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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 113 — NO. 10, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020

# Spreading kindness

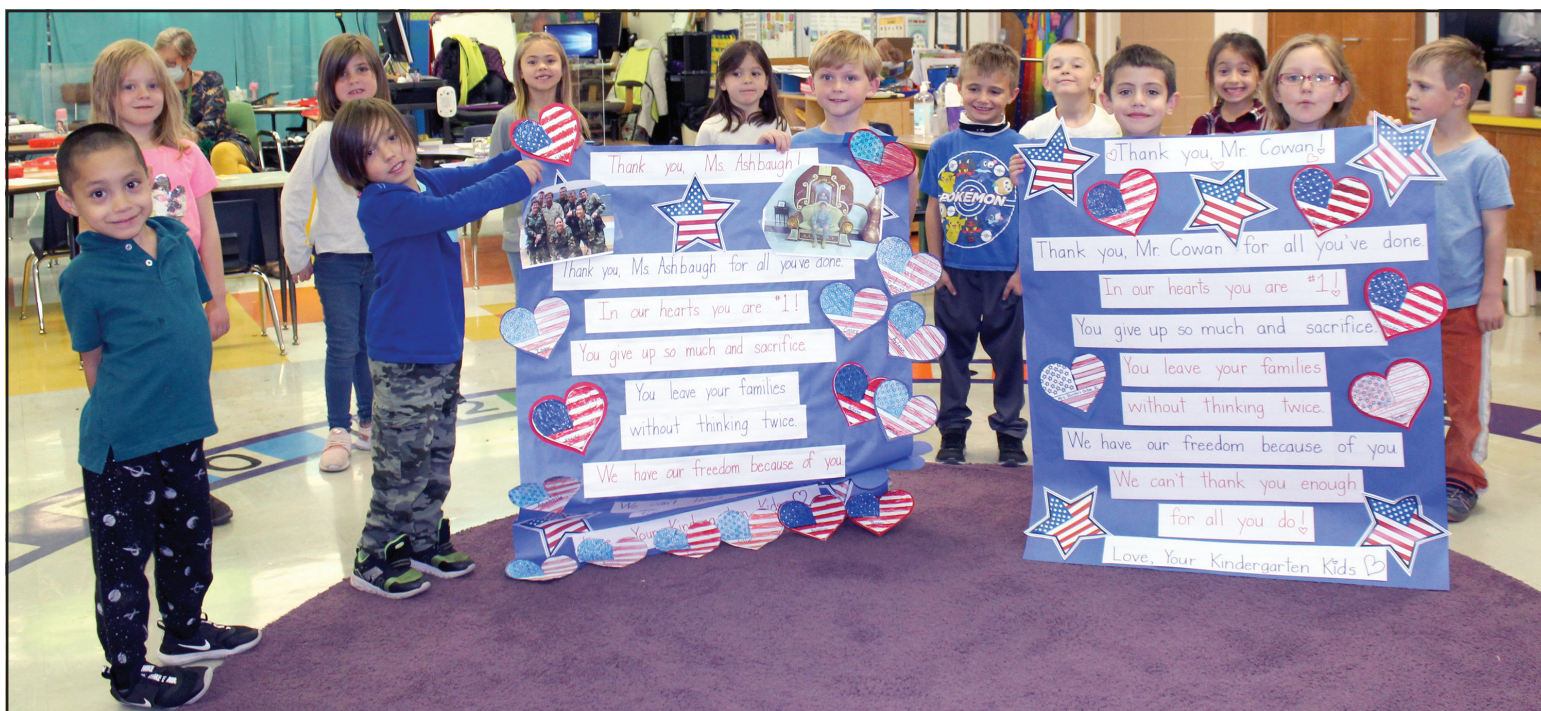


Photo courtesy Justin Cowan

Pagosa Springs Elementary School kindergartners made posters for Justin Cowan, Phil Rizzo and Julie Plummer-Ashbaugh thanking them for their service to the nation.

## Elementary school holds annual celebration of kindness

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Even in the time of coronavirus, there is one thing Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES) Principal Justin Cowan and his staff hope spreads among students, staff and others in the community: kindness.

As it does every November, PSES focused on kindness this month — something that stems from World Kindness Day on Nov. 13.

“Our motto is ‘Care Reigns Here’ and we look for ways to live out that motto. For us, celebrating World Kindness Day for a whole month highlights who we are and how we can treat each other with care,” Cowan wrote in an email to The SUN. “We want to be ‘the best 9-month summer camp a kid (student)

■ See Kindness A8



Photo courtesy Justin Cowan

Teacher Amber Kirkham participates in circle time with her students, telling them what she likes about each student.

# Archuleta County jail now operating

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

According to Archuleta County Sheriff Richard Valdez, the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) is housing inmates in the new county jail this week.

Archuleta County has not had a fully operational jail since April of 2015, when the old detention center flooded. The county has had a few temporary holding cells since then, but has not been able to house any sentenced inmates in over five years.

During this time, Archuleta County inmates have been transported to and housed in the La Plata County jail, Valdez explained.

The two counties reached an agreement in August in 2015 that allowed for La Plata County to house Archuleta County inmates.

In an interview, Valdez explained



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

**For the first time since 2015, inmates are being housed at the Archuleta County jail.**

that the jail “is operational.” The jail is currently accepting arrestees and prepared to house inmates.

Valdez explained that if they are able to bond out, ACSO will release the arrestee here in Archuleta County. Previously, if there was a

■ See Jail A8

# Student-led Mindfulness Walk slated for Saturday

By John Finefrock  
and Cheryl Bowdridge  
Rise Above Violence

This Saturday, Nov. 28, the student leaders of YouthRise are hosting a “Fall Into Mindfulness” walk at Yamaguchi Park from 1 to 3 p.m.

At the beginning of the semester, when YouthRise began meeting outside of school at the park, students said that attending school virtually — coupled with the stress around the COVID-19 pandemic — was taking a toll on their mental health, as they weren’t able to regularly socialize with their friends in person at school. They proposed hosting this event to give the community strategies for staying mindful and positive amid these uncertain times.

Nov. 28’s Mindfulness Walk will be a mix of fun, food, prizes and giveaways to help community members stay positive, like “mindfulness bags” complete with squishy stress balls that can help melt away anxiety felt because of the pandemic — or the hardships that can come with life in general.

This is a free event.

It is asked that, in accordance with the current public health guidance, participants wear a mask while in attendance and gather with people from their households only.

For more information, or to volunteer at the event, contact Cheryl Bowdridge at 946-5276 or cheryl@riseaboveviolence.org, or John Finefrock at john@riseaboveviolence.org.

# Archuleta County enters Level Orange

## Spike in COVID-19 cases continues

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

On Monday, Archuleta County officially landed in Level Orange: High Risk on the state’s COVID dial due to the increased prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, and officials are asking people to take immediate action to avoid further restrictions, including with this week’s Thanksgiving gatherings.

Colorado is seeing an “unprecedented level” of disease transmission currently, Dr. Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, indicated Tuesday, with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment estimating that one out of every 49 residents in the state

is infected with SARS-CoV-2, which is the highest prevalence since the virus arrived in Colorado.

Gov. Jared Polis added Tuesday that, at a Thanksgiving gathering with 10 people coming from multiple households, there is a one in four chance someone will be contagious.

He continued to echo advice and pleas from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state for people to not gather with others outside of their household right now.

Local officials are also expressing concern with the rate of transmission locally and across the state and the potential effect it will have on the community and health care

■ See COVID-19 A8



Photos courtesy Linda Lutomski

Pagosa Family School art students recently paid a visit to the mural at Goodman’s Department Store for a lesson in color inspiration and to discuss murals as art in preparation for an oil pastels still-life drawing in the studio. They were led by teacher Linda Lutomski and aide Mattie.

# Dry Gulch loan deactivated

By Chris Mannara  
Staff Writer

During a meeting on Nov. 16, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors approved the deactivation of a loan the district currently has with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

According to SJWCD President Al Pfister, the reasoning behind the decision is the state budget situation.

“The state was asking us whether we wanted to deactivate our existing loan of \$1.9 plus million that we had applied for and had been approved contingent upon us getting a mill levy approved to pay for that,” Pfister explained during the meeting. “It’s been three years since that was initially approved and, I’ll say, standard procedure is to, basically, after three years of actions have been taken,

■ See Loan A8

# Visitor Center lighting event canceled

Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, the annual lighting of the Visitor Center that was set for Friday, Nov. 27, has been canceled.

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# Business



## Region 9 to market Southwest Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects

By Stephani Burditt  
Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado received approval from the State Enterprise Zone coordinator at the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade for its Southwest Enterprise Zone logo to identify and market contribution projects in the region.

Donors who meet at least minimum donation requirements for approved Enterprise Zone Projects can claim a 25 percent state tax credit and a 12.5 percent state tax credit on in-kind donations. This credit is in addition to the federal tax deduction for contributing to any 501(c)(3).

There are currently 31 approved Enterprise Zone projects in southwest Colorado that span Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties. Each project works to positively impact a distressed area through community facility, economic development, health care, homeless assistance, job training, visitor event/attraction or workforce housing projects.

Enterprise Zone projects are administered by Region 9 and program information and a full list of nonprofits are available online at [www.scan.org/incentives](http://www.scan.org/incentives) or by calling Region 9 at 247-9621.

## The Community Foundation has provided over \$1.25 million in COVID rapid-response granting

By Tracy Pope  
Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has spearheaded the COVID emergency response donations in our five-county region through the Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). Combined granting from CERF and the Community Foundation's projects and donor-advised funds has totaled more than \$1.25 million since March.

The Community Foundation has distributed CERF funds totaling \$617,514, supporting nonprofits and the broader community.

Food security has been the focus of a large portion of CERF granting, with \$187,621 distributed to nonprofits and local food producers across five counties in southwest Colorado. The foundation has worked to provide region-wide collaboration in food purchasing to benefit multiple food systems, while leveraging \$85,000 of other funds, such as CARES Act dollars, to stretch CERF dollars even further. Purchases have included both nonperishable and perishable items. When feasible, the perishable food is purchased from regional small farms to support local agriculture.

"It has been eye-opening to be a part of the team that is addressing the sharp increase in food insecurity across our region," said Brigen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. "People who have never needed food assistance before are visiting our local pantries at record numbers."

In addition to CERF, the foundation has granted \$593,180 through COVID-response donations from donor-advised funds and other COVID-related projects. The Community Foundation is home to 33 donor-advised funds. So far this year, 75 percent of the foundation's donor advised funds provided grants to nonprofit organizations. "This has been an intense eight



Photo courtesy Veronica Medina

Veronica and Mauricio Medina are looking forward to keeping our community litter-free with the adoption of their road. They encourage other local families to get involved and consider adopting the road they live on. Interested parties can contact Jamie Jones at [jjones@archuletacounty.org](mailto:jjones@archuletacounty.org) or Martin Schmidt at [mschmidt@pagosasprings.co.gov](mailto:mschmidt@pagosasprings.co.gov) for more information on how they can adopt a road.

Thank you for your business and the opportunity to serve this community.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

May this season bring you many reasons to give thanks.



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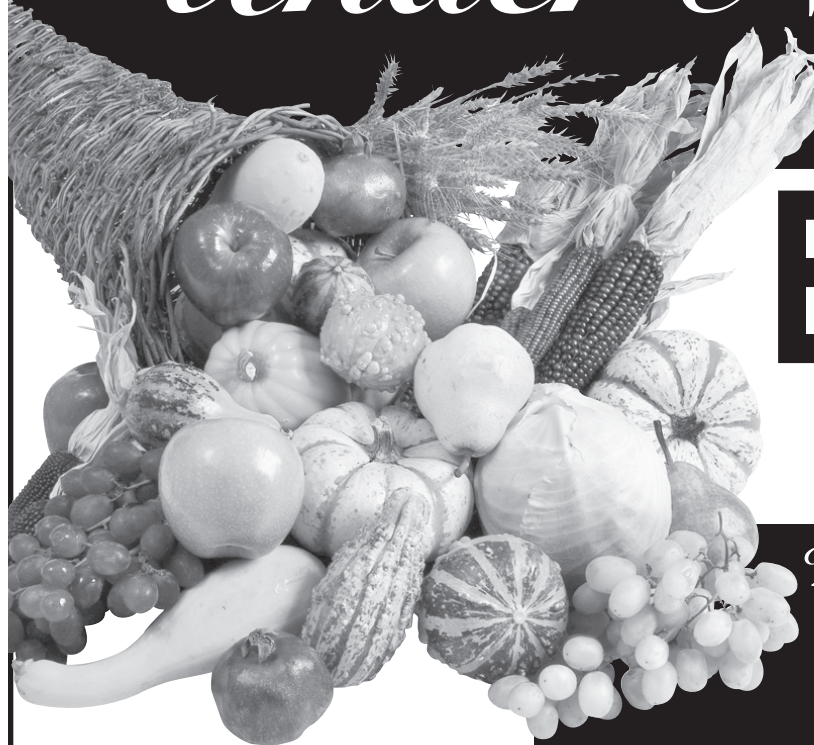
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# Sports



## Pirate state playoffs

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

The Pirates played their final game of the season with only 15 players, due to some players still being in quarantine following COVID-19 exposures. The team was affected from the lack of practice time and having to put players in new positions for the first time.



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# preview

## ARTS & COFFEE

# Christmas in Pagosa



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# The history of holiday lights

Special to The PREVIEW

Holiday celebrants employ holiday lights in various ways. Certain individuals may be content to hang lights on their Christmas trees and call their decorating complete. Others may get their holiday jolies by making sure each square inch of their home is covered in twinkling lights. Still, other people prefer the more subdued effect of lights framing one picture window of the house.

The tradition of Christmas lights stretches back to early modern Germany, when people used candles to decorate Christmas trees in Christian homes. Those candles were harbingers of what would come when electric lights replaced gas and other open-flame illuminating devices that were commonplace prior to the 20th century.

Thomas Edison, the inventor of the first successful practical light bulb, also created the first strand of electric lights that would be used in holiday decorating. By 1880, Edison had standard incandescent light bulbs well sorted out and desired a way to better advertise his invention, so he decided to make the most of the holiday season and put his light bulbs on display.

According to a 2003 article in American Heritage magazine titled "The Wizard of Your Christmas Tree," Edison strung incandescent bulbs all around the compound of his Menlo Park, N.J., laboratory. Edison constructed an 8-mile underground wiring system in order to power this grand light display. Because the laboratory was situated along the railroad that passed

between Manhattan and Philadelphia, thousands of people were able to see the display.

The concept of electric holiday lights took a bit of time to catch on. Edison's friend and associate Edward Johnson was tasked with stringing together colored lights in 1882 and placing them on an evergreen tree. Johnson hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland requested the White House family Christmas tree be illuminated by multicolored electric light bulbs.

In 1903, when General Electric began to offer preassembled kits of holiday lights, stringed lights were reserved for the wealthy and elec-

trically savvy. For example, in 1903 a single string of electric lights cost \$12, or around \$300 today.

It would take several more years before holiday lights became a national tradition. On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the country's celebration of Christmas by lighting the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse located south of the White House with 3,000 electric lights.

Today, illuminated strands of lights have become a large part of holiday celebrations and have even been adopted for use during various year-round events. Such lights can be a beautiful and festive addition to many celebrations.



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## Immaculate Heart of Mary, John Paul II Mass schedule released

Special to The PREVIEW

Following is the Catholic community Mass schedule for Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) and John Paul II (JP II).

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26, 9 a.m. JP II. Streaming will be available.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 4 p.m. JP II. (Reservations need to be made; call the parish office to reserve your place.) Streaming will be available.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 8 p.m., Parish Hall. Christmas songs will be sung half an hour before Christmas Eve Masses. 3:30 p.m. at JP II and 7:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall.

Christmas Day (the Nativity of the Lord), Dec. 25, PCC Family Mass 9 a.m., JP II. (Reservations need to be made; call the parish office to reserve your place.) Streaming will be available.

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 5 p.m., JP II.

New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God), Jan. 1, 2021, 9 a.m. JP II, one Mass only.

## No Main Street Bethlehem at Centerpoint Church this year

By Jonathan Duncan  
Centerpoint Church

Due to the nature of our Main Street Bethlehem presentation and the rising number of COVID cases, there will be no Main Street Bethlehem presentation this year.

Our prayer is that we will be able to resume our normal Christmas-time recreation of the streets of Bethlehem during the time of the birth of Jesus next year.

May the Lord bless and keep you safe and healthy during this Christmas season and we pray that 2021 will be a better year for all of us.



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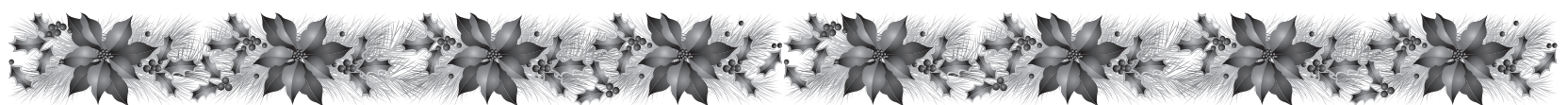
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## Simple ways to dress up your home for the holidays

Special to The PREVIEW

The holiday season is rife with traditions that focus on fun and family. One such testament to the festive spirit of the holiday season is the many homes and businesses decorated with the lights and colors that have become synonymous with the season.

Decorating for the holiday season can be time-consuming. While decking the halls may not consume as much time as holiday shopping and wrapping presents, according to data from a 2013 American Time Use Survey, interior and exterior decorating for the holidays may consume anywhere from 2.5 to three hours per session.

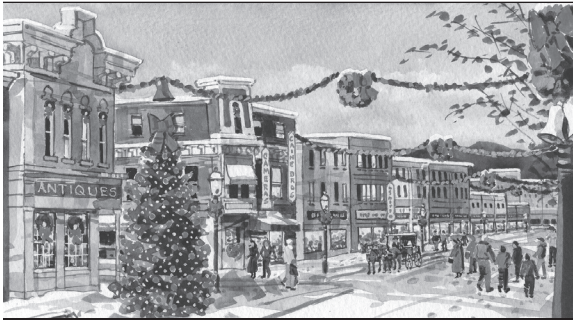
Holiday decorating includes things as simple as setting up a menorah or as complex as stringing lights on the exterior of a home. Though elaborate displays can take hours to erect, time-crunched holiday celebrants can still create festive, welcoming displays.

• Hang holiday wreaths. Holiday enthusiasts without much time to decorate can invest in a couple of holiday wreaths, which can be dressed up as much or as little as

■ See Home on next page



**Happy Holidays**  
from your local merchants



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THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN ENCOURAGES YOU TO SHOP AT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.



## Home

continued from previous page  
 celebrants prefer. If you do not have the time to string lights on the house, wrap them around wreaths hung in windows or hang the wreaths on a home's main entrance. Celebrants who want to go a less traditional route can hang wreaths made of holly, citrus fruits, ribbons, or any other greenery instead of the more customary evergreen wreaths.

- Decorate with ornaments. Ornaments are not exclusive to Christmas trees. Fill a vase or bowl with metallic ornaments and place it in a prominent location, such as a busy hallway or the foyer of your home. Hang ornaments on clear filament from the mantle or within the main window of the house, where they can reflect tree lights and add sparkle.

- Bring in more greenery. Drape evergreen boughs on staircase hand-railings or on the mantle, or use greenery to frame doorways. The scent will be inviting and things instantly will look more festive.

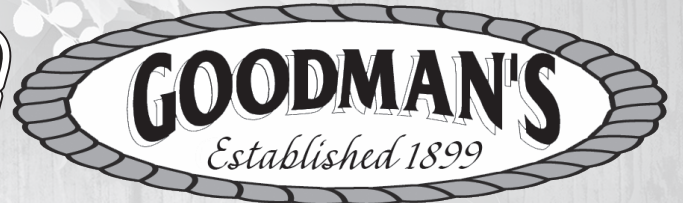
- Use throws and decorative pillows. Change the look of a room with holiday-colored decor if you do not want to clutter the space with knick-knacks. A red and green blanket draped over the sofa can give off a comforting holiday vibe.

- Focus on the front door and entryway. Celebrants who do not have the time to decorate their entire homes can create a warm, inviting space by decorating their front doors and entryways. Place greenery, bows, tinsel, lights, and winter-inspired accessories by the front door so friends and family visiting for the season catch the holiday spirit the moment they walk through the door.

- Place LED candles in windows. Rather than contending with twinkle lights and electric cords, homeowners can employ battery-operated faux candles to create a homey appeal in windows and hallways throughout their homes.

Simplify holiday decorating with some easy tips to make houses cozy and festive.

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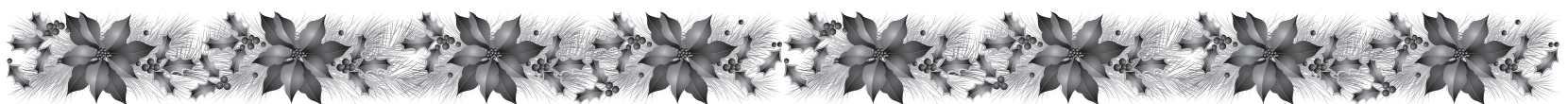
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# Christmas in Pagosa

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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) 900-68, meeting ID: 884 668 836.

A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and se-

lections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Nov. 29, our theme is creation.

"A drop of the billowing ocean of His endless mercy hath adorned all creation with the ornament of existence, and a breath wafted from His peerless Paradise hath invested all beings with the robe of His sanctity and glory." — Baha'u'llah.

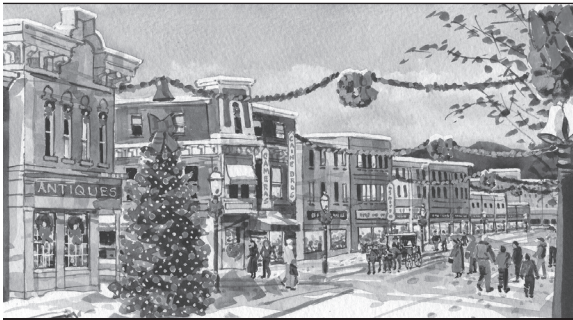
The Baha'i Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all people of the world in one univer-

sal 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](http://www.bahai.org). Our local contact is [archuletabahais@gmail.com](mailto:archuletabahais@gmail.com).

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN  
264-2100



# Christmas in Pagosa

An old-fashioned celebration

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# Give where you live on Colorado Gives Day

By Ashley Wilson  
Rise Above Violence

Colorado Gives Day is Dec. 8. This is a wonderful opportunity to give where you live and support local nonprofits right here in Pagosa.

Colorado Gives Day is a statewide giving day to support the nonprofit sector across that state. The \$1 Million Incentive Fund boosts the value of every donation. That means for every dollar you give, the nonprofit you support gets a little more than your donation because every nonprofit gets a small percentage (based on the amount they raise) of the incentive fund.

Eleven nonprofits on the site are located in Archuleta County: Aspire, Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County, Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, Loaves and Fishes, Rise Above Violence, Ruby Sisson Library Foundation, Seeds of Learning, Sonlight Adventures, Thingamajig Theatre Company and Vets for Vets.

Why give where you live? Each of the nonprofits offer critical services and support for our community and each one has been impacted by COVID-19. I am sure you either know someone who has utilized services at one of these nonprofits or you have enjoyed something they have to offer.

These organizations need your support every year, but this year more than normal. Please consider giving to one or more of these nonprofits on Tuesday, Dec. 8. You can give through a secure online platform at [swcogives.org](http://swcogives.org) and you can schedule your donation today.

Several organizations are partnering to enhance outreach so you have information on what the impact of COVID-19 has been and how organizations are navigating.

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation supports the

Ruby Sisson Library by raising funds for information resources, programs, services and facilities.

Your library has been staying busy this year, meeting the vast needs of our community during this unprecedented time. We have been open since May, and we continue to provide curbside services, virtual programs for all ages and in-person assistance. Libraries are so important. Your year-end support

*Colorado Gives Day is a statewide giving day to support the nonprofit sector across that state. The \$1 Million Incentive Fund boosts the value of every donation.*

for the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation would assist us with operations expenses to continue meeting the needs of our community now and in the future. For more information, visit [pagosalibrary.org/library-foundation/](http://pagosalibrary.org/library-foundation/).

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County's most significant

impact from COVID-19 has been the reduction in our volunteer labor force, so much so that we had to postpone the build of our 28th new home. As we resume our construction schedule for 2021, we are securing new labor resources; however, we are now faced with rising construction material costs — which are estimated to double. We need your cash donation to mitigate this increase in expense and allow our 2021 partner family to work alongside volunteers, pay an affordable mortgage and move into homeownership. For more information, visit [www.habitat-archuleta.org](http://www.habitat-archuleta.org).

Rise Above Violence supports victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. In the average year, Rise serves over 350 victims. This year both the number of victims and the intensity of the services required is higher. So far in 2020, Rise has served 370 victims. We know that COVID-19 has impacted these numbers and we anticipate that to continue. Survivors are describing their abusers using COVID-19 as a tactic to scare and control them at home. Before they were tracked and stalked; with stay-at-home orders looming again, victims will be under constant surveillance. This increases the need for emergency assistance in the forms of transportation, safe emergency housing, stable housing, food and other basic needs for victims. For more information, visit [Riseaboveviolence.org](http://Riseaboveviolence.org).

Pagosa, please consider supporting your local nonprofits on Colorado Gives Day. Donations can be scheduled ahead of time, and every dollar makes the important work of these groups possible. Visit [swcogives.org](http://swcogives.org) to see the Archuleta nonprofits participating and schedule your donation today, [swcogives.org](http://swcogives.org).



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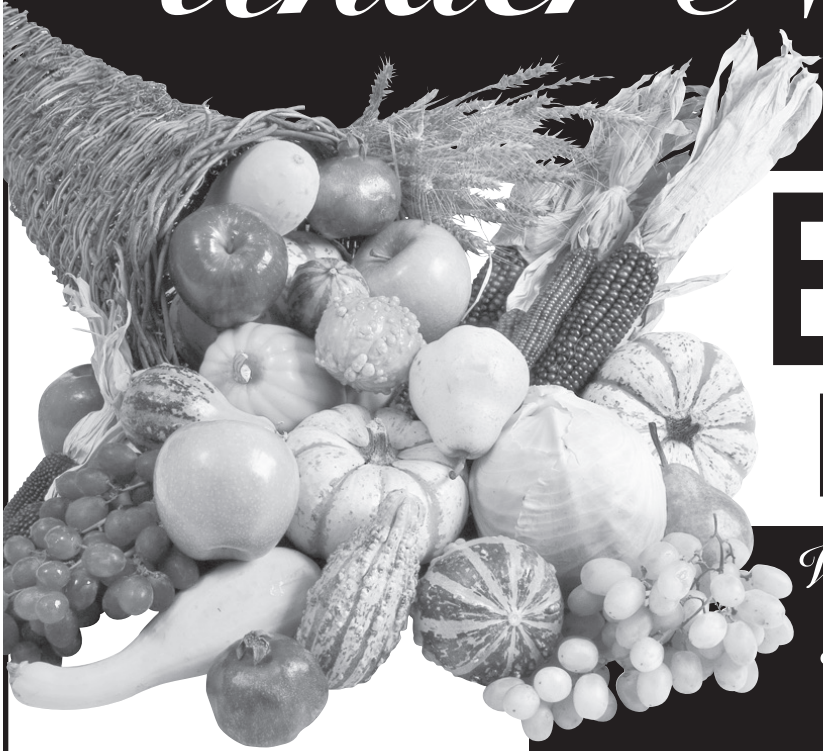
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# Truth, relevance and ashes

Truth has always found itself a topic for litigation, probably today more than ever. How does something that can't sway from the center line find itself so far out of bounds? The Old Testament warned that there would come a day when good would be called evil and evil would be called good.

It would be wise to ask, "How does that happen?" How could two opposing views, thoughts or actions be confused one for the other? Likely because we tend to look at things through a lens of relevance. And therein lies the problem.

Truth never changes. It is an absolute that doesn't deviate, no matter the course charted. While we may be able to fit the square peg in the round hole, it is still a square peg.

The best litmus test for truth is time. What was, is, and what is will be. It is an equation that doesn't get any simpler. Words written or

## Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



spoken yesterday don't change their meaning just because a new day dawns. Why, because the circumstance and trajectory that birthed them won't change, even if we ourselves do.

In 1998, I wrote the following to my friend: "I have made peace with my ashes. They were part of yesterday's dreams." That statement sounds so defeating, but it wasn't. I was about to make a huge career change, one that would take me further than I even knew possible.

The ashes I wrote about were relevant to a specific moment in my life. They were a product of years when I owned a signature

art gallery. They were from a time when I had a recognized brand at the Dallas Wholesale Market, something that became a commodity on Princess Cruise Line.

But what was doesn't lay bare as cinders and embers. It is the bed that produces a phoenix that takes flight. In my case, the peace I made with my ashes gave way to the launch of new endeavors — becoming an author and publisher with works hidden from view until the truth of their origins could materialize.

My path didn't change based on my focus. In fact, my direction became clearer as I walked with diligence. While relevance took on different forms, my heart grew stronger as it stayed its course. Isn't that the very definition of truth?

What are your ashes? What truth do you hold within that despite the world around you, only needs time to take flight? The bigger question is, are you steadfast in truth so that you will see clearly how your ashes materialize?

A friend once wrote, "Let's not allow the dark cover of melancholy to cast its pale over us or we'd be enveloped by a cloud of meaninglessness, bitterness and foreboding, which threatens to take the taste of the joy of living from our mouths."

Final brushstroke: There is something to be said for walking in truth. Even more so when truth is challenged in a way that twists it beyond recognition. While our path may be riddled with rocks and detours, it is the exercise of the journey that bares our identity. Proverbs 12:19 tells us, "The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment."

### Readers' comments

Send your comments to [betty@bettyslade.com](mailto:betty@bettyslade.com).

## Cupcakes and critiques

By Hank Slikker  
PREVIEW Columnist

As a teenager, I used to decorate cupcakes for my dad in the family bakery. He said I had sufficient decorating talent and wanted his bakers to do more important things. Not that cupcakes weren't important in the bakery store, but they needed staging, nonetheless.

Bigger cakes called for talent I didn't have yet, like crafting buttercream roses or handwriting "best wishes" or "happy birthday" on their tops. Since my father was the artist and I was the apprentice, before I put the cupcakes into their showcase, he looked them over for shortcomings.

I offer this vignette because baking artistry has a lot in common with writing artistry. Mainly, skill in each craft takes a combined effort. Before putting out attractive pieces for public consumption, the artist often takes his/her work to a friend or expert for another viewpoint. We call it critique.

But critique doesn't always feel good. You spend a year, or 10 years, getting your story just like you want it, then give it to someone to look it over for you and he tells you you

## The Writers' Circle

might think about throwing out the first half, but the second half reads well except for the ending. Your reaction to your reader might be something like Ann Lamott's to a reviewer of one of her books, "Well, I'm sorry, I can't be friends with you anymore, because you have too many problems. And you have a bad personality."

We call the effect of our work on others reader response. Or, in baking parlance, "Does it taste good?" Better for someone to sample your brownies before the party to make sure you included the sugar.

Critiquing is an art, too, because it involves our feelings. To tell a budding artist, "You might want to try something else," won't encourage many to keep working. He or she needs someone who can tell the truth and remain your friend at the same time. You might call it "friendly fire." My father had that

■ See Circle on next page

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Colorado Gives is organized locally by the Community Foundation serving SW CO.

# New Thought topic: Expect a miracle

By Lisa Burnson  
New Thought Center  
for Inspirational Living

“I am a lover of what is, because it hurts when I argue with reality.”  
— Byron Katie.

All are welcome to join New Thought Center this Sunday, Nov. 29, at 10:30 a.m. for our presentation, “Welcoming All That Is: Expect A Miracle.” Our speaker will be Shayla White Eagle McClure.

Our sanctuary is sanitized and set up for social distancing.

We will have spirited live music.

## Upcoming events

Meditation Circle is held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. (weather permitting). All are welcome.

Band practice is every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join our band. Please text Bruce at 507-

0739 to join or for band information.

Friday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.: Movie Night: “Tomorrowland” with George Clooney. Donations appreciated.

Saturday Nov. 28: Thanksgiving potluck. Please call for location.

## 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 knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of Best Western Lodge (elevator available).

Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling 309-6067. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought) or YouTube (Pagosa New Thought Channel).

# Circle

■ continued from previous page  
skill and, because he did, I turned into a tolerable baker.

And, I think, a tolerable writer. I’ve got plenty of “paper cuts” adorning lots of my work, their red ink bleeding into the black. Cuts like, “I’m not sure you made

this point clear enough at the beginning” or “You’re not telling the reader everything you know” or “Why would anyone want to read this?” However, these injuries to my self-confidence over the years eventually morphed into bylines. I also know who my friends are.

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Lake house, 3700 sq. ft., 7 garages, 1.66 acres • MLS 770905



Price Reduction!

4 Bedroom, 1 Bath  
\$525,000

301 Barton Circle  
Fenced pasture, water rights, fruit trees, 28 acres • MLS 773798



Motivated Seller!

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath  
\$399,000

35 Harman Park Drive  
Historic Fred Harman home on 1.74 acres, views • MLS 773338



Price Reduction!

79.69 Acres • \$350,000

1243 County Road 332  
Agricultural opportunity, 80 water shares • MLS 770671



.24 Acre • \$135,000

103 Laguna Place  
Lake front property, water & sewer on property • MLS 776583



5 Acres • \$90,000

740 River Forest Drive  
Great lot with mountain views, close to town • MLS 770858



Under Contract!

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath • \$65,800

790 Prospect Boulevard  
3 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard, big trees • MLS 776430



1.5 Acres • \$60,000

217 Summit Drive  
Water tap installed, close to Navajo Lake • MLS 771255

Thank you to my customers and friends — Happy Thanksgiving!



1.58 Acres • \$55,000  
Lot 62 River Run Drive, Antonito, Colo., gated community • MLS 776519

1 acre • \$39,500  
135 Summit Drive • Close to Navajo Reservoir & great views • MLS 772583

1.5 acres • \$29,500  
970, 951, 929 Pinon Hills • Beautiful views, near Navajo Lake • MLS 772584

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# Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the eared grebe.

Grebes are old. Like loons, evidence dates them way back, evolutionarily speaking. Though they have been genetically proven to share closer ties with flamingos, true grebes can be found in the fossil record at 23 million to 25 million years ago, placing them as emerging in the Northern Hemisphere in the early Miocene period. They have lobed toes, as opposed to webbed feet (more traditional for waterfowl sp.), allowing them to dive deep in the water as an escape mechanism, as opposed to flying. Their legs are found way back on their bodies, ensuring athleticism in the water, but rendering them less adept on land. To this point, they typically build nests on floating rafts comprised of reeds or other emergent vegetation, sometimes anchoring them to shorelines.

Eared grebes are smaller-bodied, not too dissimilar from pied-billed grebes in size. They overlap in range with another similar looking cousin, the horned grebe. Breeding adults don a fashionable array of golden yellow feathers across their cheek, contrasting their bright red eyes, darker charcoal necks and chestnut flanks. Nonbreeding and immature birds offer more sooty intergrades of light brown, rufous and white on their flanks. Courtship displays are regal, with prospective mates moving past one another with necks pointed to the sky, emanating primordial ooo-eek calls and oftentimes nearly "running" across the surface of the water in efforts to impress. Pairs develop monogamous relations for the breeding season only.

Known to migrate later in the fall than the majority of fellow waterfowl (and only at night), the eared grebe spends much of the year sedentary on inland freshwater bodies, gleaning crustaceans and insects.

However, one notable exception occurs during migration: nearly all members of this species make a pit stop at either the Great Salt Lake (Utah) or Mono Lake (California) from late summer to November, where they will gorge themselves on brine shrimp, effectively putting their energy into first organ development (upon arrival) and later pectoral muscle (upon departure) for flight to Mexico for winter. Like other birds that rely on clean water bodies, habitat protection is of utmost importance for species survival.

For information on future events, visit [www.weminuchaudubon.org](http://www.weminuchaudubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/).

*If you or someone you know might be at risk of suicide, there is help.*

Call the  
**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
 at 1-800-273-8255,  
 text a crisis counselor at 741741  
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# SUDOKU

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

### Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

# Preview Calendar

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

## Thursday, Nov. 26

**Thanksgiving Day Mass.** 9 a.m. John Paul II Catholic Church, online streaming. Call 731-5744 for more information and streaming details.

## Friday, Nov. 27

**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.

## Saturday, Nov. 28

**Discovery Time.** 2:30 p.m. Facebook. For all ages. New videos are posted to Facebook each Saturday. View to explore new games, art ideas, science experiments, history, activities, and more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

## Monday, Nov. 30

**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](mailto:ruby@pagosalibrary.org) for more information or to make an appointment.

## Tuesday, Dec. 1

**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.

**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, Dec. 2

**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](http://coloradocef.org/GNC).

**Family Storytime.** 10 a.m. For all ages. Join us for great stories and fun songs. Wednesday storytimes are on Facebook Live, so if you go to Facebook at 10 a.m., you can interact with Josie. If you have a Facebook account, you can log in and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon, or you can contact us and we can send you a link. Call 264-2209 for more information.

**Tech Time by Appointment.** Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment or for more information.

**Dungeons and Dragons.** 4-6 p.m. Teens and young adults. Join us on Google Meet for our ongoing game. Contact [claire@pagosalibrary.org](mailto:claire@pagosalibrary.org) for details on how to join.

## Thursday, Dec. 3

**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.

**PALS by Appointment.** 2-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Adult education in

See Calendar on next page

[www.pagosaphoto.com](http://www.pagosaphoto.com)



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM BANK OF COLORADO

We are very thankful for the opportunity to live and work in this great community. Thank you for your continued support. Have a happy and safe holiday from your Bank of Colorado family.

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## SILVER DOLLAR LIQUORS

# Temporary dining room closure continues at Senior Center

By Cheryl Wilkinson  
PREVIEW Columnist

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Community Café menu

Thursday, Nov. 26 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Friday, November 27 — Closed for Thanksgiving holiday.



Monday, Nov. 30 — Chicken piccata with angel hair pasta, roasted carrots and parsnips, salad, milk, and lemon cake.

Tuesday, Dec. 1 — Beef cottage pie, steamed broccoli, milk, salad and chocolate chip cookies.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 — Sausage lasagna, caramelized butternut squash, milk, salad and peach cobbler.

Thursday, Dec. 3 — Lox and bagel with tomato, onion, and caper cream cheese, roasted red pepper soup, milk, salad and strawberry shortcake.

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

Due to COVID-19, food supplies have been affected. Substitutions will be made accordingly.

# The Weekly Crossword

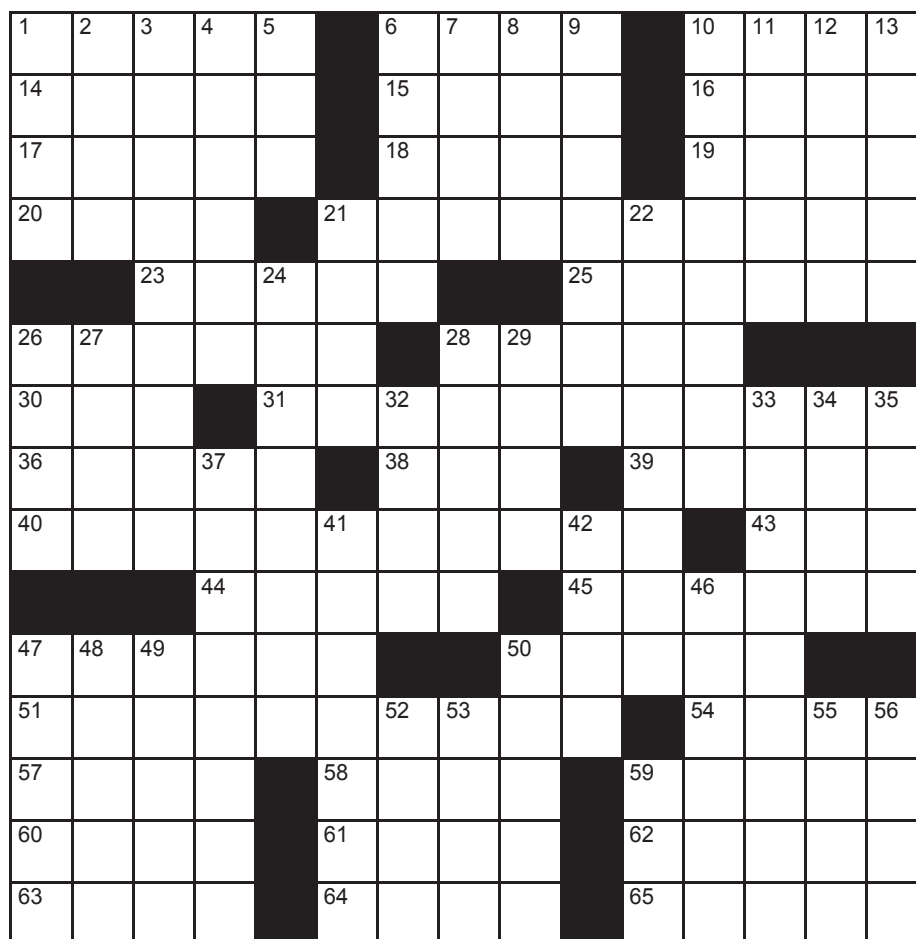
by Margie E. Burke

## ACROSS

- 1 Travel by bike
- 6 Breeding horse
- 10 Alternative to plastic
- 14 Mumbo jumbo
- 15 Gardener's need
- 16 Chorus member
- 17 Wipe away
- 18 Anagram of "mite"
- 19 Kind of chance
- 20 "Little House on the Prairie" shopkeeper
- 21 Foreordain
- 23 Kind of raise
- 25 Like Scrooge
- 26 Small piano
- 28 Country estate
- 30 Anchovy holder
- 31 "Semper Fi" group
- 36 Musical drama
- 38 Colony member
- 39 Prepare to propose, perhaps
- 40 80's Soviet policy
- 43 Golf gadget
- 44 Take the wheel
- 45 "Twilight" vampire
- 47 Theater fixture
- 50 Fisherman's basket
- 51 Math device
- 54 Helps out
- 57 Give the boot
- 58 Word on a headstone
- 59 Play loudly
- 60 Ship's backbone
- 61 \_\_\_ to rest
- 62 Rose essence
- 63 Otherwise
- 64 "Tickle me" guy
- 65 Sorority letter

## DOWN

- 1 "Big Brother" host Julie



Copyright 2020 by The Puzzle Syndicate

- 2 Days of \_\_\_
- 3 Loretta Lynn's father was one
- 4 Let up
- 5 Ball in a socket
- 6 Polo, for one
- 7 Bag for books
- 8 Secondhand
- 9 Lands of an estate
- 10 Skillet material
- 11 Bold poker bet
- 12 Police operation
- 13 Warm and cozy
- 21 Gyro holder
- 22 Military lockup
- 24 Digitize an old LP, perhaps
- 26 "Knock it off!"
- 27 Popeye's prop
- 28 Like some piano keys
- 29 One opposed
- 32 Hard to find
- 33 Pay back in kind
- 34 Social equal
- 35 Downhill racer
- 37 Move elsewhere
- 41 Not easily debunked
- 42 Deborah of "The King and I"
- 46 What the haves have
- 47 Bicycle wheel part
- 48 More than mean
- 49 Thorny blooms
- 50 Starter home, perhaps
- 52 Mine product
- 53 Quick haircut
- 55 Outdated expletive
- 56 Antitoxins
- 59 Night flier

## Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

# Preview Calendar

continued from previous page 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.

**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, Dec. 4

**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, Dec. 5

**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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosason.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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# SWEET TREATS WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- BAIN MARIE
- BAKED
- BATCH
- BEAT
- BIND
- BOIL
- CARAMELIZATION
- CHILL
- CLARIFY
- COAT
- COCOA
- COMBINE
- CONFECTION
- CORN SYRUP
- CRUMBLE
- DISSOLVE
- DRAGEES
- ICING
- LOLLIPOP
- PASTE
- SIFT
- SUGAR
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# Holiday lights

## Residential contest

Map courtesy Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board, Google

- 1 440 Apache St
- 2 930 Zuni St
- 3 4500 US-160
- 4 240 Paciente Dr
- 5 732 Cloud Cap Ave
- 6 226 Wilderness Dr
- 7 601 Stevens Cir
- 8 301 Bonanza Ave
- 9 185 Brook Dr
- 10 52 Oakwood Cir
- 11 44 Haystack Cir

Residential and business addresses for the 2020 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing on Friday and Saturday evenings from Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. A special panel of judges has been selected and the contest winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 17.

## Business contest

Map courtesy Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board, Google

- 1 157 Pagosa St
- 2 209 Pagosa St
- 3 286 Pagosa St
- 4 317 Hot Springs Blvd
- 5 165 Hot Springs Blvd
- 6 468 Lewis St
- 7 2105 Eagle Dr
- 8 42 Pinon Causeway
- 9 189 Talisman Dr
- 10 189 Talisman Dr Suite B
- 11 140 Country Center Dr #2
- 12 100 Country Center Dr
- 13 68 Bastille Dr #3



# Happy Thanksgiving

## We Are Thankful For The Recipients Of Our 2020 Galles Properties Community Fund

Aspen House | Aspire | CUMC Food Pantry | Dust2 | Loaves & Fishes  
Pagosa Springs Arts Council | Pagosa Nordic | Rise Above Violence  
Rotary Backpack Program | Ruby Sisson Library | Seeds Of Learning

Wishing You Joy This Holiday Season . . .  
From Our Family To Yours



Kim Brown



Diane Burnett



Brent Christians



JaNae Christians



Steve Crow



Ed Keyes



Eddie Keyes



Bill Kinsley



Phil McAdams



Juli Morelock



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Photo courtesy John M. Motter

This photo shows a pioneer family livin' on the upper San Juan River all hooked up and headin' to town.

## Pagosa Country before the Europeans came

Last week, we wrote about information contained in a 1923 report written by Frank H. Roberts based on his study of early residents in the Pagosa Country area he called the Anasazi, who are now known as the Ancestral Puebloans. Roberts closed his report with the following observation, "There remains material for historical collection beyond conception."

Since Roberts' 1923 report, ancient ruins at Chimney Rock, Stollsteimer Mesa and throughout the Four Corners area have been extensively studied. A brief description of the results of these studies, written in "Pagosa Country: The First Fifty Years," follows.

"For purposes of classification, experts have divided Anasazi history into time periods. These time periods are not delineated by sharp lines because change took place gradually. Two major periods are recognized, the Basketmakers and the Pueblos. The classifications are



### Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

further subdivided.

"The Basketmaker Period came first, starting about the -O-A.D. and lasting until about 750 A.D. From the beginning, the Basketmakers were a sedentary people subsisting primarily by growing corn. Hunting and seed gathering were also a significant part of their economy. Agriculture steadily increased in importance and hunting and seed gathering decreased in importance throughout the Anasazi era. During the latter years, agriculture became so successful, partly through the addition of beans as a food crop, that the Anasazi had spare time after making a living. They, therefore,

devoted more time to increasingly complex housing and developed an elaborate religion.

"Single family dwellings, known as pithouses, were used by the Basketmakers. About one-half of the vertical dimension was excavated and contained logs placed one atop another for walls. Logs were also laid across the top forming a roof. Cracks between the logs were chinked with adobe mud which hardened and helped keep out the weather.

"The typical home had a fire pit inside and contained metates and maños for grinding corn, and slab lined storage cisterns. A winter food supply was kept in storage vaults.

"Woven baskets and beautifully made sandals were sure to be found. The people were named for the high quality of their baskets. No bows or arrows would be found, for these came into use with a later Basketmaker period called the Modified Basketmakers."

## VA, federal partners plan for COVID-19 vaccination distribution

By Raymond Taylor  
Archuleta County Veterans Service Office

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccine plan to ensure the VA safely and equitably distributes vaccines once authorized.

The plan will be a phased approach based on scientific and historical evidence, lessons learned from past pandemic vaccine plans and input from scientific experts both within and outside the VA.

"In October, staff at VA medical facilities conducted important planning exercises in preparation for the vaccine," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "These exercises help us to address vaccine distribu-

### Veterans Corner

Raymond Taylor



tion, allocation, safety monitoring and supply tracking."

COVID-19 vaccine implementation will include an initial limited-supply phase followed by a general implementation phase, when large supplies of the vaccine will be available to veterans who want to receive one.

VA experts in ethics, health equity, infectious disease, logistics, pandemic planning, pharmacy and public health, as well as those in the areas of change management, clinicians from various disciplines, data, education, IT, safety and

training, along with government partners, were sought for input to help develop the plan. The VA also conducted veteran listening sessions for valuable feedback in the planning process.

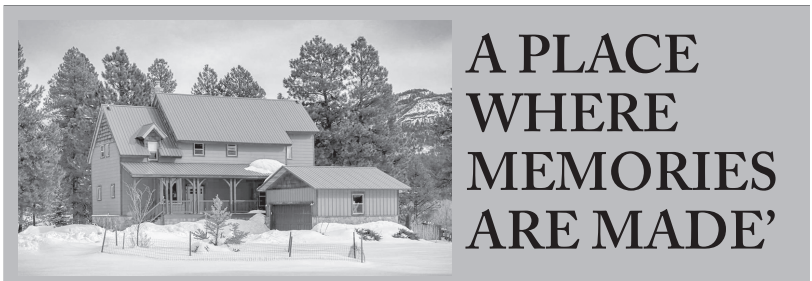
### VA releases customer experience report

The VA recently released the VA Customer Experience Accomplishments Report detailing 71 major initiatives to improve customer service for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

Improving customer service as a top priority at the VA was established in 2018 and it challenged the department to rethink VA customer interactions, designating the Veterans Experience Office (VEO) as the "voice of the veteran."

"The goal is to provide veter-

■ See Veterans on next page



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# Our thanks to special people at Thanksgiving

By Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

This will be a highly unusual Thanksgiving holiday as COVID safety issues keep many of us from traditional celebrations with family and friends.

But, with all that we are missing, we still can take this opportunity to reflect thankfully on past joyful gatherings and perhaps also to take advantage of videoconferencing aids to help reinforce bonds with loved ones across town and across the miles.

The staff at your library are thankful all year-round for so many people who make their jobs easier and their service better for you, our patrons. On this Thanksgiving week, we want to publicly acknowledge some of the very special among them:

- We are thankful for the many volunteers who work every day to help us maintain the collection; shelve returned books, CDs and DVDs; and make sure all the books and materials are clean and in their proper place. Because of our small staff, these volunteers are vital to our service to you.

- We are grateful for the time and dedication of our library board. They also are unpaid volunteers who are committed to making the library an essential hub of our community.

- We also appreciate the members of our foundation board, also unpaid volunteers, with the mission to raise funds for information resources, programs, services and facilities.

- We also want to pay tribute to the Friends of the Library. Their generosity, enthusiasm and creativity result in so many benefits to your library, especially with the proceeds of their summer book sales.

Library director Meg Wempe said she has always appreciated the quote from Elizabeth Andrew, “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart.” If you’re interested in becoming a library volunteer or joining the Friends, please contact Meg at 264-2209. You will be warmly welcomed.

“We truly appreciate everyone who has given time or funding to the library to help us improve our collection, our service and our vision for ‘Mountains of opportunity to inspire ideas, enrich lives and create community,’” she said.

## Library closing

Your library will be closed Nov. 26-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Special note

“We want people to always feel welcome in the library, and to experience a very friendly vibe when they visit,” said Wempe. “But we need to remind everyone that, similar to other public indoor

## Library News

spaces in Colorado, we must follow the executive order that requires people aged 11 or older to wear a covering over their noses and mouths when entering or moving within any public indoor space. If you are unable or unwilling to wear a mask, we have made reasonable accommodations and are pleased to assist you outside the building through our curbside service.”

## Calling all teens

If you enjoy reading books, learning new skills and helping your community, we hope you will sign up to volunteer at your library. You’ll be invited to write book reviews, make artwork for the teen area, help plan new programs, prepare crafts for kids’ programs and help keep the library organized.

Please stop by the library or apply online.

## Adult DIY: Holiday treats

You can access our food-themed DIY from Nov. 20 that will inspire you to create new appetizers and desserts for the holidays on the library’s website.

## New after-school program

In response to COVID, we have revamped our free after-school program into STEAM enrichment kits, STEAM standing for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, for ages 5 and up. Registration is required at 264-2209. Pick up your kit and then bring your completed projects back to the library to be displayed in the last week of the month.

## DIY craft takeaway for kids

Drop by your library for free DIY crafts 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 toward the elementary school detailing a new free Storywalk for kids. The Nov. 19-

Dec. 3 theme is gratitude. After you finish the walk, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library.

## Tech Time

Make a 15- or 30-minute appointment for one of three free in-person slots available noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Brad will help one person (or one couple) at a time. If you have a Tech Time appointment on Thursday, phone from the parking lot or knock loudly on the front door to be let in.

## Dungeons and Dragons

Join us Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for Dungeons and Dragons free for teens and young adults on Google Meet. 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.

## 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) classes are available. **See Library on next page**



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# Library

## ■ continued from previous page

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.

### Activities calendars

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

### Summary of our partial reopening

- We're now open on Thursdays from 1 p.m. 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 through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except for Thursdays, when it's from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phone 264-2209 when you are in the parking lot so staff can bring the items out for you. If you put a hold on something, please wait for your usual alert (email, phone call or text) before coming to pick it up.

- You 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.

### DVDs

"Bill and Ted Face the Music" is a time travel story. "To Be of Service" is a documentary about veterans with PTSD who are paired with service dogs.

### Large print

"Fortune and Glory" by Janet Evanovich is a Stephanie Plum mystery. "Elsewhere" by Dean Koontz is a novel of wonder and terror. "Truly, Madly, Deeply" by Christian author Karen Kingsbury unveils multiple family secrets. "Invisible Girl" by Lisa Jewell is a mystery. "Shakeup" by Stuart Woods is a Stone Barrington mystery.

### Books on CD

"All That Glitters" by Danielle Steel follows a woman whose parents are killed in a terrorist attack in France. "Dolly Parton Storyteller: My Life in Lyrics" showcases 100 of her most popular songs with the stories behind the lyrics. "ATime For Mercy" by John Grisham is a legal thriller.

### Thrillers, mysteries and suspense

"Echoes Among the Stones" by Jaime Jo Wright features a young woman who travels to Wisconsin to live with her eccentric grandmother. Also by the same author is "The Curse of Misty Wayfair" featuring a woman searching for her mother after being left in an orphanage as

a baby. "The Curse of Misty Wayfair" by Jaime Jo Wright features a woman searching for her mother.

### Downloadable e-books and audiobooks

We have a wide variety of downloadable e-books and downloadable audio books for patrons of all ages — children, tweens, teens and adults. Using cloudLibrary, you can download a book to read or an audio book to listen to. The items in cloudLibrary are purchased separately from physical items, so the books available are different — and it continues to use the consortium's contributions, not just those that we bought. That is why you need to select AspenCat Union Catalog when setting up cloudLibrary for use. Please email or phone us at 264-2209 if you need our help setting up this service on your device.

### Donations

For their generous monetary donations, we are grateful to Linda King Ttee and John Penter. For books donations, we thank our many anonymous donors.

### Quotable quote

"God gave you 86,400 seconds a day. Have you used one to say 'Thank you'?" — William Arthur Ward (1921-1994), American writer of articles, poems and meditations.

### Website

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

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PAGOSA SPRINGS  
Medical Center

# Food pantry grows, thrift store progressing

By **Susan Gibson**  
PREVIEW Columnist

It has been busy in Arboles these past few months.

First off: The TARA Community Center was lucky to be honored by Archuleta County this year with the installation of an official ballot box and security system, just in



Photo courtesy Susan Gibson

**The TARA Food Pantry now has two shopping carts to make taking food to cars easier.**

## News from Arboles

time for the recent election. It was accessed by many residents of the area, providing a much more convenient way to cast a ballot than travel to Pagosa Springs for voting purposes.

### TARA Food Pantry

The TARA Food Pantry has grown by leaps and bounds, partnering with a lot of organizations, from local growers to supportive outreach organizations in Pagosa Springs, Ignacio and Durango.

Susan Halkin, the Food Pantry director, is happy to announce, as well, the addition of Cheri Melichar as a full-time partner to help with all the work of planning, organizing, food pickups, distribution and pantry day servicing.

There is now a refrigerator and freezer to accommodate all the meats and fresh vegetables, plus two grocery carts so folks can just load up their carts and wheel on out to their cars. In addition, kitchen appliances are now available there.

The pantry just sponsored a drawing for practical food baskets with soup pots, soups, bowls, hot pads, blenders, toasters, etc. The drawing was held on Oct. 31 and the winners who took home those goodies were Ursula Davis, Eva Johnson, Robert Trujillo and Yvonne Lucero.

Happy Thanksgiving from the pantry was supplied by a sign-up for Thanksgiving Turkey food boxes that were distributed on Monday, Nov. 23.

Pantry days are the same as the TARA Library days — 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. More and more people are hearing about the pantry as word spreads, and we have welcomed a lot of new people in the last few weeks, whether new residents of Arboles and surrounding area or folks who had just not realized that food support is so very near and convenient.

### TARA Library

The library, too, has continued to grow and has been a wonderful place for people to browse as they wait for their turn in the pantry.

Susan Gibson, the library director, said that the library now has over 250 DVDs, 15 different author collections, including a huge selection of Nora Roberts. There are mystery/thrillers, science fiction, fantasy, romance, westerns, general fiction, five shelves of biographies, autobiographies and memoirs, animal and pet books, self-help books, how-to books, cookbooks, craft books, gardening books and the list goes on. The library functions as a Little Lending Library with no library cards or due dates. Just browse, take, and return when you can.

There is also a Kid's Corner accessible on pantry/library days, with eight shelves of books for toddlers, children and teens, plus two tables of jigsaw puzzles and games. Kids can play on the playground outside and then come on in for snacks and games in their section of the library.

Coffee, hot cocoa, apple cider and cookies and baked goodies brought in by patrons and supplied by the food pantry are available every pantry/library day, as well.

COVID restrictions still apply at this time. All must wear masks. Only one person at a time can go through the pantry and the area of the library has a limit of three, the food areas with limits of three and the kid's area with a limit of three.

### TARA Community Thrift Store

Per Gibson, facilitator for the thrift store creation, "So close, after so many months of monetary donations that took off when our original grant stopped. We now only owe about \$500 or so to Matthew Tippin, the renovator, and will pay him off, in full, by the end of December. Sandy Gladfelter

■ See Arboles on next page

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to aviation.

### NPSALE

--	--	--	--	--	--

*Answer: Planes*

⊙ \*\* ☒ ☞ ⚠ ~ Ⓞ ☞ ⚡ ✦ ✕ ✦ + ☞ ✦ ▲ ☾ ✦ ♂ ✦ ✦ ☼ ☼ ☼ Ⓜ  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

## CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to aviation.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 22 = T)

**A. 19 18 15 10 16 22**

*Clue: Soaring through the air*

**B. 23 15 20 10**

*Clue: Part of an aircraft*

**C. 7 18 22 15 22 13 26 25**

*Clue: Height of an object*

**D. 7 5 9 25 20 22**

*Clue: Climb upwards*

*Answers: A. flight B. wing C. altitude D. ascent*

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# CSU leads study promoting food security

By Robin Young  
PREVIEW Columnist

As the spread of coronavirus continues to disrupt the U.S. economy, low-income households face a higher risk of food insecurity. This risk is more pronounced in families with school-age children who rely on food assistance programs, such as school lunch, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women Infant Children (WIC) program.

As part of a \$482,642 grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), researchers at Colorado State University (CSU) studied emergency food provisions that serve children

## Extension Viewpoints

and families in five U.S. cities during the pandemic. The grant is an extension of a \$1 million FFAR Tipping Points grant to reduce food insecurity. The additional funding allows the grantees to examine the trade-offs associated with policy and programming interventions in response to COVID-19.

The results were published in an Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy article, "Emergency

Food Provision for Children and Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Examples from Five U.S. Cities." The journal article shows that the success of emergency local programs depends on cross-sector collaboration among stakeholders, adaptable supply chains and addressing gaps in service to increased risk populations.

Along with CSU, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, the Sustainable Food Center, University at Albany and UTHealth School of Public Health at Austin were involved with study.

"Our five research teams were

■ See Viewpoints on next page

# Arboles

■ continued from previous page

did all the work to get us a \$2,000 grant back at the beginning of the year to get this whole idea started, and we are still waiting for word from another grant source found and applied for by Gladfelter to fully complete the project. In the works now are efforts to get enough gravel to surround the building and cobble rock to rock the bottom of the building. Meanwhile, we have acquired shelving, bookshelves, peg boards, shoe racks and four clothing racks. Looking more like a store every day."

A year of donations has resulted in 10 times more inventory than the store can hold. We will definitely be swapping inventory out every month once we are in business. Have recently been greatly helped by access to a large storage area available through March of 2021, arranged by Elaine Nalani Nobriga, plus the offer of a smaller space for all future needs, furnished by Debbie Wilmms. We truly want to have our grand opening before Christmas, but it will open when it is ready and not before.

A table full of beautiful Christmas decorations has been set up in the lower level so that food pantry and library patrons can access for free, with any small donation to the building fund warmly welcomed.

A huge garage sale on the weekend of Nov. 20 offered all the overstock from the thrift store (both to

whittle down the inventory and to earn some more money toward paying off the building fund), and also showcased crafts and furniture from local craftspeople in the Allison, Tiffany and Arboles area.

## TARA upper level

Most upper-level activities and rentals have been canceled during 2020 due to COVID, though line dancing is still being held weekly with a small group of dedicated dancers. A family gathering outside in the open pavilion area was also held earlier this year.

The normal weekly indoor senior lunch days not available all year. TARA, in cooperation with the Ignacio Senior Center, recently offered drive-thru pickups of senior lunches. The response was good, so it will probably continue throughout the duration of COVID restrictions.

TARA's popular annual Christmas in Arboles and Cookie Bakeoff nights will not be held this year because of the COVID restrictions.

## Historical Society

New displays showing photos, newsclips and articles about the history of the area continue to go up in the TARA lower level and there are many plans to expand the scope and display of historical photos, "oral stories" and historical articles and books.

The Historical Society Task Force meets on the third Saturday of each

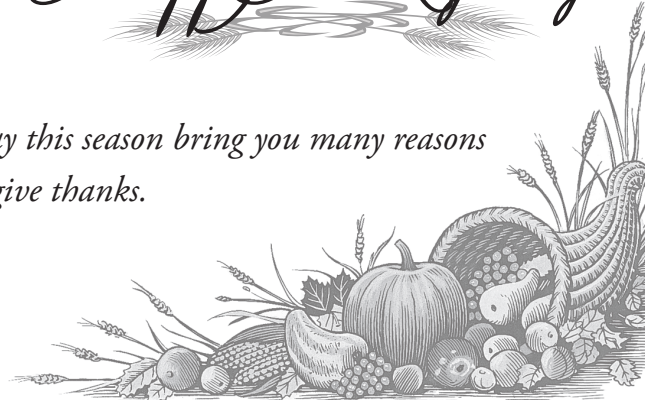
month in the upper level of the TARA Center. Task Force committee members work to find locals with stories of the history of the area and articles and collections that examine the lost settlements of Navajo Dam and the evolution to today's Arboles/Allison/Tiffany communities.

The society is actively researching information on the Old Allison Catholic Church and is hoping to find grant sources and funding for renovation. They are currently working with the Tiffany Catholic Church members to write a grant for renovation and construction. The Tiffany church is on the Colorado's Most Endangered Places list and also on the La Plata County Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your business and the opportunity to serve this community.

Happy Thanksgiving

May this season bring you many reasons to give thanks.



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# Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

already involved in mapping and modeling our urban food systems when the pandemic hit,” said CSU Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics Becca Jablonski, the report’s corresponding author. “This previous work, coupled with strong relationships with key food system stakeholders in each of our cities, put us in a position to act quickly to document changes within the emergency food service system due to COVID-19, and to begin to describe the effectiveness of interventions taken to respond to school closures. We hope that this research is useful in considering the trade-offs associated with different types of responses as well and how to better prepare for future crises.”

“No child should go hungry, during a pandemic or otherwise, and my heart goes out to families that struggled during the past year who couldn’t access emergency food services,” said FFAR Executive Director Sally Rockey. “This research helps ensure that emergency food services effectively serve children and their families throughout this pandemic and in the event of future crises.”

## Emergency food resources

While the federal government expanded funding for school breakfast and lunch programs and other food assistance programs in the spring of 2020, there was no federal mandate that the programs continue or guidance for carrying them out. Thus, local governments devised their own plans to provide emergency food services to low-income families, to varying degrees of effectiveness.

The researchers evaluated how emergency feeding programs, including SNAP, food banks and schools, distributed food during the pandemic; who used these services; the costs of these services; and the food provided and its dietary quality. The research team conducted interviews and focus groups with emergency food service providers in five cities — Albany, N.Y.; Austin, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; Denver, Colo., and Flint, Mich. — to understand how decisions by schools, governments and other emergency food service providers impacted access to food.

The researchers discovered that the success of local responses to low-income food insecurity depended on three factors:

- **Cross-sector collaboration:** Cities with higher cross-sector participation among stakeholders were able to reach more families with nutrition and food needs. In Denver, for example, city and county officials had pre-pandemic working relationships in place with food rescue organizations to support food security efforts.

Cities with low collaboration had more difficulties, such as Flint, where distrust in local authorities, a result of the ongoing water crisis, remains high.

- **Adaptable supply chains:** Cities with adaptable supply chains also had more success at feeding their vulnerable populations. Flint and Cleveland experienced supply chain problems that limited the amount of food available to smaller food banks with less purchasing power. These issues required sourcing food from farther distances. In Denver, many of the smaller food banks closed at the beginning of the pandemic and food banks were able to more efficiently handle the increased demand. Additionally, many feeding programs experienced a drop in volunteers, making it harder to deliver food to those in need. Albany and Cleveland overcame this problem with distribution assistance from the National Guard.

- **Addressing gaps in service to increased risk populations:** As COVID-19 disproportionately affects communities that are already underserved, it is essential to identify and address gaps in service to increased risk populations. As part of their emergency response plans, Austin and Denver have prioritized services to populations facing food insecurity. In Austin, the Office of Sustainability mapped emergency food resources and distribution sites and is identifying communities where food needs have increased since the start of the pandemic. Denver is developing a food security plan that will be incorporated into a broader socially equitable pandemic recovery plan. The researchers conclude that while different regional and local approaches to providing food security to low-income families and children is necessary to respond to specific contexts, more robust guidance from the federal government may improve the effectiveness of the responses.

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/CSU-ARCHCTY>.

## Donate to the Archuleta County 4-H program

The Archuleta County 4-H program boasts a membership of more than 150 members annually. Often, these programs rely on fundraisers to help offset the costs of the program, such as awards, supplies and, most importantly, leadership

opportunities. Members can attend various leadership camps and conferences statewide and even nationally.

To help our program continue to support our members, we appreciate any contribution you make. To pay online, visit <https://client.pointandpay.net/web/Archuleta-Co4H/> and select Contributions and Donations.

Like us on Facebook — <https://www.facebook.com/Archuleta-County4H/>.

## CPR and first aid certification

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

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# Increase in foodborne botulism cases prompts warning from health officials about home food safety

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has investigated several cases of confirmed or suspected foodborne botulism in the state since September.

Testing from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed four of the cases; one is still under investigation and test results are pending. All five cases occurred along the Front Range. The individuals are either hospitalized or recovering.

The department investigated the cases in September and October. Three of the cases appear to be unrelated as no common food item was identified. The last two confirmed cases were likely the result of an improperly canned shared food made in the same household.

“Five cases of foodborne botulism in the span of a few months is unusual in Colorado and is cause for concern,” said Nicole Comstock, deputy branch chief, communicable disease branch. “Botulism does not spread from person to person, so there is no risk to the public. However, these cases are a good reminder of how

important it is to properly preserve and handle food in the home.”

A variety of foods can be associated with foodborne botulism, including homemade foods that were improperly canned or preserved. The most common source of home-canning related botulism cases come from foods with a low acid content, such as chiles, green beans, potatoes, beets, corn and asparagus. Prior to these recent cases, the last confirmed cases of foodborne botulism in Colorado occurred in 2019 among a group that consumed a commercially prepared potato product held at improper temperatures.

To prevent botulism, it is important to follow proper canning and food preservation procedures. The Preserve Smart website from Colorado State University Extension provides information regarding considerations for choosing tested preservation methods and the importance of adjusting canning methods for elevation to ensure home-preserved food products are safe to enjoy.

Additional steps people can take to reduce their chances of getting botulism include:

- Refrigerating homemade oils infused with garlic or herbs and

throwing away any unused oils after four days.

- Keeping potatoes that have been baked while wrapped in aluminum foil hot (at temperatures above 140 degrees F) until they are served or refrigerating them with the foil loosened.

• Refrigerating any canned or pickled foods after you open them.

- Before tasting or serving, boil all home-canned, low-acid vegetables for 10 minutes plus one minute for each 1,000 feet increase in elevation above sea level (e.g. at 5,000 feet, boil for 15 minutes).

Botulism is a rare but serious illness caused by a toxin produced by clostridium botulinum bacteria. When ingested, the toxin attacks the body’s nerves. Symptoms typically start with muscle weakness in the face and neck, and then spreads to the torso, arms and legs. The toxin weakens muscles used for breathing, which can lead to death. It is important that anyone ill with symptoms of botulism visit a health care provider immediately to be assessed.

For more information about botulism, visit the CDC website.

# A good idea backfires

By Daris Howard  
Special to The PREVIEW

Have you ever had what you considered was a good idea, only to have it backfire? Something that happened recently because of the COVID virus is a case in point.

Many stores tried having what they called Senior Hour, when only senior citizens could come into the store. The idea was that the seniors would stay away from everyone else and not bring the sickness back to their homes. Also, a critical part of the thinking was that by not allowing anyone else in, the numbers would be reduced, and there would be a natural form of social distancing.

In the beginning days of the virus, I saw many big box stores announce that they would do this. I am about to the age I could qualify, but I hate to think of myself as a senior citizen. So, I just took my chances with everyone else.

There were a lot of points of failure built into this supposedly good idea. The first was that many stores had their senior hour before or after regular open times. This meant it was either after many senior citizens had gone to bed or before they got up. I’m sure there are a few seniors it worked for. My mother would be one. She has called me at four in the morning, still stuck in the schedule from when we had cows to milk. But for many, it just wasn’t convenient.

Still, with the stores trying to help protect their senior customers, I couldn’t fault them for trying. But there were two other issues that ended up being even more of a problem.

The first issue was that some stores advertised it so heavily that many senior citizens thought they were no longer allowed to shop at regular hours. I know some who got up early or stayed up late just because they thought if they went at standard times, they would be turned away. This information made some stores fuller during the senior hour than during the regular times of the day.

But the biggest issue of all was the lack of foresight this policy had in specific communities, especially combined with some seniors’ idea that they had to go during that time.

My sister-in-law, Tammy, moved in with her father to help take care of him. He had previously moved to a community that was almost all senior citizens. When a big store chain announced that all their stores nationwide would have a senior hour early in the morning, it was big news in that community. There were lots of advertisements, much discussion on social media, and talk about it all over town.

Tammy’s father suggested that she go shopping at that time. She was old enough to qualify. She also considered that it might help her

■ See Idea on page 27

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# Send your packages early this holiday season

U.S. Postal Service

It is expected that more holiday gifts and greetings will be sent through the mail this year, as families and friends will hold virtual celebrations instead of opening gifts in person. The Postal Service always encourages customers to send their holiday gifts and cards early. This year is no different.

This has been an extraordinary year of unprecedented challenges given the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Postal Service is expecting significant volume increases, which are difficult to predict. We thank our customers for their continued support and we are committed to making sure gifts and cards are delivered on time to celebrate the holidays.

The Postal Service begins planning for peak holiday season every January. To help handle the expected volume increase, the Postal Service has the ability to flex our network to meet the significant volume increases expected this year. This includes making sure the right equipment is available to sort, process and deliver the expected mail and package volumes. We also have 644,000 employees dedicated to ensuring gifts and greetings are delivered in time for the holidays.

Seasonal workers are hired when and where needed, and technology has been expanded to enhance package tracking throughout the USPS processing and transportation networks. Sunday delivery will be expanded beginning Nov. 29 to locations with high package volumes. The Postal Service already delivers packages on Sundays in most major cities. Mail carriers will also deliver packages for an additional fee on Christmas Day in select locations.

## Busiest mailing and delivery days

The busiest time of the season peaks two weeks before Christmas, when much of the last-minute

## Idea

■ continued from page 25

avoid bringing anything home to him. So when she needed to make a grocery run, she got up early and made the trek to the store. What she found was not convenience and social distancing, but pure chaos.

Since almost everyone in the community was a senior citizen, most of the citizens were there. There were so many people that there was hardly a square foot of the store that didn't have someone already standing in it. Social distancing was impossible. And the lines were clear to the back of the store. Everyone was irritable from getting up early, and the overworked store clerks were not happy.

Tammy decided to turn

shopping starts. Customer traffic is expected to increase beginning Dec. 7, with the week of Dec. 14-21 predicted to be the busiest mailing, shipping and delivery week.

## Skip the trip and ship online

Consumers don't have to leave home to ship their packages. In these socially distant times, they can simply visit [usps.com](http://usps.com) or use the Click-N-Ship feature for help shipping that holiday gift, ordering free Priority Mail boxes, printing shipping labels, purchasing postage and even requesting free next-day Package Pickup. And [usps.com](http://usps.com) is always open.

## 2020 holiday shipping deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office and domestic addresses\*:

- Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO (ZIP Code 093 only) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail.
- Dec. 11 — APO/FPO/DPO (all other ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services.
- Dec. 15 — USPS Retail Ground service.
- Dec. 18 — APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP Code 093) USPS Priority Mail Express service.
- Dec. 18 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards).
- Dec. 18 — First-class packages (up to 15.99 ounces).
- Dec. 19 — Priority Mail service.
- Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express\* service.

## Alaska

- Dec. 18 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. First-Class Mail.
- Dec. 19 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. Priority Mail.
- Dec. 21 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. Priority Mail Express.

## Hawaii

• Dec. 15 — Hawaii to/from mainland Priority Mail and First-Class Mail.

• Dec. 21 — Hawaii to/from mainland Priority Mail Express.

\*Not a guarantee, unless otherwise noted. Dates are for estimated delivery before Dec. 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time, and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed Dec. 22 through Dec. 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted, within two business days.

## More tips

More tips for a successful holiday mailing and shipping season:

- Use free Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. They are available at Post Office locations or online at [usps.com/freeboxes](http://usps.com/freeboxes).
- Make it easy with Click-N-Ship. You can create shipping labels and pay for postage online at [usps.com/ship](http://usps.com/ship).
- Schedule a free Package Pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It's free regardless of the number of packages. Pickups can be scheduled at [usps.com/pickup](http://usps.com/pickup).
- Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 ounces or are more than a half-inch thick and using stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a local Post Office.

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, can be found on the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom at [usps.com/holidaynews](http://usps.com/holidaynews).

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

around and go home. Later in the day, during regular hours, she went back to the store. There were so few cars in the parking lot that she almost wondered if the store was closed. But it was open, and virtually no one was there. She quickly got everything she needed and went to check out. There were no lines, and

some clerks were even waiting for customers to come to their stands.

As she was checking out, Tammy told the clerk about her experience earlier that morning. The clerk nodded.

"In this community, it shouldn't be senior hour—it should be senior day. Every day."

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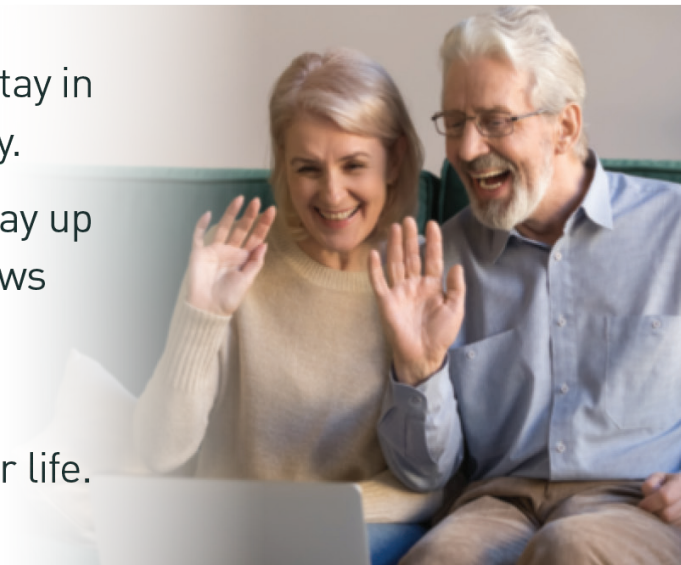
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