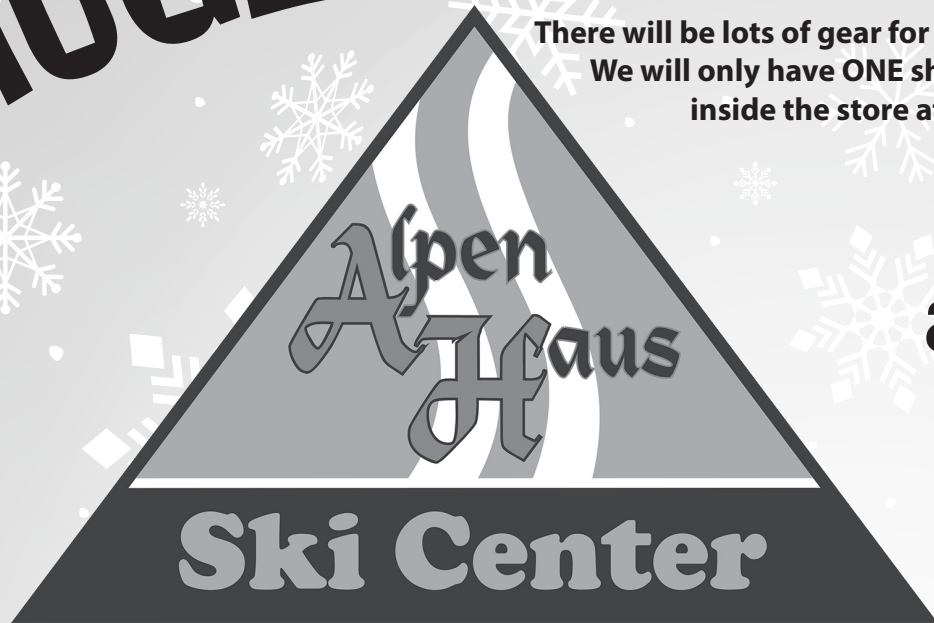
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Photo courtesy Anthony Steventon

Kathy Steventon and granddaughter Riley Culligan beside a mural at the Humane Society on Cloman Boulevard. For the last 12 months, Steventon has been working on this mural painted on a 40-foot long, 9-foot high metal container.

Share your special family recipes

By Shari Pierce
Staff Writer

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

Please submit your recipes to editor@pagosasun.com beginning now and not later than Dec. 10.

To kick off recipe sharing, the following recipe is shared from the kitchen of Shari Pierce. This was shared by Pierce's sister-in-law, Shirley Pierce, of Maud, Texas, a number of years ago.

The recipe is Angel Biscuits and

these cook up very light and fluffy due to the addition of yeast in the recipe. These are a family favorite and have been shared with numerous people throughout the years. They work great cooked in a Dutch oven on a camping trip.

Angel Biscuits

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

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

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

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

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

The SUN staff looks forward to receiving your family recipes.

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A hunter and his dog

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

It's the time of the year when my Sweet Al cleans his gun and rummages through his hunting totes. Hunting season is here and he has his license and is chomping at the bit to go hunting.

I look back on my life with Al Slade and think our household has never been without a dog or a hunting experience. There's always a story to tell. Al breathlessly tells his stories and I nonchalantly listen to them.

As a young boy, Al remembers his dad coming home with a baby black Lab in his front coat pocket. The pup peeked her head out and captured Al's heart. He called her Blackie and his love for dogs began.

Blackie showed signs of a hunting dog at 3 months old. She jumped out of the pickup's open window and retrieved a fallen duck shot by another hunter. Blackie drug the prize bird through the weeds and brought it to her master, Sweet Al.

When in trouble with the folks, Al ran to Blackie, his best friend. He hugged her until the tears were gone. The little puppy would drop a stick in the water and run downstream and retrieve it. One fateful day, the swift waters carried Blackie downstream, never to be seen again.

Al contends as a young boy, he learned about loyalty, friendship, responsibility and love from Blackie. He quotes Gene Hill, a writer for the Gun Dog Magazine, "The Labrador was put on earth to show man what he might aspire to."

In 1998, word swept through the streets of Pagosa Springs that 26 AKC registered dogs were found abandoned in a shed in a secluded area. The authorities picked up and transferred them to the Humane

The Writers' Circle

Society. Several Labs were in the bunch.

Al has owned several other hunting dogs, but he's a "Lab man" at heart. When he heard the news about the Labs, he tripped over himself to reach the shelter by phone. His shaky finger dialed the number on the old rotary phone and he asked, "Is it true?"

"Yes, you heard right." The ownership of the animals waited litigation, but the animal shelter promised to call Al and let him know when the court decided where to place the dogs.

As promised, Betsy phoned. "The news is out and the phone is buzzing. Call after call is coming into the shelter. You need to get here as soon as possible."

He panted like an excited schoolboy as he explained to me about the dogs, with the hopes to sell me on owning another dog, even though one already resided at our residence.

"If I don't get down there, there won't be any left." He said nervously as he slipped on his boots. He acted like he was going on a first date. He didn't know what to expect, but he anticipated great things. Maybe another Lab would be added to our family.

Not as smitten as Al by the news, "You know if you go there, you won't be happy until you get another dog."

"Another dog? It isn't just another dog. Apparently, you don't understand, it's a Labrador."

After much convincing, Al had me in the car; after all, it wouldn't hurt to look. When we arrived at the shelter, everything was in total mayhem. The phone rang off the hook. One by one, each caller received the same explanation.

Al asked questions as the workers rushed back and forth. He worried them to death, so they instructed him to go back and look for himself.

Al walked into Lab Heaven. Nine Labs waited for their forever homes. He made his way through them, the chocolate, the black and the yellows. They turned away from Sweet Al, still in shock from their previous ordeal.

Then he saw her. Light broke through the clouds and the golden hair glistened in the sun. Her big brown eyes met his as she stretched the length of her chain. Her deep husky voice rang out to Al and the angels sang.

Without hesitation, he hurried over to her. "Look, she's smiling, dancing and performing just for me." She chased the ball, retrieved it, wagged her tail, rolled over and motioned to him to rub her belly.

As he rubbed her stomach, he asked, "Where are the puppies?"

"There are no puppies." "She looks a little saggy, they must be hers."

"No one knows. These are the dogs that came in."

"She looks like she's had pups recently," he questioned them again.

"We don't know." I watched Al and a yellow Lab exchange affections for each other. Al said he heard music from the Hallelujah Choir when I said, "OK, I guess she belongs to you, she is begging to go home with you."

They placed the documents in

■ See Circle on next page

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■ **continued from previous page**
front of Al. “You can sign the papers, but she must stay here until she has her shots and is spayed.”

Al agreed with the terms. That night, Al couldn't eat or sleep. He had a schoolboy crush all over again. When out-of-town company came, Al insisted they see his girl. He explained Missy Lynn looked matronly, but she wasn't as old as she looked. She was only 2 and half years old.

When Al took our friends to show off his new love, Missy was gone. The shelter had taken her to the vet and a new turn of events unfolded.

The doctor opened her up to operate and found she was carrying puppies and would be giving birth soon. The doctor had mixed emotions about abortion.

The doctor reported, “We are supposed to abort, but Labs are so gentle and such good dogs for children, I sewed her up. But, we have to keep her until the puppies come.”

Every day, every hour, Al continued to worry about the unborn pups and their mama. Finally, they said, “You can pick up Missy anytime at the doctor's office. Her papers are ready and so is she. You can keep her until the puppies are born. Do you want to do that?”

“Of course,” he said.

When Al arrived, Missy's excitement took over the room. Her big tail swept clean the doctor's coffee table and, yes, you guessed it, she wet on the floor. She knew she had found her forever home.

Missy Lynn didn't leave his side. She grew and grew; her belly dragged the ground and Al helped her in and out of the pickup.

Then it happened. The morning of Oct. 6, 1998, three girls and nine boys were born. Mother and puppies did fine and little yellow Labs were everywhere — under

her feet, between her legs, over her shoulder and under her tail. Twelve pink mouths noisily sucked and squealed for milk.

We kept mother and her pups for six weeks until time to be weaned. The puppies had already been promised to excited families, but the shelter allowed us to keep one for taking care of Missy.

We knew we wanted to give a puppy to our grandsons for Christmas. Al picked a little girl.

When Al arrived, Missy's excitement took over the room. Her big tail swept clean the doctor's coffee table and, yes, you guessed it, she wet on the floor.

Several years later, here in Pagosa at the grocery store, our daughter saw one of Missy's pups in back of a pickup. She thought she looked like Missy. When our daughter asked the owner, Ron the Mount-N-Man, where he got his dog, he proceeded to tell her his story about his Lab, Angel.

She told him they had one of the

pups and named her Toby. They recently put her to sleep. Years later, they are all gone, but their memories remain. There's always a good story when a dog is involved.

When I shared this story with Angel's parents, this was their response:

“Thank you so much for the pictures of Missy and the pups. I'm not real sure which one is Angel, but I have a couple picked out just from the way they are laying. She sleeps in what appears to be the most awkward positions at times. I really enjoyed your story too, Al.

“This is our first Lab and we are both absolutely in love with her. As a matter of fact, it's hard to say if she's our dog or we are her people. I think the later is more like it.

“I was especially interested in the way you picked Missy from all the labs they had at the shelter. I don't know if you were aware of it, but I was the first person on the list for a pup. When they called and said they were ready, I was so excited. My niece and her two young boys were visiting from Texas so we all went to the shelter to see and select a puppy. When they opened the door, it was like a commercial.

“All 12 pups came bounding out, seemingly stacked on top of each other. I wanted them all. As we looked at them, each as cute as the next, I wondered how I would ever choose just one. Then I felt something crawling up my leg, jumping and crying, as if to say take me, take me!

“The choice was made. Angel picked me and has been a blessing in our lives. As you can see from the pictures, K.C. the cat, and Angel get along great. Actually, I think Angel thinks she is half cat and half people. She's not really sure what to make of dogs. Thanks again for sharing your experience with us. Sincerely, LS Pagosa Springs.”



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Online: Colorado.gov/CDHS/LEAP or [Coloradopeak.secure.force.com](https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MONTHLY GROSS INCOME (60% OF STATE MEDIAN INCOME)
1	\$2,619
2	\$3,425
3	\$4,231
4	\$5,038
5	\$5,844
6	\$6,650
7	\$6,801
8	\$6,952
For each additional person over 8	add \$151

For application assistance call 970-264-8513. If you or your organization is interested in hosting an outreach event call 970-264-8510.



Prescription Drug Plan

Open Enrollment

Medicare

Open Enrollment is Oct. 15 to Dec. 7

This is your opportunity to continue with your current prescription drug plan or choose a new prescription drug plan. Let us help you evaluate your options.

Understand your options • Make informed choices
Know your rights • Save money

Call us at 970-403-2165 to schedule your appointment with a Medicare counselor





San Juan Basin
Area Agency on Aging
264-0501

MEDICARE Part C and Part D

Annual Enrollment Period — Now thru Dec. 7, 2020

Exciting changes for 2021 with more options for you to choose from!



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In-person, phone or Zoom appointments available
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Together We Can ...

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- Compare plans
- Enroll in a new plan
- Make changes to your current plan

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Here comes the cavalry

We've been writing about a fledgling Pagosa Springs that was just beginning to grow. In the pioneer West before anybody with a nickel and good credit owned a car and there was a gas station on every corner, railroads were a requisite.

Gen. William Palmer's Denver



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

and Rio Grande Railroad was building narrow gauge tracks into the San Juan Mountains preparing to haul in supplies from Denver and haul out gold, copper, lead and lumber to the burgeoning Colorado population centers east of the Continental Divide stretching from Boulder in the north southward through Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

With the railroad already just 27 miles south of Pagosa Springs, Pagosa Country's pioneers were certain the railroad would soon blow its whistle and toot its horn in the town. 1887 Pagosa Springs had a lot to offer. Gold had been discovered in "them thar" hills.

The Army was building Fort Lewis at Pagosa Springs to be manned by Company D, Ninth Cavalry, possibly to be a supply staging area for the frontier military that was marching around the southwest hoping to intimidate Southern Ute, Jicarilla Apache, Navajo and, yep, some Commanche Indians who were beginning to physically manifest displeasure with uninvited white eyes stomping through their centuries-old homelands.

In northwestern Colorado, the Northern Utes demonstrated how intimidated they were in 1879 at



Photo courtesy John M. Motter

Pagosa Pioneer Buck O'Neal had a good reputation for fishing skills. This photo of Buck (man on the left) is proof. Buck's trout was taken from the downtown San Juan River.

the Meeker Indian Agency by killing Indian Agent Nathan Meeker and his 10 male employees and taking the women and children of the agency hostage.

Fortunately for the whites, Company D, Ninth Cavalry was close at hand and capable enough with their scowls and weapons to intimidate the Utes. The Fort Lewis in Pagosa Springs ultimately became Durango's Fort Lewis College, which offers Native Americans tuition-free

education.

It should be noted that the Ninth and 10th cavalries were two black cavalry units who enforced U.S. Indian policies in the pioneer West. Company D spent some time in Pagosa Springs.



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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.

Join us ... Sunday AM Worship 10:30 a.m.
Pagosa Springs Church of Christ
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Palm branches replaced with crowns

By Jan Davis
Special to The PREVIEW

Along the dusty road into Jerusalem, the rumor spread. Children sat on the shoulders of their fathers, while moms held the hands of older ones. The large throng of well-doers pushed and shoved their way to the front to gaze upon the slender man straddled on the back of a donkey.

Everyone wanted a glimpse of Jesus. Was this humble man the Promised Messiah? In hopeful anticipation, the multitude placed clothing and palm branches along the trail as Christ drew closer. The crowd hailed him as king, Son of David, and rightful heir to the throne of Israel, their long-awaited deliverer from Roman persecution.

In one week, the same people turned into an angry mob and yelled, “Crucify Jesus. Give us Barabbas.” Judas, one of Jesus’ closest companions, betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. Peter denied any relationship with him. Others cowered in the darkness as armed men dragged Jesus off to face authorities and trumped-up charges. His fearful supporters remained silent as his accusers nailed him to a cross.

Crouched together in a tight circle, the Pharisees whispered, “Justice for the Blasphemer who declared himself equal to God.” The co-conspirators ranted. “He thought himself higher than the law. Stripped of all dignity he hangs in shame on a cross like any ordinary criminal.”

On the other side of this public demonstration of ridicule and mockery, soldiers bartered over Jesus’ robe as they taunted and scoffed. “Son of God, free yourself from certain death. Or, better yet, call 10,000 angels to your rescue.”

“It is finished.” Jesus cried out and dropped his head, crucified by the people he came to save.

Satan looked on as demons rejoiced. Their greatest threat dead. Jesus ended their celebration and met them head-on when he de-

A Matter of Faith

scended into the abyss to defeat death, hell and the grave.

Three days later, the brilliant light of an archangel blinded the guards and rolled the stone away. Jesus left his burial clothes folded on the cold, hard bench and walked out of the clutches of death.

Mary hurried to tell his followers the good news. “He is risen. Come look. The tomb stands empty.”

Peter and John rushed to the site. Still in a daze, the watchmen searched the garden for any clue of a corpse. The sunlight cast its light into the dismal hole and revealed nothing but a discarded shroud on the slab. A thorough search of the dark corners found no sign of a body.

The anxious disciples huddled around the table and reported personal encounters with the Messiah. The intense conversation came to an abrupt end as Jesus entered the room.

Thomas stood to his feet. “Master?” He wanted to believe his friends, but he needed proof.

“Look at my hands and side, Thomas.” Jesus turned his nail-scarred hands upward and opened his tunic to display where the sword pierced his side. “You believe because I stand before you, but those who cannot see me share a greater faith.”

Centuries later, Christians worship Jesus as Savior with grateful hearts. He sacrificed his blameless life for the sins of humanity. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, mankind received the gift of salvation and eternal life.

When Christ returns to establish his kingdom on earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the saints of all ages will lay their crowns at his feet as he rides into Jerusalem.

“Behold, your King comes unto you, lowly, and sitting upon a donkey. A colt the foal of donkey. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees; and spread them on the road.” — Matthew 21:5, 8 (NKJV).

I love you, but Jesus loves you more.

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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



New Thought topic: ‘The Transformational Power of Intention’

By Lisa Burnson
New Thought Center
for Inspirational Living

“Intension triggers transformation of energy and information. Inherent in every intention is the mechanics for its fulfillment.” — Dr. Deepak Chopra.

All are welcome to join New Thought Center for Inspirational Living for our presentation, “The Transformational Power of Intention,” this Sunday, Nov. 1, at 10 a.m. Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences with

holding intentions. Does holding an intention have an effect on matter? Can holding an intention affect health or peacefulness? Are intentions more powerful if they are being held by more than one person? These are some of the issues we will be discussing.

We will have spirited live music.

Upcoming events

Meditation Circle is held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Band practice is every Tuesday

■ See Topic on next page

Topic

■ continued from previous page evening. We welcome musicians and singers to join our band.

The Masquerade Party will be Friday, Oct. 30, 7 to 10 p.m. Bob Hemenger and The Retro Cats will be playing live. Appetizers and dessert provided. Beverages will be available for purchase. Silent auction donations are welcome. Please call 309-6067 for ticket 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 Sunday 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 knowl-

edge. 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).

**Holidays are coming!
Book your appointment today.**



We have added a SHOP groomer at our Pagosa Springs location!

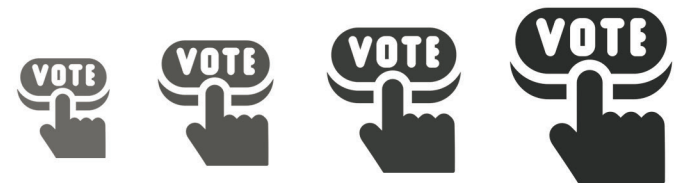
Full grooming services one on one with your pet including bath and brush, complete haircuts, blowouts, nail trims, and shave downs.

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for County Commissioner, District 2



MOVING ONWARD AND UPWARD, NOT JUST FORWARD

Moving forward and making progress with a “get ‘er done” mentality resulted in bloated, over-budget projects with long-term debt that bypassed voter input. County projects touted as “accomplishments” have resulted in a financial mess. With only short-term goals in mind, where is our county really headed?

REAL progress should involve long-term strategy, but this is difficult to do when the county *isn't following or communicating a defined plan.*

Moving forward aimlessly while borrowing from one account to pay another *is not sustainable.*

**What are our GUIDING PRINCIPLES?
Are we following our county VISION?
How will we pay for our FUTURE?**

Having a realistic Growth Strategy will guide us to a sound financial future while embracing our county mission, vision, and values. As commissioner, I'll work with the board, staff, business owners, other government entities and residents on a long-term plan that will ensure smart and sustainable growth with fiscal prudence.

Choose a commissioner with the board training, community knowledge and professional expertise our county needs.

“It's not enough to just move forward; let's figure out how we want to grow and follow a plan to get there.”

THANK YOU to everyone who has reached out, asked questions, and stayed informed about why I'm running for County Commissioner. **I would be honored to earn your vote** for a strong, healthy future of Archuleta County!



DISTRICT 1

- Warren Brown
Republican
- Clifford Lucero
Unaffiliated
- Matt Witt
Unaffiliated

You may vote for 2 candidates, one from each district.

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.

DISTRICT 2

- Natalie Carpenter
Unaffiliated
- Ron Maez
Republican

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VoteNat.com

VOICE/TEXT
970.447.2747

EMAIL
VoteNat2020@gmail.com

SOCIAL
[Facebook.com/VoteNat](https://www.facebook.com/VoteNat)

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

Paid for by VoteNat.com

visit VoteNat.com to learn more about Natalie Carpenter.

Preview Calendar

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

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.

Trunk or Treat. 5-8 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Drive-thru and low contact. Visit us online for additional information at <https://pagosabiblechurch.org>.

Pagosa Peak Open School Fund-raiser: COVID-Safe Trunk or Treat + 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. Local nonprofits including Rise Above Violence, Pagosa Coders, BOCES and Aspire will be handing our prepackaged treats. 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.

Monday, Nov. 2

PALS by Appointment. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Adult education in person. Pagosa Adult Learning Services can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.org for more information or to make an appointment.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Breakfast meeting. 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 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.

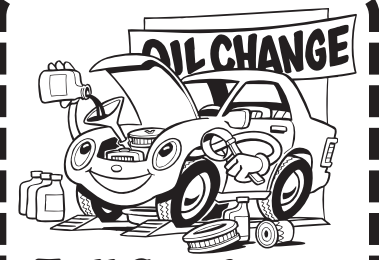
Principles Before Personalities Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

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

■ See Calendar on next page



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Marilyn will work to protect farmers and ranchers from unfair water rights legislation, to strengthen our education system, and to make our voices heard on how we want to live our lives, not be dictated to by policies and procedures which do not apply to our area.

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- ✓ **PRO SECOND AMENDMENT**
- ✓ **PRO LIFE**

ADVOCATES PARENTAL RIGHTS, SCHOOL CHOICE, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & LOWER TAXES

PAID FOR THE ARCHULETA COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page** 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, Nov. 5

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 Wolf and schedule an appointment. Wolf 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.

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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, Nov. 6

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.

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, Nov. 7

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, activi-

ties, and more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

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.

JIM GARRETT

❖ ATTORNEY ❖

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Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha'i Faith

By Paulette Heber

Baha'i Community of Archuleta County

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

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

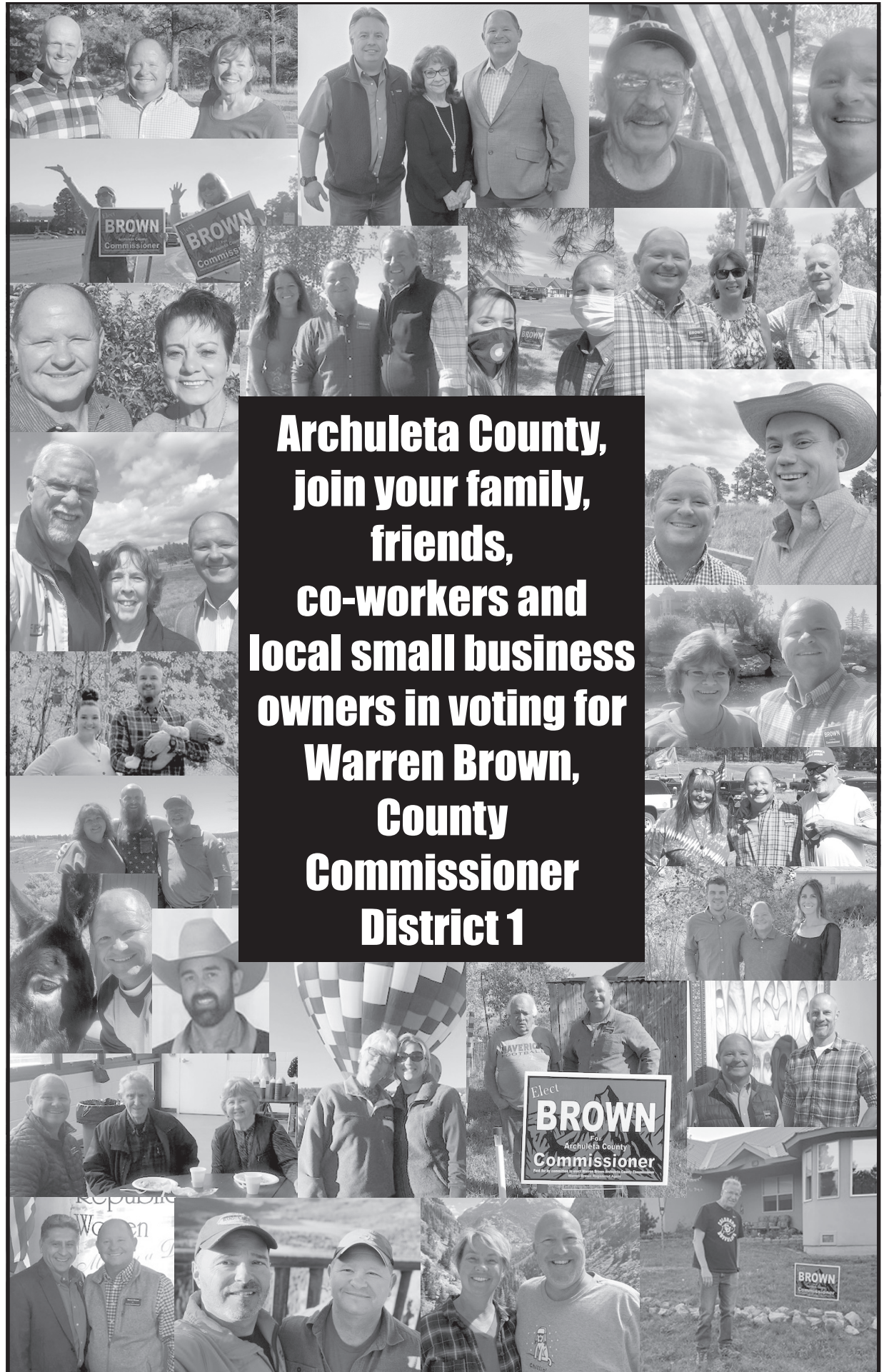
A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This

Sunday, Nov. 1, our theme is nature.

"Every created thing in the whole universe is but a door leading into His knowledge, a sign of His sovereignty, a revelation of His names, a symbol of His majesty, a token of His power, a means of admittance into His straight Path." — Baha'u'llah.

The Baha'i Faith is a world religion 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.



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

Gardening with children

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

To relieve stress when I was working on my master's degree, I put a garden in where an old weed patch had been behind our apartment complex. I used a garden fork and turned the soil over by hand. When the curious children kept gathering around, I let them be part of it.

When I started planting, the children came to watch and wanted to help. With the younger children, calling it "help" was a misuse of the English language. I learned not to let them plant small things like carrot seed. They would use an entire bag in about 1 foot of the row when it should have planted about 30 feet.

I also realized that if I wanted to keep any of the garden produce for my family, I would have to have a segment for the children, and another segment that was mine. I marked off the two areas, separated by a line of twine. I bought the seeds and helped the children plant their section. After work, I came out to see children standing in the middle of their garden area.

"How come nothing has come up yet?" Suzanne asked. She was an impatient 5-year-old.

"It takes some time," I replied. "We only planted it yesterday."

"How much time?" 7-year-old Timothy asked.

"You should probably see the radishes within about two weeks. The other things will take longer."

"Two weeks?" Jordan exclaimed.

"That's, like, forever!" Jordan was 9. "Nothing is going to grow if you keep tromping on it. How would you like somebody standing on your head? You need to just look from the edge until the rows come up so you can see where to step."

They all left their garden and came over to watch me. They wanted to help plant, but I told them I wanted to do it myself on this part.

"But I have a surprise for you," I said. "You can help me with that when I'm done here."

They were so excited they could hardly stand still. They kept coming into my garden area and tromping my seeded area, so I finally gave up. There were about 10 of them, with the oldest ones being about 12 years old.

I took the children over to a weed patch at one corner of the lawn. There I had stacked six 2-inch by 2-inch boards that were each 8

feet long. I also had some twine. I had gotten all of it from the scrap pile where I took care of horses.

"What are these for?" Jan, one of the 12-year-olds, asked.

"We are going to make a fort," I replied. I thought the older children might think that was childish, but even they seemed excited.

First, I dug a square, 8 feet on each side. Then, after moving the children out of the way, I took an ax and sharpened the boards to a point on one end. Next, I pounded one board into the ground at each corner of the square. Lastly, I pounded in the last two boards 2 feet apart in the middle of the side by the lawn. That would be the door.

"It takes some time," I replied. "We only planted it yesterday."

The children kept asking questions about what I was doing, and I just kept telling them to wait and see. Once the boards were in place, I gave each of the children some twine to untangle. Then we started tying strands between the boards on each side at about 6-inch intervals, all the way to the top. We left the lowest 4 feet of the door area uncovered.

When we finished with the twine, Jan said, "It's not much of a fort."

"There's one more thing," I replied.

I gave each child a handful of climbing beans and showed them how to plant them about four inches apart along the sides, except in the doorway. The older children helped the younger ones.

They all looked skeptical when we finished. I could see they struggled to envision it, but their curiosity and excitement were unbounded. The only thing that was greater was their impatience.

I just hoped I could get them to leave the seeds alone long enough for the plants to grow.

To be continued.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



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The Pagosa Springs SUN

VA developing a National Women Veterans Oncology System of Excellence

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced recently it is developing a National Women Veterans Oncology System of Excellence through research, partnerships, precision oncology and teleoncology that will provide women veteran oncology patients with cutting-edge care and access to potentially lifesaving clinical trials.

Through the National Women Veterans Oncology System of Excellence and current partnerships with The National Cancer Institute, academic medical centers and others, the VA is uniquely situated to provide care via teleoncology and decentralized clinical trials to women veterans nationwide.

“Each year, an estimated 700 women veterans enrolled in VA health care are diagnosed with breast cancer — calculating to one in eight women diagnosed within their lifetime,” said Acting VA Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers. “VA’s continued work with partnerships, research and innovations are leading to faster cures and better outcomes. Our veterans deserve no less.”

Partnerships with medical and research universities will help advance and expand the VA’s teleoncology and other services to provide the best cancer care and treatment options to women veterans across the nation.

As part of this effort, the VA is seeking to partner with more oncology medical and research organizations and universities that deliver world-class care and research. For information on becoming a VA partner, contact Cancer@VA.gov.

National Suicide Hotline, mental health care acts signed into law

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie released the following statement after President Donald Trump signed the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act: “People in distress and in need of timely care should face the fewest obstacles possible to get help. The bill President Trump signed today will soon make it easier for those at risk to be quickly connected to a trained responder and will help save lives.”

Currently, anyone in need of timely crisis suicide prevention resources can reach the National Suicide Prevention Hotline by dialing (800) 273-8255. Veterans who call that number can press 1 to be connected to the Veterans Crisis Line.

During the transition to 988, Americans who need help should continue to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by

Veterans Corner

Raymond Taylor



calling (800) 273-8255 [(800)-273-TALK] and through online chats. Veterans and service members may reach the Veterans Crisis Line by pressing 1 after dialing, chatting online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or texting 838255.

Wilkie released the following statement after Trump signed the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, into law: “This legislation moves America closer to a goal that all citizens can support: increasing the local resources available to our men and women who answered the call to defend this nation. This law will expand mental health care services at VA facilities and at the same time provide grants to make it easier for veterans to access non-VA resources in their communities.

“Care in the community is a critical component of our effort to end veteran suicide. About 60 percent of the Veterans who die by suicide aren’t getting care from VA, so it’s vital we do all we can to offer intervention and care to veterans where they live. This bill takes a strong and meaningful step in that direction,” Wilkie stated.

Vets4Vets grant

Vets4Vets has received a grant from the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. This is to support veterans in our community through the following assistance: housing, utilities, mental health counseling, dental services, travel assistance, automobile repairs, gas and food cards, and emergency veteran assistance.

Contact Vets4Vets at 799-VETS or www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.

Contact information

Veterans: Thank you for your service. Welcome home.

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

The office: 264-4013, fax number: 264-4014, and email is raytaylor@archuletacounty.org. Bring your DD Form 214 (discharge) for applications to VA programs

or benefits for which the veteran may be entitled to enroll, and for filing in the Archuleta County VSO. Always leave a message and phone number to contact you.

The following veterans groups meet in Pagosa Springs:

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

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

- Combat Veterans PTSD Group: every other Tuesday at noon, Community United Methodist Church, Lewis Street. Contact Gary Hanneman at 946-2540.

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

Important information

- 799-VETS, www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.

- Durango VA Outpatient Clinic: 247-2214.

- Farmington VA Center: (505) 326-4383.

- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M.: (800) 465-8262.

- VA Health Care Emergency Notification: (844) 724-7842.

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

HUD
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100



PAGOSA SCENE . . .

TRICK-OR-TREAT WALK

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... trick-or-treating along the Riverwalk Saturday. The Town of Pagosa Springs, helped by other area organizations, held a trick-or-treat walk along the Riverwalk, giving youngsters a chance to safely don their costumes and participate in the annual tradition.





Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Byron Greco

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the white-tailed ptarmigan.

Although the range of these birds extends from Alaska to New Mexico and they are found in Archuleta County, most of us never see one. Year-round, they inhabit remote areas above treeline in alpine tundra and heath. They may move downslope in winter, but they are so well adapted to cold that temperatures above 70 degrees cause them stress.

This ptarmigan is the smallest bird in the grouse family. It is stocky with a short bill, short neck and short, all-white tail. To blend in with its surroundings, in breeding plumage, males are mottled gray and brown with red feathers above the eye that are raised and form a comb in courtship displays. Females are barred brown and black with a yellowish wash.

In breeding season, males will defend a territory generally ranging from 35 to 70 acres. Only females incubate the eggs and males play no role in caring for chicks.

White-tailed ptarmigans eat all plant parts and some insects in warm months. When the ground is covered in snow, they seek out areas where wind or snow melt uncovers plants. Buds and leaves of willows are an important part of their diet.

Both sexes molt into all white plumage for winter. To conserve energy, they avoid flight and roost in snowbanks during this season. Feathers on the feet and long claws provide a snowshoe effect and allow them to walk on snow. Day length, not temperature, triggers the change to white winter plumage. A warmer climate with later snowfalls will make this bird's cryptic winter coloring out of sync with its environment.

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

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Carrying cargo
- 6 Surgery souvenir
- 10 Hightail it
- 14 Get out of bed
- 15 Lose steam
- 16 "Tall" story
- 17 Without restraint
- 19 Sign of trouble
- 20 Band's booking
- 21 Laundry challenge
- 22 Winter forecast
- 23 Pump part
- 25 Fry cook's concern
- 27 Pastoral poem
- 29 Change the title of
- 32 Point a finger at
- 35 Lofty nest (var.)
- 37 Farrow of film
- 38 U.S. Chief Justice since 2005
- 40 Kind of court
- 42 Pop-ups, e.g.
- 43 Call upon
- 45 Like Olive Oyl
- 46 Close-ups show it
- 48 Gunpowder ingredient
- 50 Taxing job?
- 52 Indian bread
- 56 Pennsylvania sect
- 58 Type of eclipse
- 60 Classic card game
- 61 Mrs. Jetson
- 62 Lizard's kin
- 64 "The ___ have it"
- 65 D.C. office
- 66 Sharp end
- 67 Engine parts
- 68 "Wish you ___ here"
- 69 Loyalty, old-style

DOWN

- 1 Comedian's goal
- 2 Golf's Palmer, familiarly
- 3 Mournful song
- 4 WNW's opposite
- 5 Capone nemesis
- 6 Type of gown
- 7 In a polite way
- 8 Combat zone
- 9 Clifford's color
- 10 Hot, as in goods
- 11 TV news employee
- 12 Helm position
- 13 Circus structure
- 18 Online crafts site
- 22 Church topper
- 24 Vitamin C source
- 26 Take a tumble
- 28 Muslim ascetic
- 30 Half of half-and-half
- 31 Piece of cake?
- 32 Thin fastener
- 33 Rich supply
- 34 Held back
- 36 Justification
- 39 Mah-jongg piece

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17					18						19				
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56	57						58				59		60		
61							62					63			
64							65					66			
67							68					69			

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- 41 Make
- 44 Narrow-minded
- 47 Evaluate
- 49 Disney World transport
- 51 Spartacus, for one
- 53 Part of a TV feed
- 54 Concerning
- 55 Up, on a map
- 56 Cracked open
- 57 Deli spread
- 59 Deeply absorbed
- 62 Scatter seeds
- 63 Scand. land

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to books.

N I D O T E I

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Answer: Edition

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LITERARY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ADVANCE
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‘1,000 Books before Kindergarten’ — ideal program for babies and toddlers in COVID times

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

One of the greatest gifts you can give your babies and toddlers is to sign them up for a free early literacy reading program called “1,000 Books before Kindergarten” for children from birth to 5 years old. And what better time than now when they are spending more time at home than usual because of COVID?

You can sign up any time at your library. You will receive a folder with bubbles to keep track of the books you read to your child. The concept is simple: Read 1,000 books to your newborn, infant or toddler — yes, you can repeat books — before your precious one starts kindergarten. You’ll get a free book each time your child completes 100 books.

One thousand may sound like a huge number of books, but it’s not really. If you read just one book a night, you will have read 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you may think.

Pumpkin contest

One more day for you to 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 tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 30, at noon. Judging will be in five age categories: preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17 and adult.

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.

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 at <https://pagosalibrary.org/election-2020/>.

Library books via Meals on Wheels

Your library is in a special part-

Library News

nership with Archuleta Seniors Inc., the nonprofit organization that 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.”

DIY craft takeaway for kids

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.

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.

Storywalk for kids

Every other Thursday, Josie posts signs outside the library that follow the sidewalk up towards the elementary school detailing a new free 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 to 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, please.

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 to learn how to join. If you don’t have Internet access, contact us anyway — we may be able to accommodate you in the library.

■ See Library on next page



The KITTEN TSUNAMI is coming!

The animal shelter is looking for **Forever Families** for kittens and also for young, adult and senior cats and dogs.

For your safety and ours, adoptions are by appointment only. Call the animal shelter at 731-4771 to schedule.

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Library

■ continued from previous page

Children's programs on Facebook

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Saturdays 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 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 education

Our free PALS (Pagosa Adult Learning Services) accelerated GED course takes place in person Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 to 7 p.m. Come to your library to get help from Mark with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Appointments required; please contact us by phone or email.

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, 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-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 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.

Nonfiction

"A Crisis Wasted" by Barack Obama is a commentary on the president's decisions in the winter 2008-2009. "Leading America" by Sean Spicer, President Trump's former press secretary, is a plea to Americans to vote in this crucial election. "The Luckiest Man" by Mark Salter is a biography of John McCain. "Learn to Draw Realistic Animals with Pen and Marker" by D.L. Miller is a guide with photos for artists with any skill level. "First-time Landlord" is the fifth edition of this Nolo guide to renting out a single-family home. "Blood and Germs" by Gail Jarrow is an in-depth look at the Civil War battle against wounds and disease. "Cary Grant" by historian Scott Eyman is a biography of one of Hollywood's most beloved actors.

Large print

"Chance of a Lifetime" by Jude Deveraux and Tara Sheets is a Providence Falls novel. "The Paris Hours" by Alex George centers on a Marcel Proust notebook. "Don't Look for Me" by Wendy Walker begins when a woman walks away from her life. "The Invisible Life of Addie Larue" by V.E. Schwab is a Faustian story that begins in France in 1714. "The Book of Two Ways" by Jodi Picoult features a fateful decision of a survivor after a plane crash. "The Evening and the Morning" by Ken Follett is a prequel to "Pillars of the Earth." "Firewatching" by Russ Thomas is a Det. Sgt. Adam Tyler mystery.

Thrillers, mysteries and suspense

"A Time for Mercy" by John Grisham is a legal thriller. "Good-night Beautiful" by Aimee Molloy features a psychotherapist and his lonely wife.

Other novels

"The Silence" by Don DeLillo, a novel with apocalyptic overtones, opens at a Super Bowl Sunday party in New York City in 2022. "Leave the

World Behind" by Rumaan Alam takes place in a luxurious Long Island home during a blackout.

DVDS

"The Secret Dare of Dream" is based on a true story. "Gentleman Jack" is the complete first season. "Eating You Alive" is a guide to eating well to avoid chronic disease.

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For her donation of books this week we are grateful to Sara Scott.

■ See Library on next page



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Medicare scammers use open enrollment to find victims

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 (SMP) and State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselor, all as an employee of San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA). The many aging and care concerns will be addressed here.

This Medicare Open Enrollment period for Part D and Medicare Advantage plans through Dec. 7 is also a prime time for scammers to catch people off guard.

For example, an Oklahoma woman did not hang up after a suspicious caller called a second time and told her she was not selling anything. The caller asked the woman to verify her name, address and Medicare card number and then asked for more personal medical information. The person said Medicare was issuing 2021 cards and replacing paper with plastic. Red flag: Medicare and other government agencies do not call people unexpectedly and ask for information or money, nor does

Area Agency on Aging

Medicare issue cards in this manner.

The scammer takes such information to steal people's identity or place false charges on your Medicare insurance. Trusting people easily might become victims of this type of fraud and others covered in earlier articles. Check your quarterly Medicare statements, and notify Medicare immediately if you see false charges or accidentally gave away personal information over the phone or in other ways.

Other enrollment scams to obtain information include offering to send a new health plan card for money, calls about refunds from paid premiums, fake discount cards for buying medicine, calls offering large discounts for a health insurance plan, or selling plans you do not need or that do not exist.

Insurance agents and brokers are prohibited from specific actions

by law. The agent must get your permission to meet in person and cannot come to your home without an appointment or approach you in a parking lot, nor can they send texts or leave phone messages without documented permission. Agents cannot use the word "Medicare" in a misleading manner, such as stating they are from Medicare. They must not sell products not related to health care or discuss options you did not agree to discuss.

Agents cannot ask for credit card or banking information or offer gifts worth more than \$15. Nor can they ask for referrals to contact others or pressure you with a threat of losing health coverage. Agents also cannot ask you to sign a form before you are ready. During a meeting, they can give you plan materials, leave a business card and collect a completed enrollment form.

As an SMP counselor, I can advise you on scams and ways to report them.

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.

A spiced dessert for Halloween parties

Special to The PREVIEW

Candy might be the first thing people think of on Halloween, but cakes and cookies can make for delicious treats as well.

Borrowing from the flavors of the season, including pumpkin, cinnamon and nutmeg, "Spiced Pumpkin Cake" from "Real Simple: Easy, Delicious Home Cooking (Time Home Entertainment)" from the editors of Real Simple can be a welcome addition to any Halloween spread.

Spice Pumpkin Cake

Serves 12

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for the pan

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled, plus more for the pan
- 5 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin puree

- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/4 cup molasses

- 1 1/4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Heat oven to 350 Fahrenheit. Butter and flour a 12-cup bundt pan.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar on medium-high speed until fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. One at a time, beat in the eggs. Beat in the pumpkin puree, milk, and molasses (the mixture may appear curdled). Reduce the mixer speed to low; gradually add the flour mixture and mix until just combined (do not overmix).

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 55 to 65 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 30 minutes, then invert onto a wire rack to cool completely.

In a small bowl, whisk together the confectioners' sugar and lemon

juice until smooth. Drizzle over the cake. Let set before serving.

Tip: This cake can be baked and glazed up to one day in advance. Store covered at room temperature.

Moon

■ continued from previous page

Try to catch the moon when it has first risen over the horizon, shortly after sunset, when something called the "moon illusion" is visible. When the moon is low

and viewed in relation to trees and chimneys, the moon can seem more massive than when it is high in the sky. This can serve as the perfect backdrop for vivid Halloween photos.

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Living with evacuation, smoke, helicopters, fire

By Laura Pritchett
PREVIEW Columnist

I live on a county road near the evacuation perimeter of what is now Colorado's largest wildfire. Yesterday, the sheriff's deputy was outside, his lights flashing red-blue-red, giving my house a strobe light effect. He was directing traffic as people fled the mountain with trailers filled with cattle and horses and goats and belongings.

The wind was roaring, first one direction and then another, which is why this fire blew up again. The Cameron Peak Fire has been burning for two months — a long two months — leaving me and most of my neighbors with a hacking cough and guts that feel like they're filled with clay.

When we get the occasional blue sky day, I'm so relieved that I play hooky from work and walk up this county road, getting in exercise while I can, trying to clear my head while I can, obligations be damned. I truly find it hard to care about anything, which is saying something, given my personality. Even work is difficult on smoky days — my brain feels gritty because of ash and helicopters overhead and the grim anxiety in the air. It's hard to process things, to be productive, to think.

I thought I'd be better at this, more resilient, less fazed. A Colorado native, I'm used to wildfire. Plus, I know that these forests needed to burn. Not like this, sure, but we all knew they were a tinderbox and it's just a flat-out, predictable truth that they were going to go. On top of that, we know climate change makes it worse.

All 10 of the largest wildfires in Colorado have happened since 2000: this Cameron Peak Fire at 207,000 acres as of this writing, followed by Pine Gulch, Hayman, West Fork Complex Fire, Spring Creek Fire, High Park Fire (which had me evacuated in 2012), Missionary Ridge Fire, 416 Fire, Bridger Fire and Last Chance Fire. And as I wrote this essay, the Lefthand Canyon Fire, the CalWood Fire and the frightening East Troublesome Fire sprang up, driving thousands from their homes. Such pretty names, sending remnants of trees into our lungs. No wonder most of my novels written over the past 20 years contain wildfires, because they truly have been part of my lived experience.

I've always believed that it's expectation which causes suffering, that we only are sad when things don't go the way we want, and thus I feel I shouldn't be suffering now. But living it, and expecting it, are two different things.

Familiarity doesn't make it any easier. When the body senses biological threat, the result is cortisol, inflammation, pain. After all, particles are daily being lodged into

Writers on the Range

I thought I'd be better at this, more resilient, less fazed. A Colorado native, I'm used to wildfire.

our lungs. People are truly suffering here, in body and in spirit. Honest admissions of despair are rampant and nobody is embarrassed about it.

COVID makes it harder. Let's be honest: Our friends don't really want us evacuated into their little homes and sharing air, nor do we want to put them in that position. So we stay put, always on the edge. I never thought I'd take breathable air for granted. Lowering my expectations that far seems, well, sad.

Some things help. Friends, offers of assistance, memories of the good days and, yeah, air purifiers. We can also think ahead to prescribed burns, thinning, fuel reduction, forest management, fire resiliency, and Aldo Leopold's idea of "intelligent tinkering," where we make forests more resilient to climate change via smart restorations of natural landscapes. All this is good, but what would help most of all is to have others extend their empathy and make green living the priority.

Wouldn't it be a miracle if the whole damn world banded together and realized climate change was the No. 1 priority? Accepted that science was real? Got it together, made some changes at home, such as not buying anything unnecessary? Because that is part of

the true fix. At some point, drastic measures will happen, because the suffering will extend to all and to such an extent that it cannot be ignored — though I wish that weren't necessary.

This morning, I woke up to birds still at the feeder, a fawn walking by, winds calmer. It's creepily quiet, with no traffic because everyone west of me is evacuated.

It is still a sad time and I feel broken, but the air quality has moved from hazardous to moderate, which has me thinking that perhaps we, as a people, could move in that direction, too, especially during the clear-sky times when we can think and get to work.

Laura Pritchett is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the west. She is a novelist and directs the MFA in nature writing at Western Colorado University.

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Bark beetle outbreaks benefit wild bee populations

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

When southern Rocky Mountain forests are viewed from a distance these days, it may not look like much is left. Large swaths of dead, standing Engelmann spruce trees tell the tale of a severe regional spruce beetle epidemic in its waning stages. But among those dead trees, researchers have found good news. Zoom in to the ground cover of these forests and there is life, even more abundant because of this disturbance.

New research led by Colorado State University (CSU) and published online in Scientific Reports suggests that spruce beetle outbreaks may help create habitat for pollinator communities in wilderness settings. The research team found significant increases in floral abundance and wild bee diversity in outbreak-affected forests, compared to similar, undisturbed forest.

Lead author Seth Davis said it may seem counterintuitive that landscape-level damage by one type of insect could still benefit another.

“Disturbances from bark beetles are typically regarded as undesirable for ecosystem function and human use,” said Davis, an assistant professor in the Forest and Rangeland Stewardship department. “But there is conservation value in post-outbreak forests; they appear to be the areas supporting more robust bee populations.”

This is good news for wild bee communities, which have been declining in recent years. The different bee species identified in this high-elevation study are made for harsh, cold environments. The fact that a natural disturbance can boost their presence is a boon to these rare, endemic creatures not found in warmer habitats. It’s also a benefit for these forests, because wild bees perform essential pollination services in ecosystems with very short growing seasons.

A serendipitous observation

Davis regularly works in high-elevation forests. A few years ago, during another research project with department colleagues, he noticed a correlation between the number and diversity of bees observed and the structure of the forest. He has since opened up this new thread of bee diversity research by combining it with his training in bark beetles.

“Disturbance studies on bees have primarily focused on fire,” said Davis. “There hasn’t been a lot of research looking at bee responses to beetle outbreaks.”

For this new study, his team developed a natural experiment, collecting parallel data in 28 beetle-affected and undisturbed alpine sites in north-central Colorado.

Extension Viewpoints

They collected bees for two years at three different times across each growing season, and also recorded standard tree measurements and understory, or ground cover, plant data at the collection sites.

The team found that average floral abundance in spruce beetle-affected stands was 67 percent higher than in non-affected stands. The average number of bee species was also 37 percent greater in beetle-affected stands, with more species present in June than later in the growing season.

Davis said the relationship between these insects and their surrounding vegetation may be more complex.

“It appears there are different controls over bee abundance and diversity,” Davis said. “Bee abundance was correlated to the floral species, while the diversity is more related to the forest structure, both of which are affected by bark beetles.”

In other words, bark beetles directly changed the forest structure, which indirectly improved wild bee populations by providing a more robust food source for the buzzing insects on the ground.

Spruce beetle-affected forests offer a few advantages for understory plants and wild bees. Tree mortality typically opens up the forest canopy, allowing more light to reach plants and flowers on the forest floor. Dead trees also remain

standing for up to 25 years after this disturbance. This offers more cavities for wild bees that nest in trees and dead wood.

Davis said he is interested in exploring this topic further to better understand these relationships over a longer time period and at a larger scale. As forests recover from outbreaks, he would like to see how long this benefit lasts. There is also the size disparity between small bee populations in one locale and the regional magnitude of these disturbances. It will be important to understand how well one small spot predicts these results at the landscape level.

For information, please call the Archuleta CSU Extension office at 264-5931.

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

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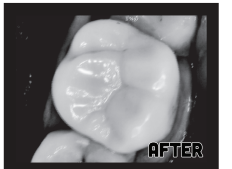
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LUCY'S TAMALES. Beginning Oct. 23-24 will be selling Fridays/ Saturdays at 335 Rob Snow Rd. until Christmas, 9a.m.-3:30p.m. (970)264-4791, (970)317-5665.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE GATHERING for Aamon Degarth on Sunday, November 1st, 2p.m. at the Lower Piedra River. Hwy. 160 west toward Durango, turn right before the Piedra River, go 1 mile. We will be on the river at the gate. (971)221-4797 or (970)903-5309.

HARVEST MOON MASQUERADE BALL. Friday, October 30. Two bands, Bob Hemenger/ Retro Cats. Best Western Hotel, 7-11p.m. Cash bar, silent auction. Convention Hall, clean air. Tickets on sale. (970)309-6067.

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THE PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA is now meeting every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30p.m. and Sunday at 10a.m. at 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). In accordance with the State, County and San Juan Basin Health, masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Online meetings are Sunday at 10a.m.: Zoom ID 858-319-763, password 754234; and Friday at 7p.m: Zoom ID 899 6048 4578, password 532-306. For meeting schedule and information email aapagosa@gmail.com or call Marcia (970)946-8475, Kathi (970)946-1482 Ranza (970)731-9774, Val (970)946-6086 or (719)792-7974 or central office (970)245-9649 or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

MEDITATION CIRCLE. 6p.m. every Wednesday at New Thought Center at Best Western, 3505 W. Hwy. 160. 4T Prosperity Classes starting in November. Call (970)309-6067 to enroll.

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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.

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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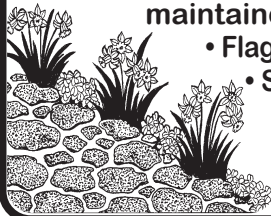
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HELP WANTED

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS Animal Shelter. Full-time Kennel Technician, weekend work may be required. Cleaning kennels, feeding, socializing and caring for animals. Job is physical, requires moving and lifting, very little sitting. Must adhere to shelter procedures to maintain animal health and safety. Previous animal care experience helpful but not mandatory. Must be a team player and follow COVID-19 safety protocols (includes wearing mask and frequent sanitizing). Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, social security card and background check required. Pick up application and apply in person at the Humane Society Animal Shelter, 465 Cloman Blvd.

SEEKING A TALENTED CHEF. As the Executive Chef, you will manage a small support staff of talented individuals eager to learn from you. You will be responsible for overseeing the production of meals, purchasing and receiving functions, and the compilation of various reports. Your schedule will support a healthy work-life balance with weekends free to pursue outdoor activities or just chill out. Send your resume today. cheryl@psseniors.org.

LOCAL LANDSCAPING COMPANY is seeking seasonal workers for landscaping and irrigation installations. Experience is a plus! Must have reliable transportation. Call Buck Frisbee Landscaping at (970)946-0996.

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.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is accepting applications for all departments: retail, ski school, lifts, ski patrol, base operations, ticket office, food and beverage, rental, vehicle maintenance and snow reporting. Please see details of job descriptions on Wolf Creek's employment page. Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or PO Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November- April) with competitive wages.

AQUATIC DISHWASHING NINJAS! If you like a clean and organized environment and the opportunity to work in a community-supportive business, join us at Pagosa Brewing & Grill. Apply at 118 North Pagosa Blvd. or info@pagosabrewing.com. Cheers!

NOW HIRING BARTENDERS, SERVERS, line cooks, prep cooks, seasonal meat wrappers and front counter sales staff at The Buck Stops Here Market & Eatery. Come join our team. Please apply in person at 19 Navajo Trail Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

SUSHI CHEF FULL-TIME WANTED. Willing to train. Knife skills and attention to detail required. Works well under pressure. Immediate opening. Text (316)461-9613 or apply in person.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following job openings with complete descriptions located on the website www.mypagosaschools.com under the "Job Postings" icon. Opening for 20-21 school year: Middle School History Teacher, High School Para-professional, Bus Driver, Part-time Bus Aide, and Part-time Cafeteria Worker. For more information contact Laura Mijares at lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us.

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.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Deandra at dberes@peoplecarehs.com or (970)399-8257.

SNOW REMOVAL FOR THE LIBRARY. Pick up RFP at Library or visit pagosalibrary.org. Due by November 16. (970)264-2209.

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a yard associate/ driver. Lumber experience is a plus. Duties include helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks, and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and medical and dental insurance for full time employees. Please apply in person or contact Darrin at (970)731-4111.

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK is looking for Part-Time and Full-Time Tellers. Offering a strong benefit package and career growth opportunities. EOE. Go to https://www.fswb.bank/who-we-are/careers/ for more details and to apply.

BUCKSKIN TOWING IS LOOKING for a full-time tow truck driver. Great pay and work environment. No CDL or towing experience required. Will train you if you are motivated and responsible. Clean driving record preferred. Please drop off a resume at 1435 E. Hwy. 160, Pagosa Springs, CO.

MASSAGE THERAPIST WANTED at Overlook Hot Springs. Minimum pay- \$37.50/ hour, tips- 17-18%. Full-time, part-time or on call positions available. Apply in person.

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.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE, 214 Pagosa St. Experienced Kitchen Staff- starting pay \$15 an hour-increases upon performance reviews. Come work in our professional kitchen. Be a part of Chef Travis's team. Apply Wednesday-Friday in person, 1p.m.-4p.m.

CABE'S COLLISION & CUSTOMS LLC is looking for an experienced Auto Body Tech. Sign on bonus for experienced A/Tech possible. Pay depending on experience. Call to set up interview. (970)731-4600.

HIRING "CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT" in well-established Pagosa practice. Roles include office, administrative, business development, events, and more. For more information, contact Dr. Katie at drkatiemdc@gmail.com.

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.

CNA CLASS STARTING SOON. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

DENTAL ASSISTANT WANTED. Willing to train. Join a team of hard working professionals! Weekends and holidays off, beautiful facility, modern equipment, excellent pay. Get the satisfaction of helping people! Email resume to PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com.

MASSAGE THERAPISTS NEEDED at massage and movement business. Focus is local clientele, needing therapists ready for repeat business. We are not a spa. Email resume and credentials to pagosamassageandbodywork@gmail to apply.

LANDSCAPING LABOR NEEDED. Looking for individuals to perform general landscaping projects in beautiful outdoor Colorado. Call Charlie at (970)264-0913.

HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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Terry's Colorado Home Supply and Ace Hardware

is currently accepting applications for various positions in multiple departments including floor sales and cashing.

We are looking for high energy positive applicants who enjoy working with people in a fast-paced environment and take pride in doing an excellent job. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Full time is highly preferred.

Please apply in person Monday through Thursday.



SEEDS OF LEARNING Early Care and Education center is accepting applications for a teacher aide. Must be at least 18 years of age. Experience and education preferred but not mandatory to start. This is a year round, full time (8-5) position. Please call (970)264-5513 for more information.

POLICE OFFICER. The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking to hire a Police Officer to work in the Police Department. Must be P.O.S.T. certified, possess a valid driver's license, and pass background check. Pay starts at \$46,320 annual DOE plus benefits. Information on the position description, application and deadline can be found on the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov.

HOUSEKEEPING. GREAT WORK ENVIRONMENT, will train. Work alone. We are looking for a full-time/ part-time housekeeper. 3-5 days a week. All year long. Starting pay \$15 an hour. We are looking for someone to work some weekdays and some weekends. Flexible. Christmas day, Thanksgiving day, and July 4th OFF. Hours vary from 9a.m.-4p.m. depending on the work load for the day. English not a requirement. 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.

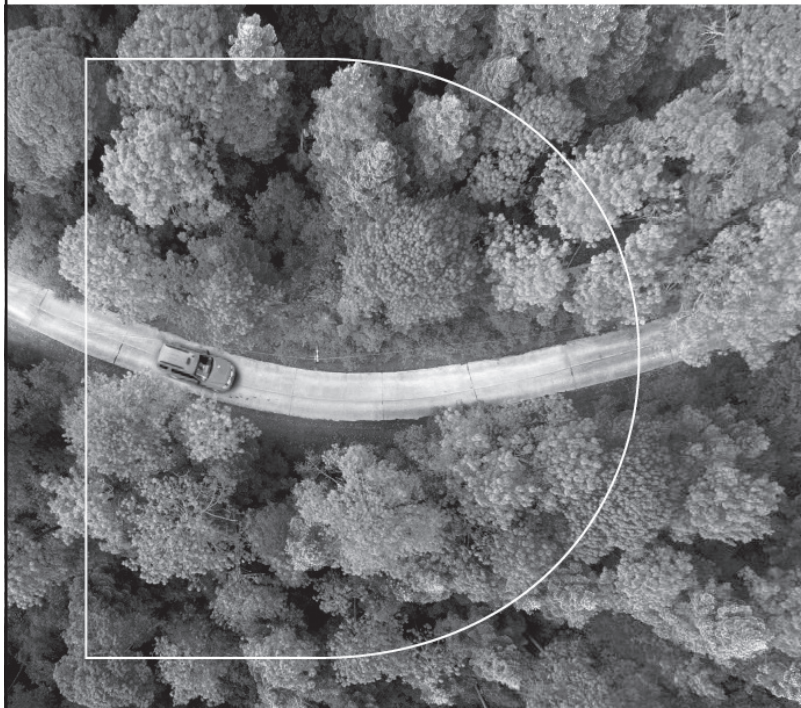
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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR part time or full time flexible fun to place to work? McDonald's is hiring for all shifts. \$14/ hour to start with advancement opportunities. Apply www.mchire.com or text CO160 to 38000.

WANTED: PART-TIME DRIVERS and office help. Flexible days, evenings and weekends needed. Pay based on experience. Inquire in person with Wilderness Journeys Pagosa Inc and A1 Taxi at 3505 W. Hwy. 160 inside the Best Western.

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We are looking for friendly, energetic people who have a genuine desire for Hospitality.

Please visit our website for current openings --> wyndcareers.com
Part-time and Full-time positions available in Resort Operations.

\$500 Sign On BONUS plus Competitive Pay and Full Benefits Package!

If you are interested or have any questions, please call Meghan at 970-398-1835

Apply now at wyndcareers.com

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PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND GREEN-HOUSE PAGOSA are looking for happy, enthusiastic people to join our budding business. We are willing to train the right candidate if you're committed to being a part of this continually growing industry. Please send a copy of your resume to employment@jandjinc.net along with a copy of your **Colorado M.E.D. Badge.**

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for **Housekeepers.** Must be willing to work nights and some weekends. Looking for full and part time. We offer full benefit package to our full-time employees including health insurance, retirement and paid time off. Applications may be picked up at the human resources office, 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.

CARPENTERS AND LABORERS WANTED: Start immediately. Pay negotiable based on experience. (970)946-8911, Monty.

CHOW DOWN PET SUPPLIES is looking for someone to join our team. Full-time help is needed immediately. Applicants must have excellent customer service skills, be self-motivated and have a strong love for animals and their well being. Pick up application in person. 100 County Center Drive.

HIRING FRAMERS AND CONSTRUCTION laborers. (970)507-0078.

FULL-TIME MANAGER and Full-/ Part-Time Baristas, Counter Help, Bakers. Email us your resume at howdy@roothouseco.com. Full Time Manager: looking for a wrangler to come alongside our smiling and hardworking team. Only experienced coffee shop and/or restaurant managers need apply. Counter Help, Baristas, Bakers (full and part time): 21 years old and up. Experience is a bonus, but we are happy to train you up! Looking for people with flexible schedules willing to work 4 or more shifts a week.

PART-TIME CLEANERS NEEDED for busy local company. \$15/ hour to start, must have transportation. CleanPSCO@gmail.com.

Your Pagosa Springs Walmart is now hiring for Overnight Stocker with a differential in pay.



We are a great company to work for — offering great incentives and benefits as well as advancement within the company.

Come join our great team. You can apply at walmart.com/careers or give us a call at (970) 731-9001.

Good Workers: We Need You!

We take pride in our Fresh, Homemade Artisan Brick Oven Pizza and Providing a Unique Customer Experience with our Innovative Tap System for Craft Beers.



We are looking for people to join our customer-oriented team. If you take pride and responsibility in your work, please apply in person at 175 Pagosa Street.

We look forward to meeting you!

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM is a fast growing, successful Pizza Brand. Are you looking for a career opportunity and not just a job? We are looking for full- and part-time people. Amazing opportunity for career progression. Wonderful teams- ain't no Family like a Pizza Family. Apply in person at 175 Pagosa Street. Pagosa Springs, CO.

THE ROSE RESTAURANT, 408 Main Street, is now hiring servers. Fast paced, always daytime hours. Apply in person.

POLICE CORPORAL. The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking to hire a Police Corporal to work in the Police Department. Must be P.O.S.T. certified, possess a valid driver's license, and pass background check. Pay starts at \$49,520 annual DOE plus benefits. Information on the position description, application and deadline can be found on the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS Animal Shelter now hiring. Part-time Front Desk person, Friday and Saturday. Primary duties include reception and data entry; computer proficiency required. Must be detail oriented and have good public relations skills. Will cross train for occasional animal care, as needed. Must adhere to shelter procedures to maintain animal health and staff safety. Must be a team player and follow COVID-19 safety protocols (includes wearing mask and frequent cleaning). Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, social security card and background check required. Pick up application and apply in person at the Humane Society Animal Shelter, 465 Cloman Blvd., Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10a.m. to 4 p.m., 731-4771.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Surgery Scheduler.** The scheduler schedules patients for surgical pre-admission testing, surgery, surgical follow-up appointments, and outpatient physical therapy. Schedules post-operative referrals and coordinates post-operative referrals. Collaborates with the PSMC clinic pre-certification specialist to ensure prior authorization process completion as required per PSMC policy. Assists in review of daily surgical case charges to ensure accuracy and completeness. Prepares monthly staffing schedules, on-call schedules, and staff duties checklist. Coordinates availability of resources needed for procedures to include surgeon, assistants, pathology, radiology, anesthesia and vendors/refs. Responsible for assisting the Director of Surgical Services with monthly reporting (i.e. surgical case stats, patient reminder letters, surgery patient satisfaction survey results, etc.). In addition, this position provides administrative assistant support to the department. Applications may be picked up at the hospital front registration desk, the human resources office, 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.

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION HELP NEEDED. Reliable transportation required. Excellent pay based on experience. Please call (970)403 5119.

CALLING COOKS! Pagosa Brewing seeks kitchen team members for Line and Lead Cooks. Apply at 118 North Pagosa Blvd. and Facebook. No phone calls.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

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.

LA PLATA FAMILY CENTERS Coalition is hiring a Colorado Community Response (CCR) Family Advocate. The Family Advocate is a LPFCC 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.

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN/ MAINTENANCE POSITION open at the Upper Rio Grande School District. This is a 4-10 hour day (Monday- Thursday) position with a salary range of \$23,881-\$28,228, based on experience. Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/ general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, (719)657-4040, x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co.

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.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

SMOKE RINGS IS NOW taking applications for motivated, self starting, badged bud-tenders. Bring your resume by 266 E. Pagosa St. or call (970)946-4199.

KITCHEN HELP, MORNING AND afternoon shifts. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule and competitive wages. Apply in person, Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs. EOE.

NOW HIRING POSITIONS AT Boulder Coffee Cafe. Apply today at 643 San Juan St.

HELP WANTED

PEAK DELI NEEDS COUNTER HELP. Answering phone, processing payments, delivering food, dishes. Good worker = good pay + tips + food. No calls. Stop by for an application.

YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE... LOTS OF fun stuff. Beds, furniture, kitchen items, decorative items, antique wagon, riding lawn mower, tools, antiques, upright freezer and more. Friday and Saturday, October 30th and 31st, 8a.m. sharp. Highway 160 west, right on N. Pagosa, left on Monte Vista Drive (Hatcher area), house #179. Snow or shine. AEHPOS.

ESTATE SALE NOVEMBER 6, 7 and 8. Everything must go. Furniture, tools, artifacts, western, antiques. 11100 Highway 84, look for signs (619)277-0193.

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

PERSONALS

IT CAN STOP! Let us help. 24-hour domestic violence or sexual assault hotline. Confidential. 264-9075.

DIANE MITSCH BUSH stands for healthy air, clean water, social justice and protected public lands. Vote FOR Colorado. Paid for by Archuleta County Democratic Party, Becky Herman, President.

PETS

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Penny Loper
970-946-3639



Trisha Taylor
303-525-7037

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Calls for service over two weeks: 423.
Oct. 12 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drove vehicle when BAC .08 or more, reckless driving, U.S. 84.
Oct. 12 — All other thefts, unauthorized use of financial transaction device, Lakeside Drive.
Oct. 12 — Fraud in effecting sales, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Oct. 12 — Found property, County Road 146.
Oct. 12 — Offenses related to marijuana and marijuana consumption, Cactus Drive.

Oct. 12 — Reckless driving, vehicular eluding, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, failed to drive in single lane (weaving), U.S. 160.
Oct. 13 — Theft from building, Bross Place.
Oct. 13 — Theft-motor vehicle parts/accessories from vehicle, North Stymie Court.

Oct. 13 — Under investigation, no location listed.
Oct. 13 — Offenses related to marijuana and marijuana consumption, Pettit's Circle.

Oct. 14 — All other thefts, Nocturn Drive.
Oct. 14 — Information only, North Pagosa Boulevard/Lake Forest Circle.

Oct. 14 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Hurt Drive.
Oct. 14 — County warrant, failure to appear (bench warrants), U.S. 84.
Oct. 15 — Warrant arrest, Canyon Circle.

Oct. 16 — Reckless driving, vehicular eluding, displayed flashing red lights when prohibited, drove vehicle when license revoked as habitual offender, used more than four lights when prohibited, tampering with physical evidence, open container in a motor vehicle, Oakridge Drive and U.S. 160.
Oct. 16 — All other thefts, Pagosa Lakes area.

Oct. 16 — Under investigation, no location listed.
Oct. 16 — Trespass warning, Shenandoah Drive.
Oct. 16 — Third-degree criminal trespass, reckless endangerment, Hersch Avenue.

Oct. 16 — Warrant arrest, drove vehicle when license suspended, U.S. 160.
Oct. 16 — Agency assist, Buttercup Drive.
Oct. 16 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drove vehicle when BAC .08 or more, Down and Out Road.

Oct. 17 — Agency assist, Wolf Creek summit.
Oct. 17 — Under investigation, no location listed.
Oct. 17 — Unlawful ownership of vicious dog, County Road 917.

Oct. 18 — County warrant, drove vehicle when license suspended, U.S. 160.
Oct. 18 — Drove vehicle without valid driver's license, vehicle plates not clearly legible, owner operated or permitted operation of vehicle without liability insurance, U.S. 160.

Oct. 19 — Under investigation, no location listed.
Oct. 19 — Agency assist, Navajo Trail Drive.
Oct. 20 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Oct. 20 — Crimes against at-risk adult, theft-no force, Putter Court.
Oct. 20 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.
Oct. 20 — All other thefts, Woodland Drive.

Oct. 20 — Under investigation, no location listed.
Oct. 20 — Violation of registration provisions, Cloman Boulevard/Industrial Circle.
Oct. 21 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Oct. 21 — Drove vehicle when license suspended, violation of registration provisions, drove vehicle without insurance, Colo. 151.
Oct. 22 — Agency assist, Colo. 151.
Oct. 23 — Resisting arrest, warrant arrest, Navajo Trail Drive.

Oct. 23 — Identity theft-uses identity, crimes against at-risk adult/juvenile-theft no force, Lakeside Drive.
Oct. 24 — Trespass warning, Circle Drive.

Pagosa Springs Police Department
Calls for service over two weeks: 226.
Oct. 11 — Trespass warning, U.S. 160.
Oct. 11 — Harbored vicious animal, Eagle Drive.

Oct. 13 — Criminal trespass, South 7th Street.
Oct. 14 — Animal at large, San Juan Street.
Oct. 15 — Assault/disorderly conduct, Hermosa Street.

Oct. 15 — Violation of restraining order, Hermosa Street.
Oct. 15 — Violation of restraining order, Hermosa Street.
Oct. 15 — Trespass warning, U.S. 160.

Oct. 16 — Speeding, failed to drive in single lane, driving under the influence, U.S. 160.
Oct. 20 — Glass in vehicle did not permit normal vision, drove vehicle when license canceled, Apache Street.
Oct. 23 — Warrant arrest, Eaton Drive.
Oct. 24 — Theft, Eagle Drive.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
No report.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
Oct. 12 — Joseph W. Espinosa, stop sign-fail to stop, total fines and costs —

\$149.50.
Oct. 19 — Travis R. Vigue, parking on county road, total fines and costs — \$87.50.

Oct. 20 — Jeremy Stapleton, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$198.50.
Oct. 21 — William J. Brako, speeding 20-24 over limit, total fines and costs — \$279.50.

Oct. 21 — Ricki F. Roux, seat belt not used, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$235.50.
Oct. 21 — Jacob C. Rasmussem, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$163.50.

Oct. 21 — Andrea M. Linzalone, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.
Oct. 21 — Ana K. Calivello, seat belt not used, child restraint not used, total fines and costs — \$245.50.

Oct. 21 — Ashly S. Atkins, speeding 20-24 over limit, total fines and costs — \$344.50.
Oct. 21 — James L. Albus, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Oct. 21 — Francis Christopher Ulatowski, violation of a protection order, probation one year, total fines and costs — \$869.50.
Oct. 21 — Darren M Begay, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$198.50.

Oct. 21 — John Edward Lord, reckless driving, total fines and costs — \$126.50.
Oct. 22 — Garrett R. Gordy, speeding 20-24 over limit, lane usage violation, total fines and costs — \$291.50.

Oct. 23 — Ostyn Raymond Blanchard, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$210.50.
Oct. 23 — Raymond Peck Finney, speeding 1-4 over limit, total fines and costs — \$83.50.

Oct. 23 — Cody C. Grimm, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$110.50.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Oct. 12 — Benjamin Taylor Edens, menacing, two years probation, total fines and costs — \$1,533.50.
Oct. 12 — Benjamin Taylor Edens, violation of bail bond conditions-felony, total fines and costs — \$1,703.50.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
Oct. 12 — Derek Rix, operated vehicle without insurance, speeding 10-19 mph over prima facie limit, four points, four points, total fines and costs — \$497.

Oct. 12 — Ramiro Rodriguez, speeding 10-19 mph over prima facie limit, four points, total fines and costs — \$197.
Oct. 12 — Bryan Benavidez, shoplifting, contempt-failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$385.

Oct. 13 — Derek Lamoreaux, animal running at large, contempt-failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$85.
Oct. 13 — Robert Althouse, indecent exposure, 12 months probation, 24 hours community service, total fines and costs — \$170.

Oct. 13 — Juvenile, assault, 12 months probation, total fines and costs — \$100.

Amended dispatch IGA moving through approval process

By Randi Pierce and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

The four entities that fund the Archuleta County Combined Dispatch center are in the process of approving an amended intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that governs the entity.

Four entities that utilize and fund dispatch: the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, the Pagosa Fire Protection District and the Upper San Juan Health Service District (which operates as Pagosa

PUC dismisses La Plata Electric, United Power exit fee complaints against Tri-State due to lack of jurisdiction

Colorado Public Utilities Commission and SUN Staff Report

On Oct. 22, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) dismissed formal complaints filed by La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and United Power against Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association over exit fees, citing a lack of legal jurisdiction.

The PUC, in a 3-0 vote, determined that an order issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in late August, concluding it had exclusive jurisdiction over the exit fee disputes preempted the Colorado PUC from acting further on them. That order reversed an initial FERC decision concluding that the complaints could proceed at the PUC.

As a result of the exit fee pre-emption, the only issue remaining in the PUC complaints is whether

Tri-State's admission of MEICO as a non-utility member was proper under Colorado law. Because this question is a matter of corporate law, not public utilities law, the PUC found it does not have the jurisdiction to decide that question. In May, United Power filed a case in Adams County District Court challenging, on various grounds, the MEICO transaction, which is the basis of FERC's jurisdiction over Tri-State.

That court is where the question of MEICO's membership should be answered, the PUC believes. Because the commission dismissed the formal complaints without prejudice, the PUC will be ready to adjudicate the exit fee questions if United Power prevails in district court.

The decision aids the parties in getting an answer to the question from the proper legal forum,

which will ultimately reduce the time needed to resolve this complex and important dispute, the PUC said.

LPEA Chief Executive Officer Jessica Matlock spoke to the matter in a meeting Monday, stating, "We're still waiting for the final order. It comes out on the fifth of November, so all the details will be in that order, so we will be able to know more. ... They decided this was corporate law issue, so that goes to Adams County court. So already United Power, which is the largest cooperative in Colorado and largest Tri-State member, has been asking for an exit fee as well, and, so, they decided to take their case to the Colorado PUC and to their own county court and, so, the PUC actually is deferring that decision to the Adam's County court. So, we'll know more just watching through that process."

Springs Medical Center). The entities first formed an IGA in 2009 to collectively manage and be proportionally responsible for the emergency dispatch center for the county.

The amended IGA was approved almost unanimously by the Dispatch Executive Management Board, which comprises members associated with the four governmental entities, on Oct. 1. Fire Chief Randy Larson was the only one who voted in opposition to the IGA.

However, at the end of the meeting, Larson commented saying that

although he did not vote in favor of the new IGA, he would recommend approval of it to the fire department board of directors.

"It's the board's decision ... I support that decision 100 percent," he said.

According to Emergency Communications Director Kati Harr, not much has changed from the previous IGA.

Harr mentioned that this new IGA "clarified and cleaned up old language that didn't serve us all."

Following the vote by the Dispatch Executive Management

Board, the IGA was sent to each of the entities for approval by the board of directors for each.

On Oct. 13, the USJHSD Board of Directors unanimously voted to accept Resolution 2020-21 regarding approval of the amended IGA.

The same evening, the PFPD Board of Directors voted to approve the amended IGA.

The county commissioners are anticipated to vote on the IGA at their regular board meeting on Nov. 2.

The town council is anticipated to vote at its regular meeting on Nov. 3.

HUGE RE-OPENING SALE

There will be lots of gear for outdoor shopping
We will only have ONE shopping group
inside the store at a time

October 30, 31, and November 1

STORE-WIDE SALES
from 20% up to 60% off

Pagosa Spring's Cross Country Skiing Specialists for over 40 years



Used Cross Country Packages

These will go fast....

\$175⁰⁰ set

We expect that Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing are going to be hugely popular this year sooooo we are kicking off November with a sale like never before!

NEW Cross Country Packages

20% off!

Light Backcountry

Perfect in or out of groomed tracks

20% off!

Backcountry

Think Powder!

20-40% off!

Cross Country Skating Packages

30% off!

100% Carbon Skating Poles
The Real Deal!



Snowshoes

Tubbs Flex Ridge Rental Package

\$99⁰⁰

20% off!

NEW Tubbs Snowshoes

And you might be wondering, "What About Downhill Gear?"

20-50% off!

Helmets

Complete packages starting at

\$175⁰⁰

Everything for sale, so mix and match!

Individually Priced

Demo Package Sales

All Mountain & Powder

Everything else in the shop is at least 20% off!

clothing • snow boots • hats • gloves • goggles • socks
stickers • wax • shot glasses • flasks • and more!



Alpen Haus Ski Center

Turn at Walmart light and then left. Next to Sears
2800 Cornerstone Drive • (970) 731-7547