



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 113 — NO. 11, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

## County proceeding with new court facility construction

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

At a special board meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, Nov. 24, the board voted to approve a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) proposal from Nunn Construction for the construction of the Archuleta County Combined Courts Facility at Harman Park.

The board was briefed on the proposal by County Administrator Scott Wall.

The GMP approved for the project is \$4,888,036, which will include all the necessary labor, materials and equipment to complete the new facility.

Reynolds Ash and Associates Principle Architect Brad Ash

attended the meeting.

"I think what's being presented to you guys today, was a lot of hard work to just to get it to this number," Ash said.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented, "I definitely like the number you got to as opposed to the preliminary number that we heard out there; that made me fall over."

Wall noted that part of the money paying for the construction of the new facility is the \$1.9 that was awarded from the Underfunded Courthouse Facility Commission.

According to Wall, the new facility will consist of two courtrooms, judge's offices, probation offices, jury rooms and a security area at the entrance of the building.

Wall also noted that parking areas will be constructed.

Wall explained that Nunn has been contracted for a total

of 289 work days, which may vary depending on the number of inclement weather days faced throughout the duration of the project.

In a phone interview, Wall explained that the county contracted Reynolds Ash and Associates to do all the design work for the new facility.

According to an email to The SUN, Wall wrote, "The County has paid Reynolds Ash & Associates \$164,653.87 so far this year for the Courthouse project."

Wall went on to explain that Reynolds Ash and Associates will be available throughout the construction process for Nunn in case there are questions or other design obstacles that may

■ See Court A8

## COVID-19: County moving to Level Red: Severe Risk New outbreaks reported

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

As of Wednesday, 188 cases of COVID-19 had been reported among full-time Archuleta County residents since Nov. 1, making for a cumulative total of 257 cases since late March and pushing Archuleta County into Level Red: Severe Risk.

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) continues to report 39 recovered cases among residents, and is also reporting 72 cases among nonresidents and three outbreaks in Archuleta County.

SJBPH Director of Communication Claire Ninde explained in an email to The SUN that two new outbreaks have been identified "Through a combination of laboratory testing and epidemiological

■ See COVID-19 A8

## COVID-19 testing available

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

To address community demand for COVID-19 testing, multiple free testing events are planned and testing continues to be available through a number of local health care facilities.

San Juan Basin Public Health is again working with Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs to provide free COVID-19 testing, with the next two events set for Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The test site is located at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84.

PSMC also continues to offer

■ See Testing A8



The moon over the mountains made a spectacular display on Saturday.

Photo courtesy Beth Tollefsen

## School district receives \$346,000 in grant funding

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Archuleta School District (ASD), as part of the Southwest Colorado District Collaborative, was recently awarded \$346,000 in grant funding through the state's Response, Innovation, and Student Equity (RISE) Fund.

The collaborative as a whole (which includes Fort Lewis College, Pueblo Community College and five southwest Colorado school districts) was awarded \$3,607,096 "to pool resources and build strong secondary pathways for students in the build trades and environmental science," according to a press release from the

governor's office.

ASD Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza broke the news to the ASD Board of Education on Nov. 10, the same day Gov. Jared Polis officially announced the grant awards.

"It's a huge invigoration of our building trades, horticulture and ... environmental science programming," the superintendent told The SUN last week. "You know, there was a lot of energy around, and probably excitement and anticipation. I think a couple of years ago when Build Pagosa really had an interest in working in partnership with the district around a building trades program,

■ See School A8

## Council approves first reading of rezoning ordinance for Springs Development

By Chris Mannara  
Staff Writer

An ordinance that would rezone the property known as the north parcel of the Springs Development to mixed-use town center (MU-TC) was approved on first reading by the Pagosa Springs Town Council at a regular meeting on Tuesday.

Council member Rory Burnett recused himself from the discussion.

During the meeting, Planning Director James Dickhoff outlined that the applicant, Olympus SLI LLC, submitted a zoning map amendment application requesting the rezoning of the parcel to be changed from mixed-use residential (MU-R) to MU-TC.

The parcel is west and south of The Springs Resort and Spa property that was recently purchased by the owners of The Springs Resort and Spa, agenda documentation notes.

Back in July of 2012, town council approved Ordinance 772, which approved vested property rights for the Springs Development Subdivision's sketch plan, which contemplated a 5th Street bridge to access the parcel.

In January of 2017, town council decided to not move forward with the 5th Street bridge as contemplated in the vested rights agreement, Dickhoff noted.

"In essence, town council's decision not to move forward with

■ See Development A8



## YouthRise walk

Photos courtesy John Finefrock and Cheryl Bowdridge

The student leaders of YouthRise host a "Fall Into Mindfulness" walk at Yamaguchi Park on Saturday. The purpose of the event was to give the community strategies for staying mindful and positive amid these uncertain times.



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# Opinion

## The Pagosa Springs SUN

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11/26	43	20	-	-	-
11/27	46	21	-	-	-
11/28	40	21	-	-	-
11/29	46	15	-	-	-
11/30	44	18	-	-	-

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Respect and unity: Follow my lead

Last spring, when the pandemic came to town, I attempted to encourage others by writing a couple of letters. Many of us believed it would run its course by winter, but we find ourselves in another wave of increased case numbers.

People are short on patience and tired of masks, social distancing, testing and isolation, and it's not over yet. The division and anger generated during the political season, the social unrest and racial tensions make it even more difficult and confusing.

We are bombarded with information from sources that seem reliable, but are not. All of us should evaluate facts and search for truth, but I'm finding it difficult to decide who to trust. Maybe you can relate. For what it's worth, here are some thoughts.

COVID-19 is real. It may be the result of natural causes, or developed in a secret lab. I've heard believable theories for both, but there's no substantiated evidence for either.

Science has undoubtedly established that viruses can be transmitted by droplets in coughs or sneezes, and passed to others by direct or indirect physical contact, or transferred through other organisms such as mosquitos or tapeworms.

Currently, researchers agree that the coronavirus is transmitted as the result of close contact with others who have been infected. Wearing masks, maintaining distance, avoiding social settings where close contact is unavoidable, frequent handwashing, avoiding touching mouth or nose, disinfecting surfaces, and staying home if exhibiting symptoms are strongly advised and/or required.

Some say wearing masks is the most effective way to prevent disease spread. Others believe drastically limiting social contact could stop the spread. Still others propose frequent handwashing and the disinfecting of surfaces as most effective. Some believe the best thing we can do is "shut down" nonessential business and discourage or prohibit social gatherings of any kind. Some say we must strictly enforce all regulations required by the authorities.

Some experts tell us that masks worn by most provide very little protection because the virus can easily pass through the mask's material. I've been told we should let the virus run its course because many who contract it get well after experiencing minor symptoms, just like any flu. They assert that only a small percentage actually die, and many of those are in high-risk categories, suffering from other serious medical issues, who would probably die if infected with a variety of other pathogens.

Many claim that the worst thing we can do is shut down our businesses since that causes more negative consequences than the disease itself. They claim the shutdown of our economy and forced isolation will lead to additional increases of domestic violence, suicide, mental health, other physical illnesses and social unrest resulting from another set of strict regulations.

Locals made changes, suffered setbacks and struggled through the first wave, but some firmly believe they won't survive economically if forced to shut down again. It really doesn't matter where you stand on these controversial issues. You probably

won't change your opinions, and others probably won't change theirs.

We live in a small, but diverse, community. There are young and old; liberals and conservatives; the highly educated and those with limited schooling; the extremely rich and those with little income; the retired and those raising families who work hard to make ends meet; long-time residents and newcomers; those who want to be left alone and those who contribute much to the community; etc. However, most of us are here because we love this place.

So, is it possible to find unity in the midst of our diversity? I hope and pray it is.

The front-page articles in last week's SUN, "Spreading Kindness" and the one about the "Student-led Mindfulness Walk" were very encouraging and thought-provoking for me. Therefore, I'm personally going to do my best to express love and understanding, especially to those who have differing opinions. I can listen better, empathize more, ask questions designed to seek clearer understanding, avoid assumptions, be kinder and continue to promote unity within our community.

I'll respect those who wear masks religiously and those who don't. I'm not afraid of contracting the disease; however, I pray I won't infect another because I disregard their safety and welfare. I suggest we all do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 but show respect. I'll treat people the way I want to be treated. I'm asking you to follow my lead.

God bless you and your loved ones as we work thru these challenges together.  
Donald Volger  
Mayor

## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

### 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 3, 1920

In order to check the spread of small-pox, measles and other contagious diseases in the school district, the board of directors of district No. 1, have adopted the following rules: 1. If any child in a family is absent from school ONE day or more, no member of that family shall be permitted to attend school without presenting to his or her teacher a written certificate signed by a physician, that there is no contagious or infectious disease in that family. 2. No child from a family in which there is or has been a contagious or infectious disease shall be permitted to attend school until the patient or patients have fully recovered and not then until the patient or family has been released from quarantine under the rules of the State Board of Health. 3. No child who has been exposed to a contagious or an infectious disease shall attend school until all danger of contracting such disease shall have been removed by lapse of time or otherwise. Under the rules of the State Board of Health.

### 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 7, 1945

A business deal was completed last Friday whereby Charles and Richard DeVore of Las Animas, Colorado, purchased the Ben Rhodes Grocery and Market. Stock, fixtures and real estate were included in the deal and the DeVore Bros., took possession as of December 1st. The store, under the new ownership will be known as the "Boys Market" and they will continue to handle high class groceries as well as cured and fresh meats, and in addition, will buy farm and ranch produce including cream, eggs, poultry, hides and furs.

A business deal was completed Monday whereby Mary E. Harman purchased the property now occupied by the Goodrich Tailors, from Mr. and Mrs. Omar Henderson. Possession was given at once. Mr. Goodrich has the property under lease and will continue to occupy it for the present. Mrs. Harman plans to eventually remodel the building into apartments, one of which she will occupy herself.

### 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 3, 1970

Two persons were injured Monday morning on Put Hill when the car in which they were riding struck a snowplow head on. The injured, Ida King and Elmer C. King, along with Troy King were en route to attend funeral services for Jim Olsen. Mrs. King's injuries were the most serious.

Disaster grant funds from the federal government have been approved for repair of damages to town water system, sanitation district lines, and county roads. Work is practically complete on repairs to the town water system. Work on county road and bridge repairs and on sanitation district lines is expected to be completed in the not too distant future. In most cases the federal grants have been adequate to completely pay for damages incurred from flood waters.

Snow last weekend was wet and heavy over the area. On Wolf Creek Pass 26 inches fell and it contained more than two inches of moisture. Snow in town was also very wet and heavy.

### 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 7, 1995

An electrical accident sent an employee of La Plata Electric Association to an Albuquerque hospital with burns on his right arm Tuesday. A journeyman lineman for La Plata Electric, was working Tuesday morning in an underground electric box near the intersection of Piedra Road and the Stevens Lake Road with employees of JH Hyline — a La Plata subcontractor. "As far as we can tell," said La Plata manager Russ Lee, "he was clipping a wire, doing a line locate, and his sleeve came into contact with 7200 volts." Lee said the lineman "received electrical burns on his right forearm, but apparently there were no entrance or exit marks. It could have been much worse. He was extremely lucky."

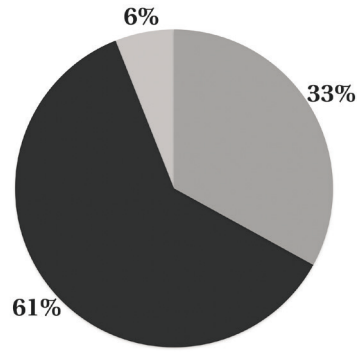
The results of a surprise drug search Tuesday at Pagosa Springs High School turned up no significant evidence, but produced two messages of interest to students and the community. While the dog reacted positively to several lockers in the building, none produced tangible evidence for the authorities — a result that did not disappoint police or school district officials.

## WHADDYA THINK?

### Are area roads in good shape for the winter?

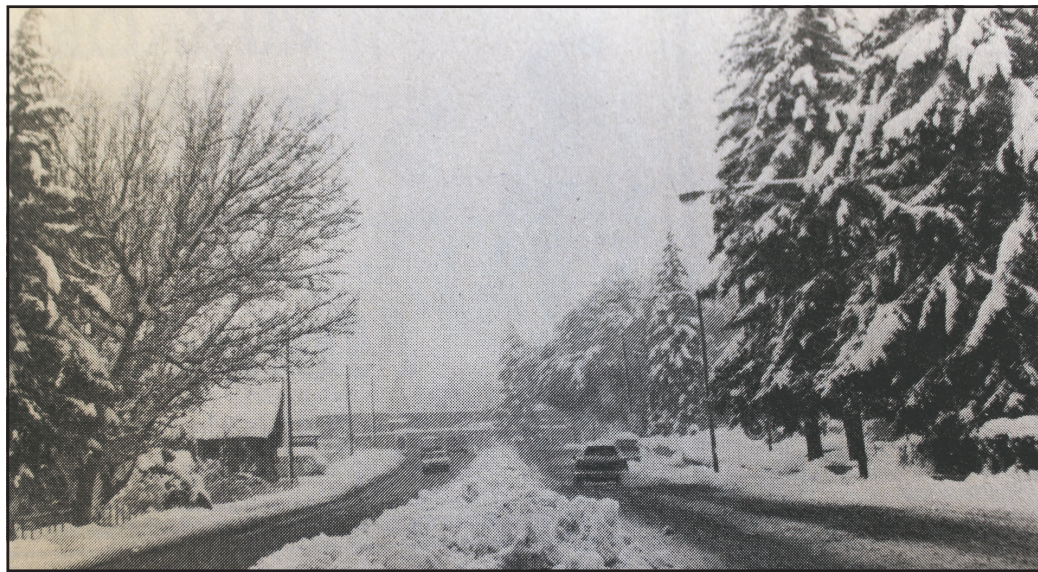
#### Poll results (201 votes)

As long as they are plowed, I am happy. — 33 percent  
No, they are in poor shape. — 61 percent  
Yes, they have been well prepared. — 6 percent



Vote this week online:  
Should local governments allow emergency declarations due to COVID-19 to expire this month?  
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## LOOKING BACK



From the Nov. 23, 1983, Pagosa Springs SUN.

WINTER IS HERE — The official measurements indicate 20.5 inches of snow fell in Pagosa Springs between 7 a.m. November 18 and 7 a.m. November 21. The snow continued to fall and pile up on Pagosa Street Monday and Tuesday.



# Letters



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

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

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

## Wolves

Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate the majority of voters who voted against the reintroduction of wolves. Although it is still too close to call statewide, Archuleta County overwhelmingly voted against reintroduction. There were many factors during the election that showed that our children were brainwashed at schools to write letters for reintroduction.

Also, Mr. Robert Lecour provided information which does not bear out on actual facts. The wolves in Yellowstone have decimated the deer, elk, and mountain sheep populations. The number of wolves have increased radically and they are migrating out of Yellowstone into other areas and some have relocated in northwestern Colorado.

Back in the early days, one of my ancestors (Fred Confar) was instrumental along with Garland Caulk in reducing the wolf population. One winter in 1920 they killed 21 wolves and received \$100 bounty for each wolf from the Denver Post who had placed the bounty. In 1924, my father (Lloyd Anderson) and Manley Hott who were working respectively for the Chromo area cattlemen and the Allison area cattlemen in the big pastures (O'Neill Park) one morning went out to check the cattle and found 13 head gutted and hamstringed and only one killed. The others had to be destroyed. Robert Henry, President of the Chromo Cattle Company, and Bobby Hott, President of the Allison Cattle Company, coordinated their efforts and hired a Wolfher from Montana to come in. This Wolfher, took out 21 wolves of which seven were adults which solved the wolf problem in O'Neill Park.

In John Motter's "50 Years Ago" book, it shows Fred Confar with two wolves that he killed near the Shahan Ranch (now the Bramwell Ranch) in Chromo. He was riding one morning in six inches of new snow and found a steer belonging to Pet Crowley that had been killed by two wolves and had been partially eaten. He stripped off his saddle and followed the tracks and shot both wolves. The pictures show Fred Confar and his wife Nellie with the two wolves. Further, my father killed one of the last wolves in Hindsdale County near the Big Sand River in the Weminuche area

in 1944.

Wolves are not beneficial in any way, shape, or form, and are detrimental to the environment. If we want to control the wildlife populations such as deer and elk, we can do this through hunting. Further, wolves in the past, caused the coyote population to be depleted.

In conclusion, I strongly feel through past experiences that the wolf reintroduction would be detrimental to the State of Colorado.

Franklin Anderson

## Medicare

Dear Editor:

A Pagosa friend called me and said, "could you put on your lawyer hat, and give me your opinion...?" "Of course," I responded.

She told me about Medicare Supplement Insurance and outlined her understanding of a couple different plans.

I'm healthy. I've never had supplemental insurance, or a prescription drug plan. I've been enrolled in Medicare for many years. I rarely have enough medical costs to reach my deductible. But, because my friend was so emphatic, I decided to reconsider my attitude and position.

What I discovered is quite extraordinary. Bottom line: for less money - zero cost, I can engage a company paid by Medicare to manage its system, and provide hearing, vision, and dental coverage, which are not included in Part A or B of Medicare.

Plus an "OTC...over the counter" program: a stipend to spend every three months for typical drug-store type products, like vitamins, allergy pills, toothpaste; and other stuff found at stores.

Each plan offers prescription drug assistance. They segregate drugs into "tiers" and relatively common or generic drugs fit into Tier 1, such as blood-pressure drugs. The highest cost for a Tier 1 drug is \$2.00. That's for a 90 day supply. And, if ordered online and mailed, it's free.

But, there's a kicker. Medicare created a penalty provision. As said, I never had a "drug plan". Why pay for something I don't use. Right? Guess what. Medicare penalizes anyone on Medicare who has not paid for prescription drug coverage.

The rep at Medicare told me it's like requiring car insurance even if you're a safe driver. Just in case you get in an accident.

The rep figures out the additional penalty cost, which is added to the Medicare fee taken out of the Social Security check each month... "in perpetuity". Meaning: so long as I'm alive and receiving social security, I pay.

I haven't completed all my research. The deadline is December 7, and I'm quite sensitive to deadlines. Any plan I take will be met with the added 'forever penalty' for being healthy, and not needing prescription drugs.

Obviously, this comment indicates how I think and feel about such an imposition of a penalty for not having drug coverage.

This is another topic for a written opinion. I'll be writing to U.S. local and national representatives in addition to the Social Security Administration.

Substantial Advantage Plan savings occur in the reduction of medical costs such as doctor visits, hospital stays, emergency room calls and other associated events such as diagnostic and other forms of laboratory or other tests, surgery, and the like. The co-pays on many of these services are nothing-zero. And, there are many more benefits.

My suggestion is to look into these plans. There's a plethora of information, but you can do it.

Constance d'Angelis

## Give them a chance

Dear Editor:

It now appears that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have won. While those of us who voted for them are relieved, I know that those of you who supported Trump are anxious about what will come. We have

felt the same way for the last four years. We were told to give Trump a chance, and I will give you the same advice about the Biden/Harris administration. Rhetoric during a campaign can get over-heated, to say the least, so I would like to share some things that will not happen during the coming four years.

First of all, no one is coming after your hunting rifles and side arms. It didn't happen during Obama's term, and it will not happen during Biden's. I hope you will see more research into the causes of gun violence which has been stalled until now. The public overwhelmingly supports universal background checks, and we may see that passed.

Secondly, the police are not going to be defunded. In fact, President-elect Biden has proposed increasing support for local police departments by 300 million dollars. Reform will be on the agenda because no one should want the very few officers who cannot learn how to deescalate situations or who have prejudices against minorities on any police force.

Middle class taxes will not go up. Biden has pledged not to raise taxes on anyone making over \$400,000 a year. I imagine most of us would love to be in the income bracket that will have to pay more taxes.

Private health insurance will still be available. If a public option is passed, you can still be able to get private insurance.

Cattle will still be on our ranches, and beef will still be in the grocery store. This was one of the more outrageous claims made during the campaign.

Fracking on privately owned land will not be outlawed.

There is no such thing as a deep state. Civil servants are non-partisan employees who contribute a lot to keeping our country running.

There are many serious problems facing our country, and people of good will will disagree on how to solve them and what role government will play. My hope is that we can rationally and calmly debate solutions, base our decisions on science, and compromise enough so that progress can be made.

Lynn R. Frederick

■ See Letters A4

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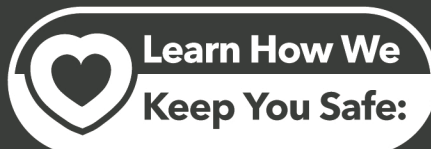
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## Letters

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

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution. There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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# Letters

■ Continued from A3

## Colorado Gives Day

Dear Editor:

Serving as a prior Board Member of the Community Foundation serving SW Colorado and being involved in establishing the 19th Hole Concerts locally I have been given the opportunity to view our non-profit community through a new lens. This is a lens of genuine appreciation for the work of nonprofit organizations within Archuleta County as they bring services to all facets of our community.

I recognize that these organizations are the heartbeat of our county and the people who work and volunteer at them are generous with their talents and time. This is where food is made available to those who are hungry, a safe environment to those in need, care for animals that have been abandoned, recreational opportunities for young and not so young. Other organizations set times and places designed for us to experience the arts, obtain counseling, encouragement and so much more.

This month we all have the opportunity to be a part of the nonprofit heartbeat within Archuleta County. The "GiveWhere you Live" campaign is accessible to you through a safe, secure and user-friendly online platform on The Community Foundation serving SW Colorado website. Go to [www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org) and using our local zip code see the eleven Archuleta County nonprofits participating in Colorado Gives Day. Join them in the work they do by making a generous donation and know that you are a part of the heartbeat that brings life to our community.

Janis Johnson

## Robbed

Dear Editor:

I, and the few others allowed to watch, witnessed a robbery Saturday. The chance to compete with a full squad in the state quarterfinal game was stolen from the PSHS Football Team. How? A number of key players were fulfilling their remaining few days of quarantine. The 15 non-quarantined (14 non-injured) players set out to defeat Eaton's full-strength squad. Our athletes gave absolutely everything after having practiced only once (the day before) in the previous two weeks due to quarantines. Many played positions they'd never played and had only practiced at for 2 hours the day before. They fought. They exhibited class. They never gave up. Half the players were cramping throughout the game, but still battled. I have never in my life been so heartbroken while watching a defeat. What really shattered me was when two brothers watching the game quarantined in their car—helpless while their brother and teammates gave everything—sent a text to their mom towards the end asking if they could "go love on [their] team when it was over". They asked permission to break their last few days of quarantine so that they could go be with their team at the end, to love on their literal and figurative brothers, to stand as one at the end of the season. Spoiler alert: they weren't allowed on the field. More than half our squad still had few days of quarantines. Two of those Varsity players are brothers to the Varsity QB and family to other household members who were on the field Saturday. The quarantines of Varsity athletes included not one positive case, just contact with an athlete in the game 15 days prior, and then, for some, classroom "contact" with a student a few days later. That's why in a single household, quarantine time varied, allowing one brother on the field but not the other two. Our healthy athletes who never exhibited symptoms were robbed of their playoff

game after an undefeated season because of a couple remaining quarantine days. How is this about saving lives? According to the CDC, the 0-19 age group has a 99.997% survival rate for COVID. Consider also this from Robert Redfield, CDC Director, in July: "There has been another cost that we've seen, particularly in high schools. We're seeing, sadly, far greater suicides than deaths from COVID. We're seeing far greater deaths from overdose" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTlo28gb7KY>). What are we doing to the lives of healthy people? To healthy kids? We already watched our girls basketball season end prematurely, but "at least" the other semi-final teams faced the same outcome because of the unknown at the time. But now, more than eight months later, and 99.997% (...), it's still happening. I have many of these kids in class and it is devastating to watch what is happening to their lives, the magnitude of which is yet to be realized. This was not about saving lives.

Katie Lorenzen

## Vaccines

Dear Editor:

We've heard a lot of good news about coronavirus vaccines lately. From Moderna vaccine to the Pfizer vaccine to the Oxford vaccine, science is working, and help is on the way.

Since the start of the race for a COVID-19 vaccine, the U.S. government has funneled more than \$10 billion in taxpayer dollars to pharmaceutical companies for a vaccine. The Moderna vaccine is 100% taxpayer funded; Moderna spent zero of its own dollars on it. Of the \$2.5 billion it received, \$1 billion initially funded the research and development and \$1.5 billion was granted to secure doses in advance, with no guarantee that vaccines will be affordable.

Typically, taxpayers pay for about 80% of drug research. Almost every new drug begins with NIH-funded labs. The three main funding sources for pharmaceutical research are: National Institute for Health (NIH), University labs (often funded by taxpayers), and non-profit organizations like the Gates Foundation.

Often the private drug firms enter the picture only after the public has paid for the development and clinical trials of new treatments.

No corporation owns the vaccines, yet. We need governments and multilateral organizations working together to direct as many companies and institutions as possible to produce and distribute the vaccines.

Every one of the vaccines are the people's vaccine, funded with tax dollars. The coronavirus vaccines should be free for all Americans, regardless of their ability to pay.

Jan Phillips  
Durango

## Support for restaurants

Dear Editor:

These words by Edmund Everett Hale always help when I feel overwhelmed by all the fear and uncertainty in our world:

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the one thing I can do."

Many small kindnesses can collectively make a big difference in any situation.

My concern is for the small businesses and the people whose income depends upon them. Having worked in restaurants for forty years and knowing how insecure those jobs can be, my focus is mostly on the restaurants in our town. They are struggling to stay open now. This winter could be disastrous with the covid infections rising.

We who used to go out to our favorite restaurant once or even twice a week can still order "to go." If we don't feel safe eating food cooked by others during this uptick in covid cases, we can buy gift certificates to use later. We can also simply write a check for what we would have spent and donate that as a "sponsor" who wants to help keep the people working and also wants to keep their favorite places in business until we can fully open and meet together again.

Small things add up. We can't just be fair-weather customers. We need to stick by our friends in the hard times, too. They need our support now.

Bonnie Runyan

## Voting fraud

Dear Editor:

I was troubled by Charles Wenzel's letter to the editor (26 Nov 2020) entitled "How they did it." All but the last three paragraphs reshaped the plea of computer scientist Alex Halderman to stop using electronic voting machines. That plea, available on youtube, is worth watching and considering (though Archuleta County does use paper ballots, so the problem does not seem to apply to our locale).

This story did not trouble me.

What troubled me a bit was Charles Wenzel's next two paragraphs. Therein a few numbers are juggled around, so it takes a moment to really sort out what argument is being presented. But here's the gist: Because the vote count shows that more people voted for Joe Biden this year than voted for Barack Obama in 2008, the vote count must be fraudulent.

Read that again to make sure you're with me.

The conclusion of fraud (or mistakes, or "shenanigans") does not follow from the evidence presented. But the article goes on to say that the results of this year's election are a "statistical impossibility." I didn't see any statistical work in the article, so I'm not sure why this statement is there. However, the only numerical evidence we could look for would be if the total number of votes cast in this year's election turned out to be higher than the number of eligible voters. Those numbers are easy to assess. Biden received 80 million votes and Trump received 73.9 million votes, for a total of 153.9 million votes. The population of eligible voters in the United States exceeds 200 million. (Please run the numbers yourself to double-check my work.) There is no "statistical impossibility" implicit in one candidate receiving 80 million and the other receiving 73.9 million.

I suspect that the real reason for the accusation of fraud is that the author wanted Trump to win.

I have no qualms with my fellow citizens wanting one candidate to win over another. I am, however, deeply troubled when one declares that because his or her favored candidate did not win the results are fraudulent. When we declare that the essential principle of our system of government—voting and the freedom to do so—is corrupt, then we invite revolution. Historically, revolutions are bloody affairs. We had better have the greatest weight of evidence on our side before we use our right of free speech to declare that our democracy is invalid. After all, if prospective revolutionaries believe that our present rights of speech and voting are not getting the job done, what system of government will they institute instead? Who has found a better one?

I would hate to get to the other side of the revolution and discover that the real fraud was the argument for it.

Emrys Tyler

## 'Points of light'

Dear Editor:

The whole world has witnessed

a miracle: something that hangs on its own in mid-air, without natural support or explanation. Something not only implausible but, otherwise, impossible.

We know the time and place it occurred: on November 4th in the heartland of America, between 3 and 6 AM. Like steps that lead from one floor to the next, or the logic that leads to a truth, similar natural occurrences have all been accompanied by the evidence.

This miracle is 'President Elect Biden,' which defies common sense and turns logic on its head.

1. Since 1980, 19 bellwether counties have voted for the eventual Presidential winner...except for this year, when 95% [18] voted for Trump and 5% [1] voted for Biden.

2. Since 1852, the winner of FL, OH, and Iowa won the Presidency [except 1960, when suspected voter fraud in Democrat controlled Chicago gave a narrow victory to Kennedy]. When these 3 states were won together, MI, WI, and PA always voted with them. Trump won all three and—without hanky panky—all 6. For the latter 3 Trump had massive leads until the counting process was inexplicably shut down for 'adjustments.'

3. Biden got less than 90% of the black vote, which accompanies a national election loss for a Democrat. And though Trump increased his black vote by 50% and his Hispanic vote by 34%, he lost? Biden's black vote under performed in every Democrat city but in Detroit, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia: the 3 cities necessary for him to win MI, WI, and PA and the electoral college.

4. Biden won a record low 17% [524] of US counties, well below the record 873 Obama won in '08. Yet Biden shattered Obama's record vote total by over 10-million votes?

5. The norm is for the Presidential winner to have 'coattails' which help down-ballot races for their party. Yet of the 27 'toss-up' races in the House, Republicans won every one and kept the Senate as well. Biden's party won zero.

Also, President Trump got more votes than any previous incumbent, with 11-million more votes than in 2016. This was the first national election where untested mail-in ballots were widely used. Mail-in ballots are outlawed in Europe due to their being an insecure system ripe for fraud. And Canada won't use computers in their elections, only paper ballots.

75% of Republicans and 30% of Democrats believe this election was stolen from Trump, and without mail-in fraud and the use of Dominion software he would have been re-elected in a landslide.

So, when you see an on-line post with the disclaimer, "This claim about election fraud is disputed," realize you've uncovered a truth that the First Amendment suppressing children at Big Tech don't want you to know. Consider such posts to be points of light in a deep,

■ See Letters A5

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# Business

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## El Pomar Foundation approves \$122,000 to nonprofits in southwest region

By Megan Sanders  
El Pomar Foundation

Grant funding of \$122,000 will support the work of nonprofits in the southwest region. El Pomar trustees approved grant allocations to 22 nonprofit organizations in the southwest region at the foundation's October trustees meeting.

Through the foundation's grant-making process, the following Archuleta County organizations were awarded grants:

- Archuleta County Education Center Inc. of Pagosa Springs — \$5,000 for the Wings Early Childhood Center; regional merit.

- Community United Methodist Church of Pagosa Springs — \$2,500 to support the food pantry at John Paul II Catholic Church; regional merit.

merit.

- Pagosa Springs Arts Council — \$2,500 for the Goodman's mural public art project; regional merit.

- TARA Historical Society of Arboles — \$2,000 for auxiliary building restoration; competitive.

- Town of Pagosa Springs — \$3,000 for K.I.D.S. Camp; Karl E. Eitel Fund.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general purpose grant making throughout the state of Colorado. The competitive process remains the foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding, which accepts applications on a rolling basis.

Additionally, over the last 80 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the

stewardship of a number of other funds, as well as presenting trustee merit grants. Since 2003, El Pomar's Regional Partnerships program has also provided invaluable support to 11 regions statewide, representing all 64 Colorado counties, led by more than 70 community leaders on regional councils, in an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state.

The Karl E. Eitel fund honors the legacy of Eitel, who served as a trustee of El Pomar Foundation for 23 years. He was a strong advocate for youth and youth development, and this fund recognizes supports organizations that serve at-risk youth throughout Colorado.

To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant-making areas, please visit the website at <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/>.

## Pagosa Springs Medical Center's net income on par with budget through October

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs Medical Center's net income was on par with budget at the end of October despite the facility having a net loss of \$392,680 on the month, according to a report given by Chief Financial Officer Chelle Keplinger on Nov. 17.

Keplinger presented both the September and October financials to the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors, which oversees PSMC, at its Nov. 17 meeting.

### September financials

Before delving into October's numbers, Keplinger briefly reported September's numbers to the board, indicating that there was one area of interest in the figures.

In September, PSMC recorded gross revenues totaling \$5,029,800.

Of that, PSMC received \$2,549,655 in net revenues, which Keplinger noted is "pretty good."

PSMC posted expenses totaling \$2,986,786 for the month.

Keplinger then pointed out the month's net income totaled a negative \$1,753,910.

"This is the topic of concern," she said, explaining that a rules change with federal stimulus funding meant PSMC needed to pull that funding from its bottom line.

PSMC received \$1,692,630 in stimulus funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As a written report from Keplinger and the Finance Committee explains, "Prior to September, PSMC brought in \$1.6M of CARES Act as income based upon the initial CARES Act guidance that allowed PSMC to apply CARES Act funds to revenues under budget at the Medicare rate."

The report further states, "With the most recently changed rules from the federal government, PSMC will be able to use CARES Act funds to make up any loss of 2020 year-end actual net revenue compared to 2019 audited actual year-end net revenue of \$1,188,618."

The written report indicates the rules change will also affect other areas of how PSMC planned to apply the stimulus funding, including PSMC's HVAC construction and equipment costs.

Keplinger told the board of directors that PSMC is working with the auditors to determine what funding can be brought in and what can't be.

### October financials

At \$5,698,941, PSMC's gross revenue for October came in 3.76 percent ahead of budget and 1.21 percent behind the prior year.

Year to date through October, PSMC's gross revenue sits at \$50,813,839 — almost \$2 million, or 3.61 percent, behind budget and 1.45 percent lower than the prior year.

Net patient revenue for October came in at \$2,643,191, which is about \$15,000 below budget and almost \$256,000 below the

prior year.

Year to date, PSMC's net revenue is \$42,763 above budget, with actual net revenue sitting at \$26,435,876 through October. That figure is 1.02 percent, or \$271,523 lower than the same period in 2019.

PSMC's expenses were above budget in October, with Keplinger explaining that PSMC looked to stock up on PPE during the month.

For October, expenses totaled \$3,365,923 — \$202,246 over budget and \$387,302 more than 2019.

Year to date through October, PSMC's expenses total \$30,156,376, which is \$283,679 under budget and \$533,712 more than the prior year.

PSMC also logged \$306,775 in grants, 340B and tax revenue for October.

For October, PSMC logged a net loss of \$392,680, compared to a budgeted loss of \$301,673. In the prior year, PSMC posted a net income of \$55,921.

Year to date, PSMC's net income sat at \$577,935 at the end of October, which is ahead of budget by \$6,623, but below 2019's year-to-date net income of \$919,375.

Keplinger further reported that PSMC is down to 48.4 gross days in accounts receivable, which garnered responses such as "that's awesome" from the board.

The previous month, PSMC was at 53.9. In March 2019, the figure was 78.4.

As of October, PSMC had 51.9 days of cash on hand.

Board member Dr. Jim Pruitt

asked if PSMC will meet its cash-on-hand requirements on its bonds, with Keplinger responding affirmatively.

Keplinger further noted that PSMC was on target to meet budgeted revenues in November.

### Patient counts

As part of the October data, Keplinger also presented October year-to-date information regarding the numbers of patients PSMC has seen in different areas of its operations.

Through October, PSMC had recorded 570 inpatient days, compared to 854 in 2019 and 1,028 in 2018.

For the same period, PSMC had 327 observation patients (which are paid for by the hour instead of by the day), compared to 308 in 2019 and 354 in 2018.

Through October, PSMC logged 5,107 emergency room visits — more than 2019's 4,391 in the same period and less than 2018's 5,617.

PSMC logged 796 surgeries through October, compared to 707 in 2019 and 849 in 2018.

It was noted that PSMC had surgery shut down from March 18 until April 26 due to the pandemic.

The number of rural health clinic visits was down through October, with 16,527 in 2020, 17,786 in 2019 and 20,741 in 2018.

Radiology visits increased, with 11,694 through October, compared with 8,311 in 2019 and 9,531 in 2018.

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## Voting opens Dec. 7 for 2021 Chamber board nominees

By Mary Jo Coulehan  
Pagosa Springs Area  
Chamber of Commerce

With over 400 members registered with the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, businesses have their yearly opportunity to vote for the incoming 2021 board of director candidates.

Every year, the Chamber rotates off three board members and three new board members join the group for a three-year stint. This rotation process lends itself to a variety of businesses being represented on the Chamber board while giving the board a combination of experience and fresh ideas.

Every year, the Chamber presents

a slate of six candidates to the membership. Of those six, three people are chosen. We encourage our businesses to really look at the slate of candidates and not just vote for the people they may know, but the candidates' experience and business sector they represent.

This year's slate of candidates are: Eric Hittle, Curtis Nehring, Shane Prince, Marissa Talamante, Robin Young (Colorado Extension agent) and Tabitha Zappone.

These candidates are community involved, business savvy and dedicated to contributing to their time and knowledge to be a voice for the business community.

Voting begins Monday, Dec. 7, and will last for a month. The results

will be announced shortly thereafter once the votes are tallied and verified.

As a business owner, how do you vote? That part is easy. Only Chamber members are allowed to cast a ballot for the candidates. Members can access the voting through the Chamber website at [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com) on the home page. From the voting graphic, you can view the candidate biography informational sheet and cast your vote.

For those who do not want to vote online, you can call us with your votes or stop by our offices and view the candidate board sheet and cast your ballot. Members are allowed one ballot per business. If

you have multiple businesses listed as a Chamber member, you can cast the equal number of ballots per business. You can vote for up to three candidates per ballot. Should you cast multiple ballots, all of your votes will be disqualified. Should you vote for more than three candidates, your ballot will be disqualified.

This is an opportunity for our Chamber membership to elect three representatives to help be the voice of the business community. The voting process takes only minutes, yet it is important for our business community to weigh in on its board members. Don't miss this opportunity to cast your ballot. Should you have any questions, please contact the Chamber at 264-2360.



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# Hazard pay approved for PSMC employees

By **Randi Pierce**  
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 17 meeting, the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) voted unanimously to approve hazard pay for the medical center's employees.

The funding for the hazard pay comes from PSMC's portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and is an allowable use of the funding, according to the resolution approved by the board.

"Hazard pay is fitting for medical center employees who have shouldered additional burdens due to the COVID-19 pandemic,"

the resolution states, continuing, "PSMC staff have all endured substantial workload, high stress and additional risks in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Per the approved resolution, PSMC will pay every staff member hazard pay except for senior leadership (the CEO, chief operating officer, chief administrative officer and chief financial officer) up to \$1,000, with that amount dependent upon the number of months the employee worked shifts during the pandemic since March.

That, the document outlines, comes at a total cost of \$254,190, which includes hazard payments totaling \$229,000 and PSMC's retirement and payroll taxes contributions.

"PSMC staff are essential to effectively responding to the pandemic in our community and the work of PSMC staff is valued and should be supported with the proposed hazard pay," the resolution states.

In presenting the resolution to the board, CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb explained that every employee who took a voluntary salary reduction or who volunteered during the pandemic before PSMC received the CARES Act funding has been made whole.

"It's been a very busy time for everybody trying to prepare us to make this a safe place to take care of patients," Webb said, adding, "They've had a lot of work and there's a lot of stress involved in knowing that every patient you take

care of could cause you personal health risks."

Chelle Keplinger, PSMC's chief financial officer, noted they felt pretty strongly about the hazard pay, outlining the types of extra tasks required.

Board member Mark Zeigler, who also sits on the finance committee, noted that the finance committee "definitely recommended" the adoption of the resolution.

"As an employer myself, I mean, to have those employees stick by your side through all this is very valuable," he said.

In response to questioning from board member Dr. Jim Pruitt, Keplinger explained the use of funds has been vetted with the auditors and given the go-ahead.

"I don't see why you guys wouldn't be eligible for that, too," board Chair Greg Schulte said, acknowledging the graciousness of the senior leadership and suggesting the board consider including them in the funding.

"We're good," Webb said, with other members of the senior leadership team echoing the sentiment.

With that, a motion was made and approved with a 7-0 vote of the board.

In other business, the board approved a resolution outlining a fundraising goal that would allow PSMC to purchase a 3D mammography machine using grant funding and donations as part of a women's health initiative.

Earlier in the meeting, Webb explained that the machine would cost \$422,000 — \$50,000 of which had already been raised from two donors.

Webb indicated the machine would help with imaging of more patients and could save patients who choose a 3D mammogram travel time to other facilities.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Fire Protection District

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) partnered with the Town of Pagosa Springs to complete debris pile burning on Nov. 30. Pile contents consisted of brush, tree limbs and other nonhazardous wood products from fire mitigation projects in town right of way access. PFPD remained on scene all day to provide water and ensure safe burning conditions. The site will be monitored for several additional days by both PFPD staff and town staff.

## Commissioners hear update on Community Marijuana Impact Fund

By **Clayton Chaney**  
Staff Writer

At a work session held Tuesday, Nov. 24, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners heard from Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver in regard to the Community Marijuana Impact Fund.

Weaver reported that the fund now has a balance of \$10,725, after no awards were made this year.

According to Archuleta County's paralegal and executive assistant, Mary Helmski, the fund had a balance of \$9,775 at the end of 2019.

In an email to The SUN, Helmski clarified that only one award was made in 2019, which was a \$625 scholarship awarded to the Archuleta County School District.

In 2018, three scholarships were awarded, consisting of \$1,000 awarded to Pagosa Peaks Volleyball, \$500 awarded to Pagosa Peak Open School and \$500 awarded to Pagosa Youth Soccer.

According to Helmski's email, "The guidelines for awarding these funds was that the funds would be used to develop awareness within

Archuleta County about marijuana in general and programs available to help Archuleta County citizens and children in general make positive lifestyle choices."

The fund was created through Resolution 2018-28 on July 3, 2018. As part of the resolution, 10 percent of all license, operating or other fees received by the county from marijuana establishments is collected and held by the county in a designated account.

In an interview, Weaver explained that the funds come from marijuana establishments that apply for operating licenses, renew their license or transfer their license. The fees were established in the county's original marijuana ordinance established in 2014.

Weaver explained that the fund balance has been accumulating over the years.

According to Helmski's email, "these collected funds would be distributed by the BoCC after receiving recommendations from a panel comprised of members from the community."

The resolution has not been updated since its inception in 2018, nor has the marijuana ordinance.

According to Weaver, he expects that the county will look to revise the original marijuana ordinance, along with the resolution, in the first quarter of 2021.

"It's [the marijuana ordinance] rather dated and the state has really changed quite a bit of the regulations when it comes to medical and recreational marijuana, so we're going to revisit it next year," Weaver said.

According to Helmski, she is "Currently working on updating the grant application, which will place stricter guidelines on having the funds be used for marijuana education and assembling the prior community member panel."

Also stated in Helmski's email is that she hopes to add one or two new members to the community panel.

The panel will make recommendations for awards and then present its recommendations to the commissioners for them to decide on.

The previous maximum grant amount allowed for up to \$5,000 to be awarded to an individual organization.

"I'm not sure yet if this will stay

the same or not," Helmski stated.

According to Helmski and Weaver, there are currently no distinct restrictions as to which organizations can apply for the award, whether they are government departments, nonprofit organizations or local businesses.

Helmski explained that in order to be approved for an award, the applicant must submit a plan that outlines how they will use the funds to promote education and awareness regarding marijuana and healthy lifestyle choices for citizens of Archuleta County.

Helmski also stated in her email, "I'm hoping to have an award date for sometime in the first quarter of 2021."

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## Town sanitation district approves 2021 budget

By **Chris Mannara**  
Staff Writer

At a special meeting of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) on Monday, the 2021 budget for the district was approved.

According to the 2021 budget for the PSSGID, revenues are set at \$1,978,108, which is a decrease from the 2020 estimate of \$2,079,767.

Total expenditures for the PSSGID are listed within the 2021 budget at \$1,308,117, which is a slight increase from the 2020 estimate of \$1,262,688.

chris@pagosason.com

expected to be \$4,266,684, according to Town Manager Andrea Phillips.

"In the capital fund there is a lot of capital projects and programs, as well as equipment and vehicle purchases within the capital fund, including our debt service on prior capital projects and our leased equipment," Phillips said.

Capital fund revenues are noted within the 2021 budget to be \$6,223,291. This is a decrease from the 2020 estimate of \$10,022,013.

Capital fund expenditures are

projected to be \$5,422,338, Phillips noted.

Lodgers' tax fund revenues are set at \$1,773,804 within the 2021 budget. This is an increase from the 2020 estimate of \$1,650,375.

Expenditures for the lodgers' tax fund are set at \$787,136 within the 2021 budget. This is a slight increase from the 2020 estimated budget of \$774,701.

"The total for all six funds within this 2021 budget is \$10,990,335," she added.

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# Don Volger: the many sides of the mayor

By Simone Mounsamy  
Staff Writer

Have you met the mayor, Don Volger? Perhaps while working on the police force or while he was chief? Or maybe on the leadership team at Crossroad Christian Fellowship? Maybe he changed your entire view of what it means to be a hunter during a hunters' education class.

Volger has been a leader in many arenas of our community since he moved to Pagosa in 1973. He moved here when he was 20 years old, newly married and looking for a job, he explained in a recent phone interview. His dad was the manager at Pagosa Lodge and construction was booming in the area.

Once he got here, he fell in love with the mountains and the people.

"It felt like home," he said.

So, Volger decided to stay a while.

These days, Volger is active on the Pagosa Springs Town Council, having served for four consecutive terms, two as mayor. He is also active in his church and in the hunting community.

When asked why he ran for mayor, Volger's response implied that the motivation took some searching.

"Initially, Ross Aragon was mayor and I didn't intend to run against him. But when he decided not to run ... I got support, and though I didn't want to, I prayed about it and thought a lot about it, and felt like maybe it was something I was supposed to do."

Having served as mayor for seven years, Volger's second term is up next year.

"I have volunteered on some different boards," Volger said.

He volunteers with *Aspire*, an organization that offers low-cost and confidential medical services, parenting classes, mentoring, and free resources to both men and women.

"We still provide services," Volger said.

He is also currently on the leadership team at Crossroad

Christian Fellowship.

Shari Pierce, town council member, explained that Volger begins each council meeting with a moment of silence. She believes that this comes from his Christian background.

Hunting has been another prominent part of Volger's life. He has had more than one leadership role in the hunting community in Pagosa. Women's Outdoor Weekend was an outdoor skills course for women and was sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

"There were a lot of shooting events," Volger recalled, "with stations set up for shotguns, rifles, .22s, handguns."

Even though he was not a certified instructor for those courses, Volger noted he would usually assist in teaching handguns.

This year's Women's Outdoor Weekend was canceled due to the pandemic, and Volger added, "We'll see about next year."

Volger remains an instructor for hunters' education classes. Students can range from age 7 "all the way up to older than me," Volger said.

"When you purchase a license to hunt, hunter's ed is required," Volger said. Usually, part of the class can be completed online, while another part must be done in person.

When asked what key points are being taught in the classes, Volger replied, "We drill down on safety ... We try to spend more time on ethics and responsibility."

Volger said it's important to ask questions like: Why does one choose to hunt? Is it valuable? Is it right for you?

"We are required to teach it anyway. We don't want to just focus on the mechanics of shooting a gun," Volger said of hunters' ethics.

Volger himself identifies as more of a bowhunter, he explained.

When Volger was young he heard stories of his grandfather who was a hunter. Then, in Boy Scouts, he got to shoot a bow and arrow.

"That was the initial," Volger



Don Volger

said, speaking of his inspiration.

He got into archery in college and wanted to get back into hunting when he moved to Pagosa.

"It was all Tracy Bunning's fault," Volger said of how he got into teaching hunters' ed. Volger taught his first hunters' education class with Bunning in 1981.

The most rewarding part of teaching the classes is two things, Volger explained.

He said that those are "Young kids that have taken the classes who have gone on to be great hunters and outfitters ... and when light bulbs go on for older students and they have a renewed

appreciation for what hunting really is."

That is a deeper connection with wild places, Volger describes, and being more in touch with it in a vital way.

Volger spoke of admiration for the town throughout the interview.

"I still love the folks at Pagosa Springs so much," he said. "We have so much potential here, and it's not just the beautiful environment, the mountains, the wildlife or the type of living. It's about the people. We have some incredible people."

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## Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

### Thursday, Dec. 3

**Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners Underfunded Courthouse Facility commission application presentations.** 8:30 a.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

**Dispatch Executive Management board meeting.** 9:30 a.m., virtual meeting. Web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7186713647>, meeting ID: 718 671 3647.

**Town of Pagosa Springs Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.** 5:30 p.m. See town website for participation information.

### Saturday, Dec. 5

**San Juan Water Conservancy District work session — Strategic Plan.** 5 p.m. Visit [sjwcd.org](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398449146) 24 hours prior for Zoom information and agenda.

### Tuesday, Dec. 8

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

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

**Archuleta School District Board of Education.** 6 p.m. Virtual Zoom meeting.

**Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting and Board of Trustees of the Pagosa Fire Protection District Firemen's Pension Fund meeting.** 6:30 p.m., administration building, 165 N. Pagosa Blvd.

### Wednesday, Dec. 9

**Upper San Juan Library District board meeting.** 4 p.m. Zoom meeting. Join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398449146>.

**Pagosa Springs Community De-**

**velopment Corporation regular meeting.** 5:30 p.m. Zoom login: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89609739191?pwd=N2lmVVWpXcG8yVHZqeWZsSjJlSkJkQT09>.

### Thursday, Dec. 10

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

**San Juan Water Conservancy District monthly meeting — Budget.** 9 a.m. Visit [sjwcd.org](https://sjwcd.org) 24 hours prior for Zoom information and agenda.

### Monday, Dec. 14

**Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors regular meeting.** 5 p.m., 7 Parelli Way.

### Tuesday, Dec. 15

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

**Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular**

**meeting.** 1:30 p.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

### Thursday, Dec. 17

**Archuleta County Republican Central Committee meeting.** Noon, Pagosa Brewing, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Subject to cancellation due to COVID-19.

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

**Pagosa Springs Sanitation and General Improvement District special board meeting.** 5 p.m. See town website for participation information.

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

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# Outdoors



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Local outdoor enthusiast Josh Kurz stands between the Window on the left and the 13,900-foot summit of Rio Grande Pyramid on the right.

## Summiting the sentinel of the San Juans

By Josh Kurz  
Special to The SUN

I stared through The Window, the legendary 600-foot notch in the Rio Grande Pyramid's southern flank. I'd seen The Window from the highest summits in the San Juan Mountains and, over the years, I had gathered some local folklore. I'd heard that it was the site of lost Spanish treasure, it was spiritually significant to the Utes and was also prone to lightning. Fortunately, the cobalt sky was clear, but the October days were getting colder and shorter. Our journey started in the dark and unless we turned around soon it would end in the dark.

Five hours into our journey, we paused to catch our breath on a grassy, windswept bench beneath the Continental Divide. The 13,900-foot summit of Rio Grande Pyramid was within reach, but over 1,000 vertical feet of snow-covered talus towered above us. The Army Ranger-turned-colonel was quietly calculating if we had sufficient calories in our packs to reach the summit and, more importantly, get us back to the trailhead, which was over 18 miles in reverse.

A few weeks prior, the Colonel and I swapped adventure stories as we stared at the San Juan National Forest map that decorates my classroom wall. The Colonel had recently become interested in ultrarunning and had been linking together some impressive routes through the surrounding high country.

I told the Colonel that I'd always wanted to climb the Rio Grande Pyramid, but the peak had always seemed too far for a day trip. Using the small scale map, we roughly estimated a 26-mile round-trip route from the Poison Park trailhead. We knew our estimate could be wrong, but we both agreed that it was doable in a day, so we blocked out the first Saturday in October.

Lacking experience in ultrarunning, I followed the Colonel's advice and stuffed a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, a winter hat, a headlamp and lots of food into my

2-liter hydration pack. I was going to bring my water filter, but the Colonel told me it was too heavy and assured me that the giardia threat was overhyped (advice from the Army Ranger rather than the colonel).

Unlike his water source, the Colonel was picky about his caloric intake, which was a regimented 100 calories every half hour. He told me to pack 2,000 calories consisting of mostly carbohydrates and a bit of protein. The Colonel's choice of protein was lunch meat and cheese. Never in my 25-year running career had I ever consumed meat and cheese during a run, but the Colonel was the ultrarunner, so I followed his advice in essence. I decided that four precooked, cheese-filled hot dogs would be more efficient to consume than lunch meat and cheese.

At 6 a.m. sharp, two beams of light left Poison Park and descended the rocky trail into the Weminuche Valley. Since this was my first ultra run, I was curious to find out how much of the rugged, high-altitude terrain that ultrarun-

**Never in my 25-year running career had I ever consumed meat and cheese during a run, but the Colonel was the ultrarunner so I followed his advice in essence.**

ners actually ran. For all but elite athletes, power hiking becomes more efficient than running on steep, rocky terrain. The Colonel used his heart rate to determine when to make the run/hike transition. We ended up jogging the downhill and flat sections and power hiking the steep sections.

We gradually climbed from one



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Mountain climbing requires sufficient calories made up of carbohydrates and a bit of protein. This hiker recommends steering clear of cheese-filled hot dogs when venturing outdoors.

golden aspen-lined bench to another as we gained the Piedra/Pine Divide. As we descended into the Pine River Valley, I was reminded of Yellowstone. The willow-lined Pine River is a moose haven as it meanders through the broad pristine, glacial valley.

We waded the frigid Pine River and then approached a notable break in the continent's backbone. The Continental Divide leaves the imposing cliffs on either side of the valley and subtly separates the water emerging from a saturated wetland.

As we neared mile 14, we kept our eyes out for La Vaca Creek, a tributary to the Pine, which drains the eastern side of the Rio Grande Pyramid. Shortly after crossing La Vaca Creek, we were surprised to cross a man-made irrigation ditch in the middle of the wilderness. In the early 1900s (decades before the Wilderness Act), industrious, water-thirsty San Luis Valley farmers took advantage of the breach in the Continental Divide and built several irrigation ditches, which intercept water destined for the Pacific Ocean and redirect it across the marshland and into the Rio Grande watershed and ultimately the Atlantic Ocean.

The La Vaca Valley offered us the first glimpse of the Rio Grande Pyramid and The Window as well as a majestic bull moose. Shortly thereafter, the meadow transitioned into a relentlessly steep climb covered in crusty snow. After about 15 miles, we were nearing the last remaining water source and my pack was nearly empty. I submerged my 2L hydration pack into a pristine pool emerging from a wetland. The water was cold and clear and hopefully clean.

Slowly, the trees relented and offered us a clear view of the Continental Divide, which had regained its prominence and became one with The Pyramid. At treeline, we left the trail and gained the high, windswept bench on which we pondered whether to continue to the summit.

■ See Sentinel A13



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

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# Sentinel



Photos courtesy Josh Kurz

Climbing the Rio Grande Pyramid fulfilled a longtime goal for Josh Kurz. Folklore about the pyramid includes stories of lost Spanish treasure. The pyramid was spiritually significant to the Utes. From Pagosa Springs, you can see the Rio Grande Pyramid and the Window on the horizon if you're traveling toward town on U.S. 84 just before you reach Echo Lake. Another good spot to see it is from North Pagosa Boulevard as you're traveling north near the fire station. You can also see it along Piedra Road near the Ant Hill and also from Deb's School House.



## Continued from A12

The Pyramid was nearly 5 miles further than we had estimated. If we turned around now, it would be a 10-hour, 37-mile day. Even though the summit was less than a mile away, it would be slow scrambling across the sea of snow-covered talus.

As I choked down my second cold, cheese-filled hot dog, the Colonel concluded that calories were our limiting factor. We had warm clothes, headlamps and plenty of stream water to get us back, but we had only packed enough calories for 10 hours, rather than 12. After coming so close, it was disappointing to turn around, but the Colonel hadn't become a colonel by exhibiting poor judgment. After all, winter had arrived in the center of Colorado's largest wilderness and we were as far as you can get from civilization in our state.

The downhill miles passed quickly but were not without pain. My joints weren't accustomed to so many miles of continuous pounding and I'd developed a piercing pain in my right foot that screamed with every step. As we plunged across the Pine River, it was daunting to realize that we still had over a half marathon to go. With about 5 miles remaining, either the cumulative exertion or the cheesy hot dogs (or some combination of both) wreaked havoc on my digestive system. I interrupted our steady pace with multiple pit stops that quickly depleted my small supply of TP. Fortunately, the Colonel offered a relatively sizable TP stash and some extra calories that were easier on my intestines.

As we neared the familiar Weminuche Valley, we dropped into the shadows as the sun sank behind the western ridge. We would need to keep pace with the receding rays as they climbed the imposing 600-foot hillside that separated us from the trailhead.

As we began the cruel 2-mile climb to the trailhead, I entered survival mode while the Colonel appeared energized by the extra suffering. The last mile felt like 10 and as I stumbled into the parking lot, I found the Colonel unsympathetically smirking at my exhausted state. Based on my incoherent condition and the waning light, the Colonel had made the right call to turn around. Fortunately, the Pyramid would patiently await another attempt.

This past August (six years after the unsuccessful summit attempt), I invited Col. Jesse Morehouse to join Silas Thompson and me on another summit attempt. Unfortunately, Jesse couldn't make the trip because he was serving with the United States Space Force.

Silas and I successfully summited the Pyramid from the Poison Park trailhead, but we dropped a car at the Rio Grande Reservoir the day before, which allowed us to do a 30-mile point-to-point run instead of the 37-mile out-and-back option that Jesse and I did. After coming so close the first time, it was rewarding to finally stand atop the Sentinel of the San Juans and enjoy the sweeping views of familiar summits in all directions.

While it's not the most technical peak in the San Juans, it's one of the most remote and recognizable. If you're ever enticed to climb the Rio Grande Pyramid, be sure to bring a water filter and steer clear of cheese-filled hot dogs.

From Pagosa Springs, you can see the Rio Grande Pyramid and the Window on the horizon if you're traveling toward town on U.S. 84 just before you reach Echo Lake. Another good spot to see it is from North Pagosa Boulevard as you're traveling north near the fire station. You can also see it along Piedra Road near the Ant Hill and also from Deb's School House.

*This story was originally posted at [www.southsanjuans.info](http://www.southsanjuans.info).*

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PANDEMIC PIVOT

# Restaurants think creatively to maintain business

By Simone Mounsamy  
Staff Writer

Businesses in the community have made distinct transitions to adapt to the difficulties brought forth by the pandemic.

Restaurants, in addition to non-profits, are thinking creatively so that they may weather the storm.

In order to keep business going, restaurants open outdoor seating, have fire pits or heaters, and offer takeout, curbside or delivery services.

Two examples of these restaurants are Rosie's Pizzeria and City Hall Cafe and Grille.

Rosie's General Manager Carl Hackney discussed his gratitude for the county allowing restaurants to keep open outdoor seating.

"We have a good takeout. We've been lucky with that, but I don't know if we could get by without them allowing the outdoor seating," Hackney said.

Having put up a summer tent right after the first COVID shutdown, Hackney explained they've swapped that tent out for a more winter-appropriate tent. The tent is raked of its snow for safety precautions when it snows heavily.

Stocked with three standing heaters, Hackney said, "No, it doesn't stay as warm as inside, but it's unbelievable. Even if it's super cold outside and it's just kind of warm in there, people will ... sit in there!"

Hackney expressed how much the outdoor seating is used.

"People want to sit outside," he reiterated. "Why wouldn't you want to take advantage of the sun?"

Hackney and Rosie's owners have been thinking creatively on how they would adapt to continued restrictions on restaurant operations.

Hackney explained that the tent space could potentially be used to shelter those who come and wait for

to-go food.

"...A waiting area, out of the wind, out of the snow, where they can stand and have a hot beverage ... and wait for their pizza," Hackney said. "And it's still a decent-sized space to stay away from each other as needed."

Hackney notified, "We do do delivery five days a week still. It's not all day, it is at night."

If Archuleta County does reach red or even purple on the COVID-19 dial, Hackney said Rosie's may "go to more delivery drivers, delivering more often, so we can actually serve the community the pizza they want, and the pizza they need."

**"You can't just worry about what if. You gotta say when this comes up, I will deal with it ... you can't just sit and worry about what if or you will lose your mind right now," Linda Roy said.**

Having expected to open City Hall in mid-April, owners Linda and John Roy decided to hold off until July 7, Linda Roy explained on a recent phone call with The SUN.

"We decided to focus on Coyote Moon and focus on keeping people employed until we knew what was going on," Linda Roy said of the couple's other business, "and by then, we were open at 50 percent ... so we figured that would be fair enough."

City Hall also has supplementary outdoor seating options, however. "We have enclosed the patio with plastic. It's toasty, we put a nice little heater out here."

Linda Roy explained that the outdoor seating does get used, as well — even on chilly days.

"Yeah, we put one of those heaters that hangs from the ceiling ... it keeps it pretty toasty in here."

But outdoor seating isn't the only creative option the Roys have come up with to drive business under restrictions.

If you've visited City Hall recently, you may have noticed the gondola lift the Roys have installed in the side

entryway.

"It was John's idea," Linda Roy explained. "We were throwing around ideas, like a greenhouse and a big snow-dome-looking thing, and by the time I got home at night, he was like 'Look at this, look at this! I found this online!'" she recounted. The gondola lift seats one table inside.

"Then we redid it, we put some curtains, there's heat, there's a light in there, there's a little tiny speaker," Linda Roy said. "It's really cozy in there and people really like it."

When describing what methods they're using at City Hall to remain resilient, Linda Roy made reference to remaining positive.

"You can't just worry about what if. You gotta say when this comes up, I will deal with it ... you can't just sit and worry about what if or you will lose your mind right now," Linda Roy said.

She explained upon opening City Hall, they set up the restaurant "really well for takeout and delivery."

She illustrated they have been working, and will continue to work, to keep the employees calm and make customers comfortable.

"So, like our sanitation, the way we sanitize ... is pretty stringent here," she said. "We don't want anybody to get sick, including our people. We're pretty stringent both here and at Coyote."

In reference to what's next, Linda Roy said, "We're just gonna keep changing it up ... frankly, every other time I get home Johnny's got another idea!"

## Supporting local businesses

Hackney requested that community members think supportively of local businesses despite the regulations that may be, or come to be, put into place.

"We are held to state regulations, held to liquor license regulations, held to seating capacity, fire regulations, all these things we're held to. And so, therefore, when these regulations come up for COVID, we're also held to those to stay open and support our families," he said. "One thing I'd really like the community to be behind is try to support the fact that people are trying to have jobs and keep a paycheck whether they want these rules or not."

Learning to cope with new guidelines, and excel regardless of them, is what it means to do the pandemic pivot.



SUN photo/Simone Mounsamy

City Hall Cafe and Grille offers seating inside a gondola lift installed near its outdoor patio.



SUN photo/Simone Mounsamy

The gondola lift seating features heating, lighting, curtains and a tiny speaker for your phone.

## Correction

In the Nov. 26 edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN, the photo at the top of page A12 for the Dancing with the Pagosa Stars fundraiser was incorrectly captioned.

The caption should have read: Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon, Dancing with the Pagosa Stars 2020 winners pose with their awards at this year's Seeds of Learning fundraiser. The SUN regrets the error.



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# preview

ARTS & CRAFTS

## Christmas in Pagosa



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# From one kitchen to another: Readers share family recipes

With the holiday season in full swing, The Pagosa Springs SUN is asking readers to share special family recipes.

Please submit your recipes to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com) no later than Dec. 10.

## Fruit Dinner Salad

From the kitchen of Linda Lawrie. One of our favorites.

8 ounce cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup half and half  
3/4 cup mayonnaise

1 can crushed pineapple, drained

2 cups grapes, halved (red is prettier)

2 cups apples (4-6 apples), peeled and sliced

Cream cream cheese with half and half, adding enough mayonnaise to make smooth. Add crushed pineapple and mix together. If not creamy enough, add more mayonnaise.

Add grapes and apples and mix together. Creamed pineapple mixture should cover grapes and apples. If too much, add more grapes and apples, as desired.

Chill and serve.

Note: you can also add 1/4 pound marshmallows, quartered. And just before serving, add two diced bananas.

Another variation: Omit cream cheese, half and half, and mayonnaise; Substitute 1 cup whipped cream — this becomes a delicious dessert. Nut meats may be added if desired.

## Glögg

From the kitchen of Diane Levison.

When I was young, I remember my dad making Norwegian Glögg, a hot, strong, mulled wine-type drink around the holidays. I grew up on the Fox River in Illinois and just before Christmas, my mom and dad would go out in this little Viking ship they made out of a fishing boat, cut through the ice in the river to get to the middle where

■ See Recipes on next page



Monster Cookies



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# Christmas in Pagosa

An old-fashioned celebration

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## Recipes

■ continued from previous page

there was open water, and ride up and down the river, handing out candy canes to the kids and glögg to their parents. Oh yeah, one more thing — they were dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus! Needless to say, this was embarrassing to me as a teen, but now I can embrace my parents' spirit, uniqueness and ode to our Norwegian heritage traditions.

The glögg recipe I used of my dad's was much more complicated than what I currently make, and it used a lot more liquor. It called for burgundy and port wine, brandy, 151 rum and Everclear (grain alcohol) in various parts of the recipe. Let's just say it was incredibly good and very dangerous. My version is easier and tastes like dad's. Enjoy!

2 bottles (750 ml each) of red wine. (I like darker ones like burgundy, cabernet sauvignon or port.) They don't have to be pricey; boxed wine is fine.

10-15 cloves  
20 green cardamom pods (cracked)  
4 inches of fresh ginger or equivalent amount of frozen shaved ginger or ginger paste

1/2 cup raisins (you can substitute Craisins, dried apricots or prunes)

1/2 cup blanched almonds (the skin is bitter; you don't want the skins on)

1 orange peel or 2 teaspoons dried orange peel  
3 large cinnamon sticks  
1 cup honey (or 1 1/3 cups of cane sugar)

The following ingredients are added closer to the end of cooking, not at the beginning:

1 cup vodka (or brandy)  
1/2 cup Cointreau or Triple Sec or similar orange liqueur

Put all the ingredients except the vodka/brandy and Cointreau/Triple Sec in a large crock pot. It's best to put the small spices in a cheesecloth or tea strainer balls so they are easy to take out of the glögg. Cook on low for 2-3 hours or so. Do not let it come to a boil as that will cause the alcohol to evaporate and Christmas won't be as merry.

The longer you cook the glögg, the more flavor will come out of the spices. Towards the end, add the last two liquors. Turn to "warm"

■ See Recipes on next page



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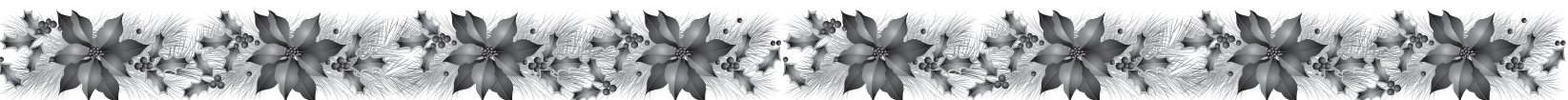
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## Recipes

■ continued from previous page and serve immediately or put into glass bottles or containers along with the fruit and almonds and refrigerate to serve later. You can garnish with orange slices, additional dried fruit and cinnamon sticks if you like. Serve with a spoon so your guests can eat the fruit and nuts in the glögg.

Note: If you don't have one of the ingredients, but have something similar, feel free to use an alternate that's on hand that you like. That's why I've noted the alternates in the recipe. I rarely use precise recipes in the drinks I make. Taste, and add or modify to fit your taste.

### Monster Cookies

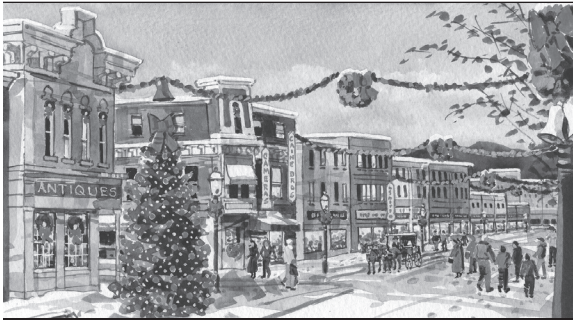
From the kitchen of Kristi Smith. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine and cream:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- Add and mix well:
- 3 eggs
- Add and mix:
- 1 1/2 cup peanut butter (crunchy or creamy)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Add and mix in the following, one cup at a time:
- 4 1/2 cup quick oats
- Stir in:
- 1 cup M&Ms
- 1 cup chocolate chips

■ See Recipes on next page



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## Recipes

■ continued from previous page

Using ice cream scoop (to make monster-sized cookies), scoop out mixture onto cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes.

### Peppernuts

Recipe by Lorinda Holst, Odell, Neb. Submitted by Kristi Smith, Pagosa Springs.

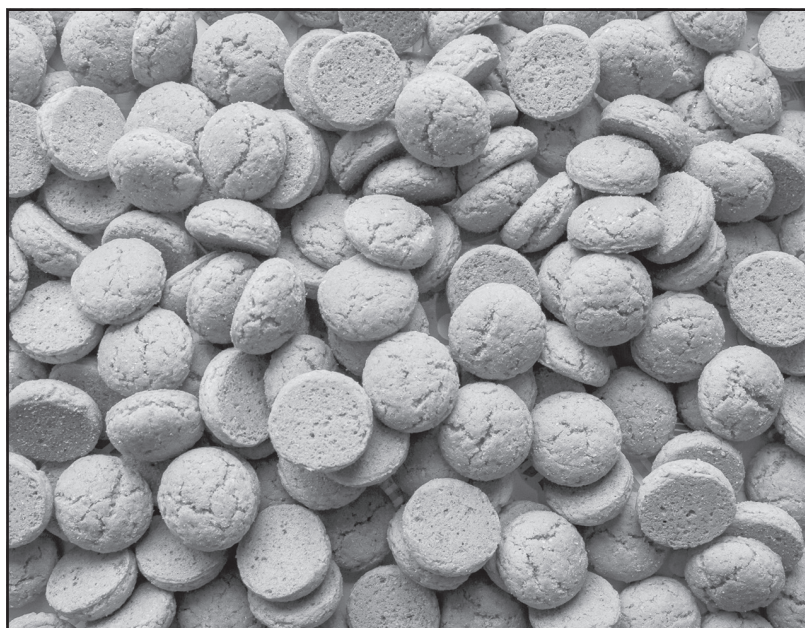
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking soda dissolved in 1/4 cup hot water
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 teaspoon anise extract
- 1 teaspoon ground clove
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Up to 4 cups flour
- Cream sugar and butter until fluffy.

Mix in all the ingredients, except flour.

Mix in flour one cup at a time until incorporated and the dough is stiff.

Refrigerate at least 30 minutes to make dough easier to handle.

Roll into ropes and cut the ropes into small pieces (the size of nuts) and then roll the pieces into small balls.



**Peppernuts**

Place pieces on a cookie sheet and bake at 350 10-14 minutes. They will be soft when warm and then crisp up after they cool.

They can be stored in an airtight container for up to a month.

### Kruidige Rodekool: Spiced Red Cabbage

From the kitchen of Maxine

Everaert.

This is a family favorite which was always served either at my husband's home or later at our home. Our three girls also use it.

- 4 servings
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt

■ See Recipes on next page

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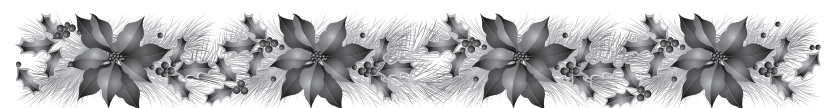
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## Recipes

■ continued from previous page

1 small red cabbage, finely shredded

2 cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced

3 cloves

1 tablespoon sugar

Dash of vinegar

In a saucepan, place 1 table-spoon butter, the water and salt. Add red cabbage, apples and cloves and simmer 45 minutes.

Add remaining butter, sugar and vinegar and simmer for another 5 minutes. Remove cloves before serving.

### Sopapilla Cheesecake

From the Everett family kitchens.

2 cans crescent rolls or crescent roll sheets

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

Cinnamon

2 packages cream cheese

1 stick butter

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Mix cream cheese, 1 cup of sugar and vanilla. Spread crescent rolls in 9x13 baking dish. Put filling on top of layer of rolls, then top with the other can of rolls. Melt butter and pour over top. Sprinkle with rest of sugar and cinnamon. Bake for 30 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

Family-favorite variations: Use any kind of pie filling on top of the cream cheese layer, or mix 1 can crushed pineapple in with cream cheese mixture.

### Tamale Dressing

From the kitchen of TJ Roseth. A new twist on southern corn-bread dressing.

Mix together:  
Masa from 6-8 tamales, crum-bled into small pieces

3 slices toasted white or wheat bread, torn into small pieces

4 boiled eggs, chopped

1 bunch of celery, chopped

3 green onions, chopped (just the chives if you don't like onion)

Pinch of sage

2 teaspoons of salt

Place in a 9x12 baking dish. If you are having turkey with your meal, about an hour before the turkey is ready, take it out and pour drippings in with the dressing ingredients, otherwise use chicken or turkey broth. You will need at least 1 cup of drippings or broth to ensure that the dressing is quite moist before cooking. Cover the baking dish with aluminum foil and cook at least an hour at 350 F (or whatever temperature you are cooking the turkey). Uncover and cook another 30 minutes so that the dressing will get a little crispy on top.

One of the great things about this recipe is you can mix together all the ingredients a day or two prior and refrigerate in zip-lock bag until needed.

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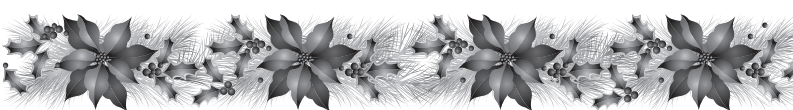
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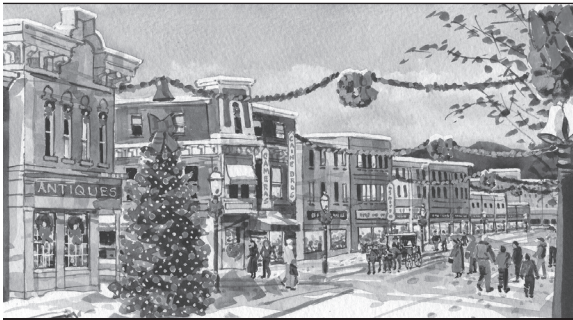
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# Christmas in Pagosa

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## Help local nonprofits with Gifts of the Heart

By Nancy Ford  
Community United Methodist Church

At a time when COVID-19 has caused the cancellation or postponement of many events that help support area nonprofits, the Gifts of the Heart program at Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) continues to offer a meaningful way to help support four local groups with proceeds from the sale of locally created greeting cards.

The current recipients are Community Assistance Fund, CUMC Food Pantry, After School Tutoring Program and Pagosa Programs for Youth.

There is a wide variety of cards to choose from — not only for Christmas, but for many other occasions as well. They all feature artwork by local artists and photographers and are available for purchase at the Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., during office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. You may also call the church at 264-5508 during these times. Cards can be personalized if you wish. All proceeds from your \$5 or more purchase per card, aside from printing costs, go directly to the nonprofits.

This is an excellent opportunity to remember your friends, family, co-workers or business associates in a meaningful way and at the same time donate to the nonprofit group of your choice. Each of these groups provides much-appreciated assistance to people in our community.

## WHIPS to meet for holiday luncheon

By Nancy Ford  
Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs) will have its \$15 holiday luncheon Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 11:30 a.m.

We will be spaced properly at Ole Miners Steak House. All women are welcome. You must RSVP to 946-1895.

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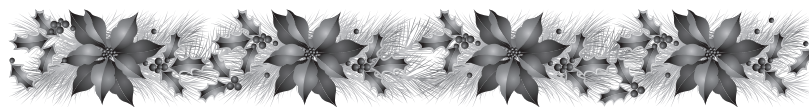
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## Revisit lesser-known Christmas traditions

Special to The PREVIEW

Christmas celebrants participate in many different traditions year after year, but some may not fully understand the meaning behind such activities. A Christian holiday, Christmas did not originate with all activities centralized to the church. In fact, many of the traditions people hold dear have pagan roots, which were adapted as Christmas celebrations evolved.

People who hang mistletoe in doorways may be surprised to learn that this tradition dates back to the ancient Druids. The Druids believed mistletoe possessed mystical powers that brought good luck to the household and warded off evil spirits.

Evergreen trees are now associated with Christmas trees, but evergreen boughs were once used to decorate homes during the winter solstice to help people envision the spring to come. Christians often look at evergreen trees as a sign of everlasting life and their relationship with God.

However, while many Christmas traditions continue to be an integral part of annual celebrations, there are some customs that have fallen out of favor. Although these traditions may no longer be widely practiced, anyone can revive them and make them part of their holiday celebrations.

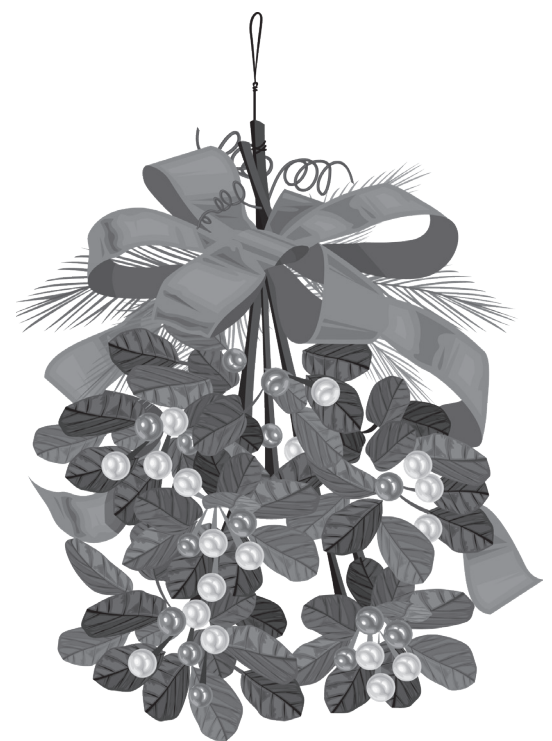
Wassailing is a custom that has ancient origins and is not as popular today as it once was. "Wassail" comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase

"waes hael," which means, "good health." Wassail is a drink made of mulled ale, spices and other ingredients. To go wassailing meant to travel door-to-door singing and offering a drink from a wassail bowl in exchange for gifts. Wassailing has been mentioned in certain Christmas carols, including "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Largely an English tradition, wassailing was brought to America by British settlers. Jan. 17, the old Twelfth Night, is the traditional date for wassailing. Although wassailing has largely fallen by the wayside, increased interest in ales and craft brewing may help revitalize this Christmas tradition, which can inspire community spirit.

Gifts with fruit cake is another tradition that has been much maligned and does not enjoy the same popularity that it once did. Fruit cake is a cake made with chopped candied fruit, nuts and spices and is occasionally soaked in spirits. Fruit cakes have been enjoyed all over the world, but Americans may never have embraced the Christmas fruit cake tradition as much as those from other countries. However, with the right recipe and an open mind, it may be possible to resurrect the fruit cake tradition once again.

Mummers plays are another British tradition that arrived in North America with settlers but has largely fallen by the wayside. Mummers plays involved miming folk dramas, and the plays were commonplace around the holiday season. Celebrants may want to research such



dramas and include them in this year's festivities to liven up celebrations even more.

Traditions passed on through the years help make Christmas a favorite time of celebration. People may want to explore the less-popular traditions today and once again make them interesting parts of this year's festivities.



# Holiday Church Events



All events listed in December Church Events Calendar are free of charge. Submit events to editor@pagosahun.com.

## Sunday, Dec. 6

**Vespers at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.** 5 p.m. Online. The theme for this evening's service is hope. This ecumenical service features scriptures, readings, poetry and traditional music designed to bring comfort and joy to your holiday season. Join the livestream by visiting [www.stpatrickspagosa.org](http://www.stpatrickspagosa.org) or view anytime after the event on the church's YouTube channel. All are welcome.

## Sunday, Dec. 13

**Vespers at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.** 5 p.m. Online. The theme for this evening's service is peace. This ecumenical service features scriptures, readings, poetry and traditional music designed to bring comfort and joy to your holiday season. Join the livestream by visiting [www.stpatrickspagosa.org](http://www.stpatrickspagosa.org) or view anytime after the event on the church's YouTube channel. All are welcome.

are welcome.

## Sunday, Dec. 20

**Vespers at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.** 5 p.m. Online. The theme for this evening's service is joy. This ecumenical service features scriptures, readings, poetry and traditional music designed to bring comfort and joy to your holiday season. Join the livestream by visiting [www.stpatrickspagosa.org](http://www.stpatrickspagosa.org) or view anytime after the event on the church's YouTube channel. All are welcome.

## Thursday, Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve Mass.** 4 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Christmas songs will be sung half an hour before Mass. Reservations need to be made; call the Parish Office to reserve your place. Streaming will be available. For more information, call 731-5744.

**Christmas Eve Mass.** 8 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 445 Lewis St. Christmas songs will be sung half an hour before Mass. Reservations need to be made; call the Parish Office to

reserve your place. Streaming will be available. For more information, call 731-5744.

## Friday, Dec. 25

**Christmas Day Mass.** 9 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. The Nativity of the Lord. PCC Family Mass. Reservations need to be made; call the Parish Office to reserve your place. Streaming will be available. For more information, call 731-5744.

## Thursday, Dec. 31

**New Year's Eve Mass.** 5 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Reservations need to be made; call the Parish Office to reserve your place. Streaming will be available. For more information, call 731-5744.

## Wednesday, Jan. 1

**New Year's Day Mass.** 9 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Reservations need to be made; call the Parish Office to reserve your place. Streaming will be available. For more information, call 731-5744.

## UUs to engage in a 'spiritual garage sale'

By Pauline Benetti

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship continues virtual service on the first and third Sundays of the month. The fellowship has become quite adept at providing virtual continuity for members and friends in a variety of ways. Continuity comes through abbreviated services, coffee talks and small group meetings, all in virtual community.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m., the Pagosa UU Fellowship will have a virtual service entitled "Spiritual Garage Sale." It is adapted from the book "Listening Hearts" by the Rev. Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins.

Joan Ward, lay leader for the service, will present short readings and lead a discussion. Have you had or would you consider having a spiritual garage sale? What would go in your sale? Something from

another era in your life? Beliefs that never fit but are still hanging around? Things that have broken and can't or shouldn't be fixed? Is there old mental baggage to let go? In freeing up some mental space, what are your new beliefs, ideas or habits?

If the idea of clearing out in preparation for the new year appeals to you, please join us.

Zoom meeting: <https://us-02web.zoom.us/j/88284380641?pwd=ZnAycGppOUdZTVlJMlRYVGV6OVdQdz09>, telephone: (346) 248-7799, meeting ID: 882 8438

0641, password: 059944.

Our fellowship offers each individual support in our unique spiritual path and an opportunity to participate in positive social and environmental action. We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community.

Religious Exploration (RE) classes have been temporarily canceled due to COVID-19. For more information about RE or the fellowship, call 731-7900 or email [info@pagosauu.org](mailto:info@pagosauu.org).

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John Paul II Catholic Church	353 S. Pagosa Boulevard	970-731-5744
Pagosa Bible Church	209 Harman Park Dr.	970-731-3120
Ruby M. Sisson Library	811 San Juan Street	970-264-2209
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	225 S. Pagosa Boulevard	970-731-5801
Terry's Ace Hardware	525 Navajo Trail Drive	970-731-4022
The Junction Restaurant	401 E. Pagosa Street	970-264-5729
The UPS Store 5807	135 Country Center	970-731-8771
Williams Creek Angler	190 Talisman Drive, Unit C-6	970-731-2125

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## St. Patrick's to offer Vespers service during December

By Sarah Riehm

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Beginning Dec. 6, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will offer candlelight Vesper services for the first three Sundays in December at 5 p.m.

Vespers has been part of the Christian tradition for centuries. The word vesper means evening in Greek and the service typically begins with the lighting of the evening lamp at sunset. In the Episcopal tradition, Vespers is also called Evening Prayer or Evensong.

"We hope this is a time and place where everyone in the community feels welcome," said the Rev. Lyn Burns. "Our service offers prayers, poems and reflective music drawn from a number of Christian traditions — all designed to bring comfort and joy to participants. In this time of unusual stress, anxiety

and change, Vespers provides an oasis of calm and can help people feel more connected to the real meaning of Christmas."

The services will be based on traditional Advent themes: Dec. 6 will be hope, Dec. 13 is peace and Dec. 20 is joy.

"This is our Christmas card to the community," said Music Director Sarah Riehm. "Through the beauty of timeless scriptures and traditional music of the Christmas season, we hope to bring a sense of peace for people who are facing serious challenges this year."

Although the sanctuary at St. Patrick's is currently closed due to COVID-19, the community can access the service by visiting the church website at [www.stpatrickspagosa.org/](http://www.stpatrickspagosa.org/). Vesper services can also be located on the church's YouTube channel for viewing at any time after the original event.

## New Thought topic: success with soul

By Lisa Burnson

New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

"True success is the experience of the miraculous. It is the unfolding of the divinity within us. It is the perception of the divinity in whatever we perceive. When we begin to experience our life as the miraculous expression of divinity, then we will know the true meaning of success." — Dr. Deepak Chopra.

All are welcome to join the New Thought Center this Sunday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m. for our presentation, "Does Success Have To Cost The Soul?" Our speaker will be Dr. Elaine Harding, Ph.D., author of "Be Authentic: Three Keys To Unlocking Your True Potential."

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, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., movie night: "Joyeux Noel," a moving true story. Donations appreciated.

Sunday Dec. 20, 6 p.m.: interdenominational candlelight service. There will be no morning service on this date. All are welcome to bring a potluck dish.

### 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 contrib-

ute 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](mailto:pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com); mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling 309-6067. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought) or YouTube (Pagosa New Thought Channel).

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Photo courtesy Carole Howard

Thingamajig Theatre Company's 2017 production of "Hairspray" is nominated for best musical production of the decade in the 2020 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver to honor the best in theater in the past 10 years in the state of Colorado. Thingamajig's actors, directors and designers received a record 59 nominations for awards in the contest, almost double the number of nominations for any other theater. Voting is underway at <https://www.broadwayworld.com/denver/voteregion.cfm> and runs through Dec. 31.

## Thingamajig honored with record number of nominations for 'best of the decade'

By Carole Howard  
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers received a record 59 nominations for awards in the 2020 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver to honor "the best in theater in the past decade" in the state of Colorado. Thingamajig's figure is almost double the number of nominations for any other theater.

Among the most prestigious of the many tributes to Thingamajig are being nominated for "theater company of the decade," "top arts supporter of the decade" and "best theater staff," as well as having the theater and both Tim Moore and Dennis Elkins nominated for "arts educator of the decade."

### More Thingamajig nominees

Here are the additional Thingamajig people and productions that made it to the final ballot in this respected competition:

Ensemble cast of the decade: "Jekyll and Hyde," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "West Side Story," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Tarzan" and "Cabaret."

Production of the play of the decade: "Sylvia," "Red," "Proof,"

"A Picasso," "Misterman," "God of Carnage" and "Welcome to Siberia, Now Go Home."

Production of the musical of the decade: "Jekyll and Hyde," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Hairspray," "West Side Story," "Cabaret," "Tarzan" and "Beauty and the Beast."

Director of the play of the decade: Melissa Firlit for "Red" and "Proof," Moore for "Grounded," Michael Thomas Walker for "God of Carnage" and Elkins for "A Christmas Carol."

Director of the musical of the decade: Ryan Hazelbaker for "Cabaret" and "Damn Yankees," Firlit for "Jekyll and Hyde," Elkins for "Thoroughly Modern Millie," Walker for "Hairspray," Pia Wyatt for "The Who's Tommy" and Anita Jo Lenart for "Big River."

Original script of the decade: Elkins for his one-man show "box."

Costume design of the decade: Nanette Cheffers for "White Christmas," Taylor Marrs for "Damn Yankees" and Elly Hunt for "Men on Boats."

Set design of the decade: Laura Moore for "Little Mermaid," "Men on Boats" and "Tarzan"; Matt McCarran for "West Side Story" and "A Christmas Carol"; and John Santangelo for "Good People."

Lighting design of the decade: Laine Wong for "Jekyll and Hyde"

and "West Side Story," and Jason Flamos for "A Few Good Men."

Sound design of the decade: Tim Moore for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Hannah Shutt for "Thoroughly Modern Millie," Robert Hornbastel for "A Christmas Carol" and Michael Fuchs for "A Grand Night for Singing."

Top arts supporter of the decade: Friends of the Theatre, Thingamajig Theatre Company and Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Best fundraising supporter of the decade: Friends of the Theatre.

Best youth theater camp of the decade: Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre Summer Camp.

### Reaction from Thingamajig

Said Tim Moore, producing artistic director and co-founder of the theater with his wife, Laura, executive director, when the nominations were announced: "After 10 years of incredible growth because of our patrons, audiences and other supporters who could have imagined that our beloved theater would be dark because of a global pandemic.

"This situation makes us even more grateful for these BroadwayWorld nominations that let us revisit and celebrate all the good  
■ See Thingamajig on page 12

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# 2021 Deep Space Mysteries calendars available for San Juan Stargazers' annual fundraiser

By Joan Mieritz  
San Juan Stargazers

The Deep Space Mysteries calendars are an exceptional gift for yourself or some other lucky person during this COVID-19 pandemic. They provide inspiration and many connections for a time when connections are so limited. They are easy and inexpensive to mail. But, most importantly, they will be used on a daily basis for all of 2021.

They are a constant reminder that we live in an amazing universe and you want to share that with an amazing person in your life. When you talk, you can share your use of the calendar. You've heard the expression, "I love you to the moon and back." This is like, "I love you as big as the universe and here are some things about it to blow your mind."

Astronomy Magazine, the world's best-selling astronomy magazine, brings you a calendar filled with dramatic images of

nebulae, spiral galaxies, planets, star-forming regions and other mysteries of deep space. Many of probably the best Hubble photos of the past year are featured, one for each month, with several paragraphs describing and giving other information, so you will learn the most important facts. After 12 unique fantastic pictures and information, you will have a summary of a college astronomy class.

Each month details planet visibility, meteor showers, conjunctions and other observing opportunities, as well as moon phases and major astronomical events. Wouldn't it be cool to know for certain what planets you are seeing any given night? July features a picture of Jupiter with unbelievable storms and weather patterns. That photo alone is worth the \$15 cost of the calendar.

If you would like a calendar, call (303) 995-2888 to leave a message. Someone will get back to you to make arrangements for you to get your calendar.

## Thingamajig

■ continued from page 10

times we have had together at Thingamajig. The nominations are a tribute to the amazing talents of the hundreds of actors, directors and designers who have created such memorable experiences for us over the past decade.

"We all look forward to next summer when we expect that our lights will be on again."

### How to vote

If you want to vote in this awards contest, go to <https://www.broadwayworld.com/denver/voteregion.cfm>, where online voting is underway now. Voting runs through Dec. 31 and winners will be announced in January.

Thingamajig is a 501(c)(3) non-profit professional theater in residence at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. The company was co-founded in April 2011 by the Moores, both of whom won individual BroadwayWorld awards for their work in 2017.

In addition to these multiple nominations for Thingamajig, Pagosa Springs is receiving additional positive visibility as three of our local restaurants were nominated for best pre- and post-show dining, and Pagosa Arts Initiative is nominated for supporting the arts.

### High-caliber competition

Thingamajig competes in the impressive Denver regional professional theater market, which also includes Rocky Mountain Reper-

tory Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Creede Repertory Theatre, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Arvada Center, Cherry Creek Theatre, Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts, The Source, Boulder Dinner Theater and many more.

This year's nominations honor productions which opened in Colorado between 2011 and Sept. 30. Regional productions, touring shows and other shows were included in the statewide awards categories. This means that the caliber of the competition is extremely high.

BroadwayWorld is the largest theater site on the Internet, covering Broadway in New York, the West End in London and other key artistic locations worldwide. This year's awards attracted a record number of nominations in more than 100 cities across the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, and Central and South America.

"In a time when theater across the globe is facing unprecedented obstacles, we wanted to take the time to celebrate past achievements while looking forward to the productions of the future," BroadwayWorld wrote in a statement.

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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

# Senior Center focusing on learning, social activities despite closure

By Cheryl Wilkinson  
PREVIEW Columnist

While ASI has been busily serving meals, we have also been quietly building programs for area residents and visitors that give them opportunities for learning and social activities as long as our center is closed. We have leveraged alliances and technology so that folks can be more easily connected and simply have more fun and a richer day every day.

“Recent research reveals that older populations are less consumed by pandemic depression than those that are younger,” a Nov. 26 NPR report, “There’s No Stopping These Seniors; Even A Pandemic Can’t Bring Them Down,” states. “According to a recent study, some seniors have even expanded their social support networks during the lockdowns. And the researchers found that older adults tended to report lower levels of loneliness compared with middle-aged and younger adults.

Ashwin Kotwal, at the University of California, San Francisco says that “They’ve been finding ways to adapt and cope. They’re finding creative ways to interact with family members through Zoom, taking dance classes online or joining virtual book clubs.”

Our website now regularly provides seniors throughout Archuleta County with download printable resources, as well as a links to sign up to enjoy a bevy of virtual — both live and recorded — fun, educational and social opportunities. You can learn more at: <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

This shift in our programs is part of a larger philosophy and set of “60 and better” best practices that we have been working to adopt since

## Senior News

before the pandemic began. Community services around the globe have found success in their region using this approach. This movement relegates the term “seniors” to another era, instead focusing on encouraging “senior” centers to become multigenerational resource centers, retaining their core of service for those “60 and better.” We’ll be conducting short online surveys on our website throughout the winter and into next year to give a voice to our community members in the evolution of our programs. We’ll let you know in our weekly articles whenever we have a survey open.

### Take-out meals continue

The 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, Dec. 3 — Lox and bagel with tomato, onion and caper cream cheese, roasted red pepper bisque, milk, salad and baked apple.

Friday, Dec. 4 — Cream of mushroom soup, steamed asparagus, salad and banana pudding.

Monday, Dec. 7 — Beef Bolognese with spaghetti, ratatouille, focaccia bread with butter, milk, salad and chocolate cake.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 — Crispy pork with macaroni and cheese, roasted beets, milk, salad and cranberry cheesecake.

Wednesday, Dec. 9 — Mediterranean tuna melt, corn chowder, milk, salad and peach cobbler.

Thursday, Dec. 10 — Lentils with leeks and sausage, baked rice, milk, salad and pear pie.

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.

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

# Alzheimer's Association to offer free webinars in December

By Jim Herlihy  
Alzheimer's Association

Holiday gatherings and the coronavirus do not mix, but for the families of 76,000 Coloradans living with Alzheimer's disease, the caregiving challenges will be even more complex this year.

The Alzheimer's Association is offering a series of free webinars in December, including one from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, to provide caregivers with simple tips on coping with coronavirus, whether their loved one with dementia lives at home, in a residential facility or care providers are coming into the home.

In addition to "COVID-19 and Caregiving," the full schedule of free webinars offered during the month of December includes:

- "The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease." Learn about the 10 common warning signs, what to watch for in yourself and others, typical age-related changes, the benefits of a diagnosis, early detection and more. — 9 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3; and 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 15.

- "Las 10 Señales de Advertencia." En Espanol — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 11.

- "Effective Communication Strategies." This workshop teaches caregivers to decode verbal and behavioral communication from someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Develop strategies for having meaningful connection with people in differing stages of dementia. — 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4; and 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 17.

- "Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's." An interactive program where you'll learn about important legal and financial issues to consider, how to put plans in place and how to access legal and financial resources near you. — noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4.

- "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia." Learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the differences between Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, risk factors, current research, treatments to address some symptoms and more. — 5 to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7; and 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 14.

- "Understanding and Responding to Dementia-related Behavior." Behavior is a powerful form of communication and one of the primary ways that people with dementia communicate their needs and feelings as the ability to use language declines. But these behaviors can be challenging for caregivers. Join us to learn how to decode behavioral messages and learn strategies to intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges. — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8; and 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 16.

- "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research." We've always known that the health of the brain and body are linked, but now science is able to provide insights into how we can optimize our physical and cognitive health as we age. Learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging. — 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8; and 1 to 2 p.m. Dec. 21.

- "Dementia Conversations." Tips on how to have honest and caring conversations with family members about going to the doctor, when to stop driving, and making legal/financial plans. — 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10; and 6 to 7 p.m. Dec. 14.

- "Living with Alzheimer's: for Caregivers — Late Stage — Part 2." In the late stage of Alzheimer's disease, caregiving typically involves new ways of connecting and interacting with the person with the disease. In this two-part series, you'll hear from caregivers and professionals about resources, monitoring care and providing meaningful connection for the person with late-stage Alzheimer's and their families. — 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

Like all programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association, the webinars are offered at no charge, but registration is required. To register, call the free Alzheimer's Association Helpline at (800) 272-3900. To learn more about Alzheimer's Association programs and services, go to [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Deeply absorbed
- 5 Month of showers
- 10 Start of a Steinbeck title
- 14 Square feet, eg.
- 15 Unmanned flier
- 16 Caesar's 17
- 17 Courtroom group
- 18 Personal value
- 20 Copious
- 22 "Get it?"
- 23 Audacity
- 24 No-good sort
- 26 Hire, as a boat
- 28 Production excess
- 30 Alpine lake
- 31 Tight spot
- 32 Formerly
- 34 Simple shelter
- 38 Skedaddled
- 40 Word with pot or beer
- 42 Hold on property
- 43 Turn on the charm
- 45 Italian import
- 47 1942 flick "My \_\_\_ Sal"
- 48 Jagged peak
- 50 With audacity
- 52 1941-45, for the U.S.
- 55 Decree
- 56 Be bombastic
- 57 Spring mo.
- 59 Informal farewell
- 62 Species of butterfly
- 65 Tear apart
- 66 Become unhinged
- 67 Chilled
- 68 "I'll second that!"
- 69 Weight deduction
- 70 Veep after Cheney
- 71 Give in

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
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		24			25		26	27					
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31				32		33		34		35	36	37	
38			39		40		41			42			
43				44		45			46		47		
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52	53	54						55					
56					57	58			59			60	61
62					63				64		65		
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

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- 2 Calla's cousin
- 3 Bewildered
- 4 Pop star Swift
- 5 Classifieds
- 6 Attendance
- 7 Thespian's quest
- 8 Contaminate, in a way
- 9 Wranglers alternative
- 10 On the outside
- 11 Turn away
- 12 Kitchen strainer
- 13 Darkroom accessory
- 19 Animal catcher
- 21 Continental coin
- 25 Mixmaster maker
- 27 Nautical rope
- 28 Does in, mob-style
- 29 Offensive
- 33 Will Ferrell title role of 2003
- 35 From dusk to dawn
- 36 Blue hue
- 39 Handyman's roll
- 41 Famed pianist
- 44 Blubbered
- 46 Mermaid feature
- 49 Taurus follower
- 51 Egyptian beetle
- 52 Baddest of the bad
- 53 Athletic venue
- 54 M\*A\*S\*H role
- 58 Parched
- 60 20-20, e.g.
- 61 Split
- 63 Kind of rule
- 64 Spy novelist Deighton

### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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

## WORDS

- ARTICULATION
- BAGUETTE
- BANGLE
- BRIOLETTE
- BROOCH
- COLLET
- CRYSTAL
- DESIGN
- DIAMOND
- EARRING
- FACETS
- FILIGREE
- INCLUSION
- MARQUISE
- NECKLACE
- ONYX
- OPAL
- PEARLS
- QUARTZ
- RHINESTONE
- SETTING
- SPACER
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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



# 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 red-breasted nuthatch.

When cone crops are good, this tiny bird stays year-round in northern Canada and the mountains of the west. Its scientific name, *sitta canadensis*, is a reference to the red-breasted's more northerly breeding range than that of its cousin, the white-breasted. Of the three nuthatch species that we see here, the red-breasted is the least common.

In winter, this bird may be found across the United States, spreading from coniferous forests into deciduous woods. Especially in the east, a poor cone crop in Canadian forests will predict an irruption of these nuthatches in southward directions.

Like many birds, red-breasted nuthatches require the extra protein of insects and spiders in their summer diet, but conifer seeds are the staple in winter. After wedging the seed in a bark crevice, the nuthatch cracks it open with its strong bill. Nuthatches will visit feeders and open sunflower seeds in the same manner.

Gripping with a large claw on its backward facing toe, this active bird moves in all directions on a tree. It will spread its wings and sway back and forth to ward off larger birds. The red-breasted is blue-gray above and rusty red below. Its black crown and eyeline are cut by a white eyebrow and its neck and tail are short. Females are paler-colored versions of the male.

This bird is a cavity-nester, using an abandoned woodpecker hole or excavating its own in dead trees or tree parts. To defend the nest from intruders and parasites, the male and female collect globs of resin and coat the outside and inside of the entrance hole. They often use a piece of bark to apply the resin, an example of tool use by birds.

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

## Did you know? Facts about popular Christmas songs

Special to The PREVIEW

Christmas songs provide the soundtrack for holiday magic. Such songs evoke strong feelings in people, and various songs have become staples at holiday celebrations.

Some interesting facts and history surround many popular Christmas songs.

"White Christmas," for example, is the best-selling Christmas song of all time. However, "Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history, says TIME. "Santa Claus Is Coming to

Town" is considered a jolly song, but songwriter James Gillespie was unemployed and had just lost his brother prior to writing the song. Still, he was able to look past his grief to pen the classic. Many are unaware that "Jingle Bells" originally was supposed to be a Thanksgiving song.

While many beloved Christmas songs have been around for decades, one artist managed to tap into the success of classic Christmas music. Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" is a popular modern-day Christmas song.



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## Letters to Santa



## Hey, kids!

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Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Please include your first name and age on your letter.

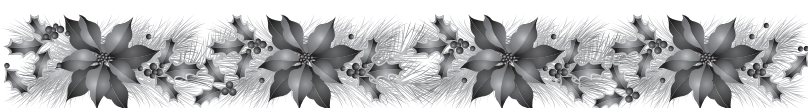
**Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 11.**

You can also email your letter to

[editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com)

or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**



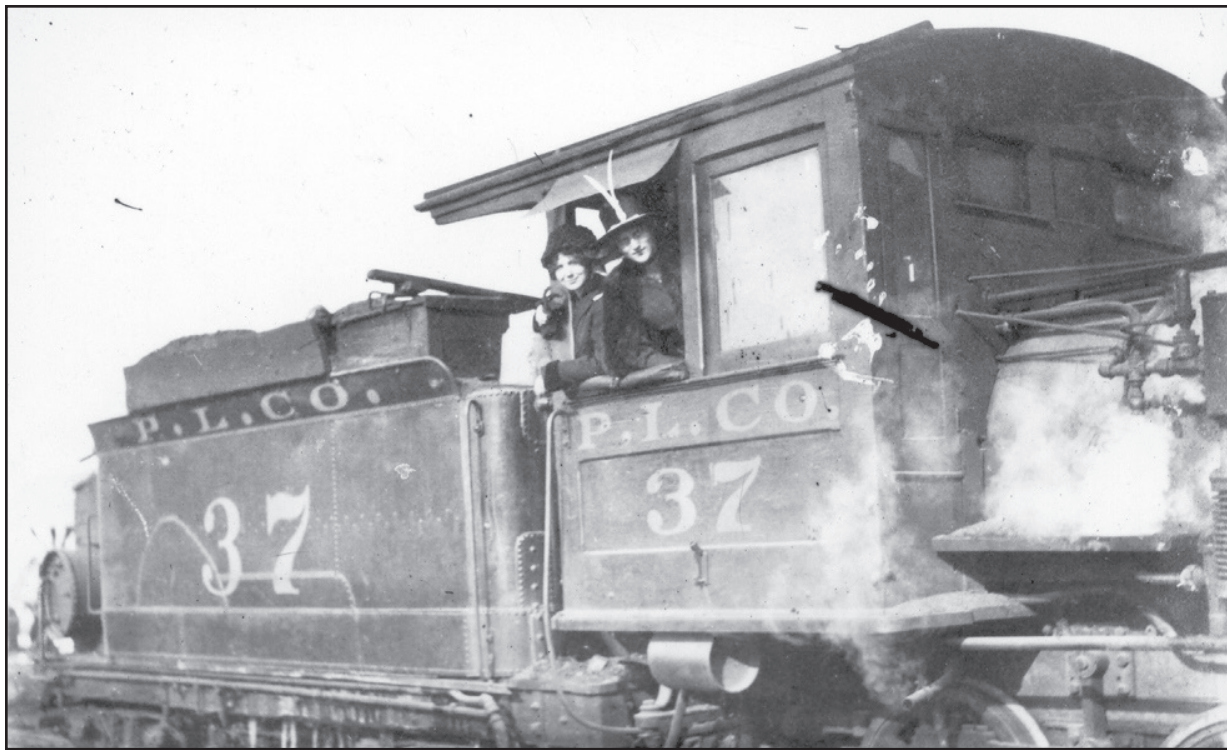


Photo courtesy John M. Motter

Engine No. 37 belonging to the Pagosa Lumber Company is shown on its way from Pagosa Junction to Pagosa Springs carrying a couple of joyful young ladies on their way to a picnic.

## Life in Pagosa Country 2,000 years ago

We've been writing about the Ancestral Puebloans, previously called Anasazi Indians, who lived in Pagosa Country circa 2,000 years ago. Continuing from where we left off last week, "These later Basketmakers added beans to their diet, developed the bow and arrow, and learned to make pottery.

"Turquoise and pottery jewelry and statues have been found from this period indicating an increased interest in religion. Clothing probably was little worn by the Basketmakers. Sandals were woven from yucca strips. Loin cloths and mantle-like garments may have been worn.

"The Basketmakers were short in stature. Men averaged 5 feet, 3 inches in height and women were slightly shorter. As life became easier, the population multiplied.

"Slowly, reliance shifted from baskets to pottery. The period of time when pottery gained ascen-



### Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

dence over baskets launched the beginning of what archaeologists refer to as the Pueblo Period. The Pueblo period is subdivided into the Developmental Pueblo Period, the Great Pueblo Period, the Regressive Pueblo Period and the Historic Pueblo Period. Because the Anasazi abandoned Pagosa Country before the last two periods began, we will not deal with those periods in this history.

"Multi-family dwellings called Pueblos provide the name for the Pueblo Period. These communal dwellings were at first built on a

small scale, but later increased in size and complexity. Pueblo dwellings were constructed of stone and adobe and faced a central plaza containing one or more kivas.

"Kivas, introduced during the later years of the Basketmaker Period, assumed extreme importance. They were used for religious ceremonies and, perhaps, as a gathering place for male societies within the tribe.

"Cotton was introduced, allowing the weaving of true cloth suitable for blankets, poncho-like shirts, skirts and other apparel. Another important change affected the appearance of the people. The soft cradle of the Basketmakers was replaced by the hard cradleboard of the Pueblos. The hard cradleboard, to which infants were attached, caused the back of the head to flatten, giving the entire head a rounder and broader appearance."

## Preview Calendar

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

### 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 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 Li-

brary. 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

■ See Calendar on page 23

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8	\$6,952
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For application assistance call 970-264-8513. If you or your organization is interested in hosting an outreach event call 970-264-8510.

# Christmas books to enjoy or give as gifts plus latest building code manuals available

By Carole Howard  
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

With Thanksgiving in our rear-view mirrors, you now probably are thinking about Christmas. So we wanted to give you some ideas about new holiday books that might be good for you to read or give as gifts to family and friends.

Large-print Christmas books include “Christmas Cupcake Murder” by Joanne Flake, a Hannah Swenson holiday mystery; “The Brightest Star” by Fern Michaels, featuring the owner of a small Christmas shop; and “Return to Virgin River” by Robyn Carr, featuring a rescue dog with puppies.

Offerings from bestselling authors include “Jingle All the Way” by Debbie Macomber, “A Christmas Resolution” mystery by Anne Perry and “The Noel Letters” by Richard Paul Evans.

Holiday books by other popular authors include “The Christmas Table” by Donna VanLiere, “In a Holidayze” by Christina Lauren, “A Dog’s Perfect Christmas” by W. Bruce Cameron, a “Christmas Card Murder” large-print collection and “Manchester Christmas” by John Gray.

## Current building code manuals

We now have five 2015 international building code manuals, which is the year currently being used by the Archuleta County Building Department: IBC, IEBC, IRC, IMC and IFGC.

## Library closure

Your library will be closed next Thursday, Dec. 10, for staff education.

## Special note

“We want people to always feel welcome in the library and to experience a very friendly vibe when they visit,” said Meg Wempe, library director. “But we need to remind everyone that, similar to other public indoor spaces in Colorado, we must follow the executive order that requires people ages 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.”

## New writing challenge

Twice this month, we are posting a new writing challenge on the library’s Facebook page. Details will be posted Dec. 7 and 21. We hope you will challenge your creativity by participating. This is an all-ages activity.

## Library News

### Book club for adults

Ruby’s Book Club meets from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 8, via Zoom to discuss “The Dreamers” by Karen Thompson Walker. Please contact the library if you need a copy of the book. The Zoom meeting ID is 874 5826 9188, passcode 81147. This book club is held the second Tuesday of each month.

### 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 Dec. 3-16 theme is dream time. After you finish the walk, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library.

### Tech Time

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

### ESL

Free in-person classes take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. by appointment. Please register so we can keep it to a small group in our limited open spaces. No walk-ins, please.

■ See Library on page 21



“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Today, upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair,

I envied her....she seemed so beautiful....and wished I were so fair.

When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.

She had one leg and wore a crutch; but as she passed....a smile!

Oh God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two legs. The world is mine!

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm.

I talked with him. He seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm.

And as I left, he said to me, “I thank you. You have been so kind.

It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see,” he said, “I'm blind.”

Oh God, forgive me when I whine.  
I have two eyes. The world is mine.

Later while walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue.  
He stood and watched the others play. I stopped a moment,

When I said, “Why don't you join the others, Dear?”

He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.

Oh God, forgive me when I whine.  
I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset's glow,  
with ears to hear what I would know....

Oh God forgive me when I whine.  
I am blessed indeed. The world is mine!  
Author unknown

Join us ... Sunday AM Worship 10:30 a.m.  
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**X County Road 302**  
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**313 Cool Pines Drive**  
MLS 769271 • \$117,900  
5.5 acres in Timber Ridge, variety of trees, mountain views, central sewer, paved roads.

**75 Dandelion Court**  
MLS 773284 • \$74,500  
Price reduced on this 3.59 acre parcel. Public water tap available, electricity in front of property, close to town.

**328 Sundown Drive**  
MLS 769999 • \$69,500  
.96 acre in Lost Valley of the San Juans. Electric, water, telephone available. Sewer installed, unbelievable views.

**318 Sundown Circle**  
MLS 769998 • \$69,500  
Water installed to the .96 acre lot which back to the San Juan National Fores. Sewer, electric and phone available.

**37 Caballero Drive**  
MLS 775361 • \$36,500  
Easy build-able .28 acre lot, access to natural gas, electric, public water and sewer in Twin creek subdivision.

**1059 Hills Circle**  
MLS 769396 • \$36,000  
Price reduced on this .48 acre lot with mountain and lake views. Easy, flat build-able site.

**205 Lost Valley Drive**  
MLS 769915 \$24,900  
.55 acre in the heart of the San Juans close to National Forest and Fourmile Trailhead.

**476 Saddle Circle**  
MLS 776304 • \$24,000  
Great build-able .22 acre lot, public water, sewer, electric available.

**395 Morro Circle**  
MLS 776422 • \$19,900  
Stick built or modular allowed on the .23 acre lot with public water, sewer, electric available.

**96 Hidden Drive**  
MLS 766609 • \$17,500  
Price reduced on this easy, flat build-able lot in Lake Hatcher area. Utilities available.

**26 Laurel Drive**  
MLS 776421 • \$15,700  
.33 acre lot near National Forest. Water/sanitation taps paid, connection fees not paid.

**14 Laurel Drive**  
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# Holiday coloring

Celebrate the holiday season.  
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

## Winter Wonderland



# Library

■ continued from page 19

## 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](mailto: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 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 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.

## Thrillers, mysteries and suspense

"Hot to Trot" by M.C. Beaton is an Agatha Raisin mystery. "Deadly

Cross" by James Patterson is an Alex Cross mystery.

## Other novels

"Rhythm of War" by Brandon Sanderson is book four of the Stormlight Archive fantasy series. "V2" by Robert Harris is a novel about espionage in World War II. "Ready Player Two" by Ernest Cline is the author's second adventure through his virtual universe. "All That Glitters" by Danielle Steel follows a young woman after her parents are killed in a terrorist attack in France.

## Large print

"Riviera Gold" by Leslie B. King is a suspense story featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. "Why Did I Come Into This Room" by Joan Lunden is a candid conversation about aging. "Tom Clancy: Shadow of the Dragon" by Marc Cameron is a Jack Ryan adventure.

## DVDs

"Words on Bathroom Walls" is an inspirational love story about mental illness. "Words From a Bear" is a biography of N. Scott Momaday, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature and is a founding member of the Native American Renaissance. "Country Music" is the eight-part, 16-hour PBS documentary by Ken Burns.

## 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 **See Library on next page**

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# Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 18

share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence.

**Gaming.** 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect. Please note: Due to COVID concerns, we are only allowing a maximum of four participants in the gaming room. Masks must be worn at all times inside the library and social distancing must be maintained throughout the program. Call 264-2209 for more information.

**The Good News Club.** 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children K-6th grade. COVID mandates will be followed, including social distancing and masks. For more information or to register, go to coloradocef.org/GNC.

**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.

**Monday, Dec. 7**

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

**Pagosa Peak Open School Food Pantry.** 4-7 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School, 7 Parelli Way. This after-hours food pantry will provide food boxes through a drive-through service. Please note that this is a pilot program to determine the needs for our community in an after-hour service.

**Tuesday, Dec. 8**

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and associated members are invited. Social distancing is required at this time. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

**WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs) Holiday Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m., Ole Miners Steak House. All women are welcome. We will be spaced properly. Luncheon is \$15. Must RSVP to 946-1895.

**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.

**Ruby's Book Club.** 2-3 p.m. Zoom. We will discuss "The Dreamers" by Karen Thompson Walker. Call 264-2209 for more information or if you need a copy of the book. Zoom meeting ID: 874 5826 9188, pass-code 81147.

**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. 9**

**Kids Kare.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children ages 3-5. Includes Bible time, songs, crafts, games and more. COVID mandates will be followed, including social distancing and masks. For more information or to register, go to coloradocef.org/GNC.

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

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

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

**Thursday, Dec. 10**

**Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Due to the COVID-19 threat, Loaves and Fishes will continue to offer meals to the community as takeout only. There will be no sit-down service. Guests should come to the front doors of the Parish Hall, where they can pick up meals to go. This practice will continue until further notice.

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



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# Building on the right foundation

By **Betty Slade**  
PREVIEW Columnist

My friend's excitement secured a point of clarity for me. She called to say she and her husband had found the perfect house.

"It's a fixer-upper. There'll be lots of work, but we plan to buy it."

My question to her, "How's the foundation?"

"They found some cracks in the foundation, but it's a great deal. Besides, it has a great view."

View, nothing! All I heard was "cracks in the foundation" and a huge red flag went up. I'm no builder, but you need an uncompromised foundation in order to support the walls and ceiling. Otherwise, the whole thing may come crashing down.

Metaphorically, the Bible speaks of building a house on one of two types of foundations. We can build on shifting sand or on rock. And, when the storms in life hit, if a house isn't built on solid ground, it will crumble.

A sure foundation doesn't just apply to a place of dwelling, but anything that requires a secure footing to stand. This could be a marriage, a family, even a community or government. All of these things require a

## Artist's Lane

**Betty Slade**



strong base if they are to survive the test of time.

When I look at the marriage of my Sweet Al and me, there is no doubt in my mind that a strong foundation kept us from detachment or demise. Be it during times of rain or squall, we have remained steadfast. Our roots are deep in our faith in God and our love for one another, come what may.

I asked my Sweet Al what he thought was key to a successful marriage. His response, "Well, you don't stand a chance if the husband is lazy and won't work, or the wife nags and runs him off."

That wasn't exactly the direction I was going with my thought, but somewhere in there we are aligned. And that, at least, is the premise we share.

Yes, there has to be a strong base to stand on. Equally, walls have to be parallel, which takes a plumb line of dispositioned hearts.

It is not just marriage where build

is important, either. Look at community or even our country. It is not hard to imagine what happens when balance teeters on fear versus faith. Look at what our country was founded on; now consider where we could be headed if hearts do not stay inherently placed.

Our country's foundation was built on God, men's faith and a choice for freedom. Adherence to that will eventually frame how we stand.

Paul warned the church at Corinth not just how they should build, but what they should build with. He also told of what would happen when storms shake us at our core, and where our strength lies.

Before a single grain of sand was put in place, the need for a capstone was realized in the form of one who would lay down his life so that we may live.

Final brushstroke: Everyone knows that a divided house cannot stand. We also know that it is impossible to dodge the storms in life. What is for sure is that we can prevent being toppled in place by examining and fortifying our roots, in the origins that created us.

### Readers' comments

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

## Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha'i Faith

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

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

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/884668836?pwd=bkdEeVlaSWN0bFRMdFhidXpzWjV5Zz09>, call-in

number: (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 884 668 836.

A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Dec. 6, our theme is "Be as a Lamp."

"Let each of you be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the

virtues of the world of humanity." — Abdu'l Baha.

The Baha'i Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all people of the world in one universal cause, one common faith.

To learn more about the Baha'i Faith, please visit the official international website of the Baha'i Faith at [www.bahai.org](http://www.bahai.org). Our local contact is [archuletabahais@gmail.com](mailto:archuletabahais@gmail.com).

## Potatoes perfect for the holiday breakfast table

Special to The PREVIEW

Holiday dinners may get all the glory, but men and women who host friends and family each holiday season know that time spent with loved ones at the breakfast table can be just as enjoyable as breaking bread in the evening.

A homecooked meal first thing in the morning is a great way to start the day, and hosts who want to serve up something familiar with a little extra flavor can try the following recipe for "Skillet-Roasted Potatoes with Mushrooms and Pancetta" from Betty Rosbottom's "Sunday Brunch" (Chronicle Books).

### Skillet-Roasted Potatoes with Mushrooms and Pancetta

Serves 4

4 ounces pancetta, cut into 1/4-inch cubes (see note)

3 tablespoons olive oil, plus more if necessary

1 pound Yukon gold potatoes, unpeeled, scrubbed and quartered

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

10 ounces cremini or brown mushrooms, quartered

6 garlic cloves, peeled and halved crosswise

2 teaspoons dried thyme

Several fresh thyme sprigs for garnish (optional)

1. Arrange a rack at center position and preheat the oven to 400 F.

2. In a large, heavy, ovenproof frying pan (preferably cast iron) set over medium heat, sauté the pancetta until golden and crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon to drain on paper towels.

3. Remove all but 2 tablespoons of the drippings from the pan. (If you don't have 2 tablespoons, add olive oil to make this amount.)

When hot, add the potatoes and sauté, stirring, until they start to take on a little color, 5 to 7 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and place the frying pan in the oven. Roast for 15 minutes.

4. Remove the frying pan from the oven and add the mushrooms, garlic and the 3 tablespoons of olive oil. Add the dried thyme and season with more salt and pepper. Toss to coat well.

5. Return the pan to the oven and roast until the potatoes are golden brown and tender and the mushrooms are softened, about 15 minutes more. Remove the frying pan from the oven and stir in the reserved pancetta. If desired, garnish the center of the pan with fresh thyme sprigs. Serve warm.

Note: If buying pancetta from a deli, ask for it to be cut thickly into 1/4-inch slices. Prepackaged pancetta is often thinly sliced.

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# Caring for your mental health during COVID-19

Mercy Regional Medical Center

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, our communities were asked to help “flatten the curve” by staying home, avoiding crowds, washing our hands often and taking various other safety measures. Many of us changed our daily routines in ways we never imagined, hopeful that we would soon return to some level of “normal” again.

Across the country, including Colorado and western Kansas, we are now seeing record numbers of COVID-19-positive patients and hospitalizations, and many in our communities are feeling overwhelmed, worried and tired.

“Pandemic fatigue is real and it is both emotional and physical fatigue,” explained Di Thompson, MD, medical director of physician wellness. “We initially thought this pandemic was going to be a marathon. Then it turned into an ultramarathon. Now, it is so far beyond that and reserves are low. You can’t hold your breath for 10 months. Now more than ever, we need to care for our own well-being.”

Although it is essential that we all do everything we can to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as by wearing a mask and avoiding gatherings outside of our household, it is also important that we take care of ourselves so that we are able to bring our best selves to our work and our homes each day.

Thompson recommends these tips to care for your whole health:

- Make connections and interact (virtually) with people. These connections and human interactions are so important to our emotional and spiritual wellness. Turn on your camera during meetings with your colleagues. Schedule virtual dinners and coffee with loved ones or attend a virtual exercise class. Because we so deeply want to

make connections, it can be easy to try to rationalize small gatherings with friends and family. Craving these connections is normal, so acknowledge that feeling and then remind yourself of why we need to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

- Check in with how you are feeling. Set a daily alarm on your phone to take a few minutes to check in with yourself and ask how you’re feeling. Are you caring for your mind, body and spirit by eating well, exercising and getting adequate rest? Are you protecting your health and safety by wearing your mask and staying home when possible? Check in with how you are feeling, make adjustments and seek support as needed.

- Accept your feelings. We are experiencing so many different emotions during the pandemic. Many of us are feeling grief, anger, fatigue, fear and sadness. This can take several forms. You may be grieving, perhaps, over a death of a loved one or a friend, or grieving missed events and connections. It’s OK to grieve over a missed graduation party or long for family and friends that you can’t see right now. It’s normal to fear your family members getting sick. Acknowledge that you don’t always have to be a cheerleader and that it’s OK to take time to focus on your personal well-being. Slow down and take time to recharge.

- Acknowledge the holidays will look different this year. As we head into the holidays, Thompson recommended mentally preparing yourself for what will not be the traditional holiday season.

“This is not going to be your storybook Christmas. Recognize that and don’t try to make your holidays something that they can’t be right now,” she explained. “Think about what you can do with the tools you have. Make phone calls,

give creative or homemade gifts to people, send video clips of your favorite holiday memories and discover other venues to make the season merry, albeit in a new and different way.”

Defeating the pandemic requires ongoing effort from our communities to follow basic, time-tested personal interventions to fight the virus, including wearing masks when around others, maintaining safe social distancing and properly washing our hands.

By also taking the time to prioritize our personal health and well-being, we can help ensure we remain emotionally prepared for the challenges our communities will continue to face as we await distribution of a safe and effective vaccine.

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# Modern-day false prophets

By Jan Davis  
PREVIEW Columnist

A prophet called by God in the Old Testament issued instructions and warnings to the nation of Israel. This did not place them in good standing with men. Many were tortured and killed because of the harsh messages they delivered.

On the other hand, false prophets of the past taught goodwill and prosperity over gloom and despair. They spread deception and enticed through a slanted representation of God. The multitudes responded with accolades and a misplaced sense of trust.

Today, social media elevates politicians and journalists as social prophets. Fallacies are championed as facts and opinions as valid information. An opportunity for selfish gain is the silver lining for wars, financial chaos and pandemics. The outcome outweighs any adversity and sacrifice of human lives.

The world is manipulated one fake policy at a time. Self-righteousness is disguised as thoughtful consideration of others. Equality for mankind is masked in programs to promote dependency on government-funded welfare. Powerful heads of state determine the beneficiaries and leave the rest of humanity by the wayside. These policies are accomplished on the ruse of justice for the less fortunate. The general public develops an unfounded perspective of harmony and comfort.

Americans who dare to disagree with the agenda, laid out as mandates by authorities, are scorned and discredited as conspiracy theorists. Ridiculed and disgraced, they pay an unjust penalty. The price becomes apparent as lives are destroyed and businesses ruined in the aftershock.

Professors in universities educate and influence students into the acceptance of philosophical viewpoints such as socialism. They render the Bible as historical rhetoric with no true purpose or relevancy in today's culture. Christianity is dismissed as archaic and noninclusive. Young adults forsake the wisdom of parents and reject their beliefs as fabricated and without validation.

Spiritualists are elevated to a level equal to God. "All paths lead to God," is one of many theories instilled into the hearts of the young and old. Men attempt to communicate with God through angels and masters of channeling. God is portrayed through creation as the universe encapsulates his essence. In summary, the church has entered into a new age of psychic enlightenment of God.

Religious false prophets, disguised as evangelists, parade onto the world stage through modern

**A Matter of Faith**

*The present-day Christian church is not without fault. We adapted our services to the times we live in.*

technology. They align themselves with Christ and present their interpretation of God's Word as divine revelation. They deceive many with pretentious theologies and ideas. Their books are promoted with hefty price tags, as answers to the world's problems.

The present-day Christian church is not without fault. We adapted our services to the times we live in. Live bands and performers impersonate worship leaders. Churches provide gourmet coffee and donuts to entice people inside.

Members leave faithful churches to follow a carefree shepherd. The crowds are drawn like sheep to the slaughter, attracted by social events where spiritual change is neither expected nor required.

Ministers stand behind pulpits and preach "feel-good" messages of love and monetary success. They water down the Word of God and speak words which are accepted as tested guidelines and received as socially and politically correct.

Their followers walk out the door with an optimistic outlook on life. The outward shell takes on the persona of happiness, while inside they remain empty of any substance.

Helpless to stop the mass exodus, a few brave and committed pastors continue to preach the truth of the Bible. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they teach the entire gospel of Jesus Christ, without regard to personal risks and sacrifices.

These men are ridiculed and branded as blasphemers. Their churches are burned. The once majestic buildings are painted with obscenities and graffiti, this

destructive behavior performed under the guise of freedom of expression without regard for the religious rights of others.

Because of the dishonesty and diluted truths vocalized by political and religious figures, along with commentators and educators, the human race is primed to receive the greatest counterfeit prophet in history.

Camouflaged as a believer in God, this individual enters the world scene and promotes peace. He proclaims unity as the driving force behind one world religion where all faiths are treated equal. One world power, currency and belief system are touted as endeavors of goodwill for all men.

Those who oppose the mandates established by this world leader and his government suffer the consequences meted out by the establishment. A time of reckoning with great tribulation, economic failure and death are the after-effects of this evil scheme.

God's Word cautions followers of Christ to be diligent in prayer to discern reality from fiction and facts from garbage. A committed follower of Jesus will not be fooled by sweet-talking words. We understand the last book of the Bible and realize the inevitable destruction of this radical movement. The story does not end well for "yes men," but the assurance of eternal life with Christ is worth the persecution for believers.

The time is short, and Christians have a collective responsibility to share the accurate account of God's word. Jesus is the Son of God and our absolute Lord and Savior. He died on the cross for our sins, was buried and conquered death. He rose again on the third day, which assured us of eternal life with him. His return is eminent as our King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The watered-down version and lies are easier to accept. Do not be swayed by the deceitfulness of man, but place your trust in Jesus. You will not be disappointed.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." — 2 Timothy 4:2-4

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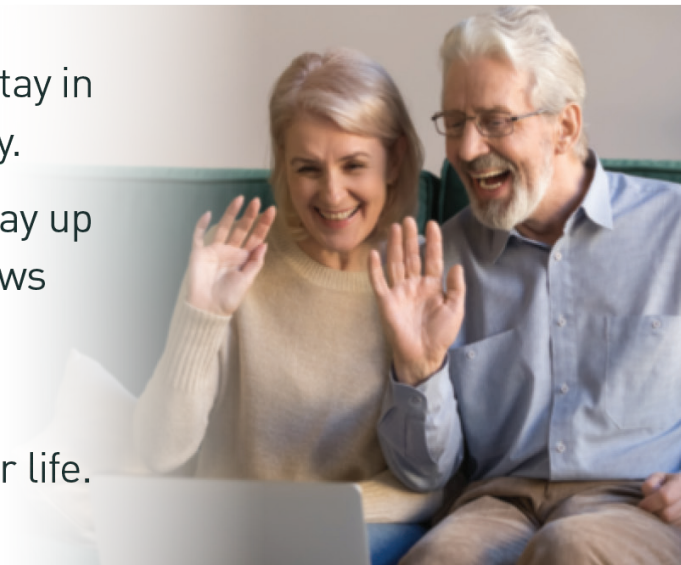
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