



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 113 — NO. 14, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

Vaccine distribution continues with health care workers, first responders

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Vaccine distribution is continuing in Archuleta County and southwest Colorado, with San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) and Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) reporting that most health care workers have received their first vaccine dose.

The two organizations have reported the administering of doses locally to individuals who fall within phases 1A and 1B of the state's vaccine distribution plan.

"Phase 1A is split into two parallel paths: (1) healthcare workers with direct exposure to COVID-19 patients (state distributions to facilities, some via the regional hub led by SJBPH) and (2) long-term care facilities enrolled in the federal pharmacy-based program with Walgreens and CVS," Claire Ninde, SJBPH director of communications, wrote in an email update Tuesday.

■ See Vaccine A8

Town council increases vacation rental fees

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

As part of setting its fee schedule for 2021, the Pagosa Springs Town Council voted to double the renewal fee for vacation rentals and to increase the application fee at a meeting on Dec. 17.

According to Town Clerk April Hessman, council had asked town staff to estimate costs for processing vacation rental licenses, both new and renewal.

"The new ones go through the Planning Department and Building Department. The Planning Department does have a lot more time spent on getting the neighborhood notifications and things like that completed," Hessman said, adding

■ See Fees A8



Mother Nature provided a glorious winter sunset on Tuesday evening.

Photo courtesy Beth Tollefsen

School district anticipates return to in-person learning

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta School District schools are planning to return to in-person school on Jan. 4, 2021, according to Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza's Dec. 18 memo for staff, which was shared with The SUN.

"Today the leadership team and I met to look at the data, study the Toolkit for Returning to In-Person Learning and plan for how we will return from the winter break. The data and the research continues to tell us that schools are some of the safest places. We also know that our students need to be in-person. We have done an amazing job with the last three weeks, but nothing beats being in your classrooms, learning with their peers, from you," the

■ See School A8

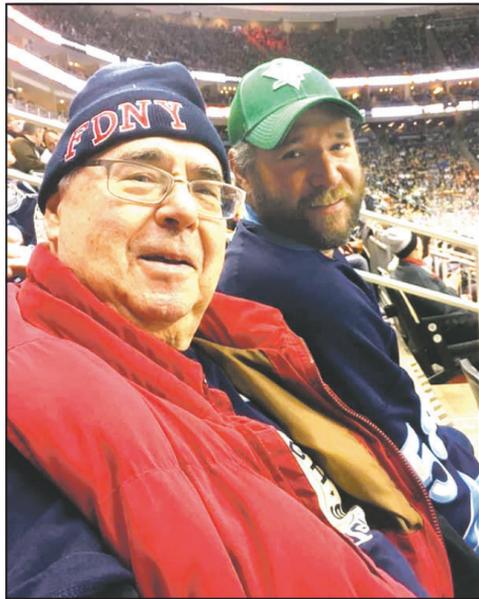


Photo courtesy Brian Collabolletta

Pagosa Springs resident Brian Collabolletta, right, with his dad, Mark, pose for a photo at a hockey game two years ago this week. Mark Collabolletta passed away from COVID recently, with the younger Collabolletta noting that going to hockey games with his father is one of the things he'll miss the most.

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

"You know, initially I thought, ... we're in a small town, this is never going to get to us," Brian Collabolletta recalled of his thoughts about the COVID-19 pandemic last spring. "I think a lot of people thought that."

He remembered thinking, "We'll get through it, summer's coming, this'll be over in no time."

Collabolletta noted he felt the restrictions that followed the declaration of the pandemic were a little excessive.

"It still hadn't even really hit Colorado," he said. Nevertheless, he explained, he and his wife closed their antique shop, closed their food truck, had guests canceling their reservations at the Collabollettas' vacation rentals, and Pagosa Springs was like a ghost town all of a sudden.

"That was a little hard because that's a source of income for us," Collabolletta said of guests canceling their vacations, adding, "People were scared to travel and there was nothing to do here, so we had to let them cancel."

When restrictions began to ease and tourists returned to Archuleta County over the summer, Collabolletta noted he remembers feeling fairly safe.

"I felt fairly safe, you know, being in Pagosa, that the local community was doing their part. And, you know, we had to deal with an influx of visitors still this summer, but it seemed to be pretty ... under control. ... I just felt like everyone was doing their part this summer," he said, noting later he also has done his part, wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer and following other suggested protocols.

Collabolletta and his wife reopened their antique store on June 1 with a restriction that no more than 10 people could be in the shop at a time and required masks.

Some people, he noted, ignored the mask requirement, while others expressed appreciation.

"It just seemed like it was under control for Pagosa," he said. "And then came fall."

Archuleta County had eight confirmed cases among its residents for much of the spring and into late June.

"September was just as busy as the rest of the summer. For us, it almost seemed like it was a busier September than normal," Collabolletta said. "Even going into October, ... town was just busy with tourists."

Collabolletta stated it seemed like cases were

■ See Navigating A8

'Take care of others'

Navigating the pains of the pandemic

Town to let emergency disaster declaration expire

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Following a lengthy discussion that featured numerous public comments from local citizens, the Pagosa Springs Town Council voted to let the local disaster declaration order expire at the end of the year at a regular meeting on Dec. 17.

Following disaster declarations made nationally, at the state level, by San Juan Basin Public Health and Archuleta County, the town made a declaration of local disaster on March 16 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since then, the local disaster declaration has been ratified and extended four times, according to agenda documentation.

The Archuleta County Board of

County Commissioners renewed its local disaster declaration on Dec. 15, extending it until Jan. 19, 2021.

According to Town Manager Andrea Phillips, the purpose behind declaring a local emergency is to enact emergency response plans, provide for proper personal protective equipment and access to federal or state funding in order to respond to the emergency.

Phillips clarified that a local disaster declaration does not put in place mandates solely on the town, rather these are statewide decisions.

"The purpose of a local disaster declaration is to essentially signal that things are different. We are in a pandemic. We are doing what we can to address the health and safety

■ See Declaration A8

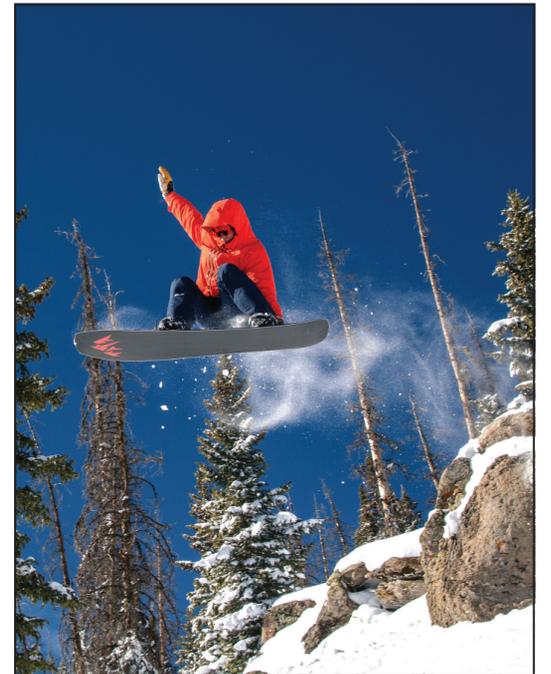


Photo courtesy Sam Bricker/Wolf Creek Ski Area.

A snowboarder gets some air at Wolf Creek Ski Area.

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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				Depth	Moisture	
12/15	29	9	S	.6"	.07"	
12/16	30	7	-	-	-	-
12/17	36	4	-	-	-	-
12/18	34	22	S	.7"	.06"	
12/19	31	9	S	T	T	
12/20	35	13	-	-	-	-
12/21	48	10	-	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs
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EDITORIAL

Christmas wishes

There is perhaps no time of year when more people are more aligned in heart, mind and spirit than at Christmas.

Even during a pandemic. No matter what your religious beliefs are, this is a time for kindness toward your fellow man.

With the spirit of Christmas in the air, we invited local leaders to share their Christmas wishes for the community.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners Chair Ron Maez wrote, "I would like to wish everyone in Archuleta County a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year. Stay safe and travel safe. Take care of yourself, family and your neighbors."

County Commissioner Alvin Schaaf added, "I want to wish everyone in Archuleta County a Merry Christmas, and I pray God will provide each of us with peace and a prosperous New Year!"

County Commissioner Steve Wadley shared, "This is a difficult time in our nation and in our community we all need to work together and support each other to get through an unprecedented hardship. Times will get better and we will get through this."

Pagosa Springs Town Manager Andrea Phillips wrote, "Wishing everyone the true joys of the season-health, happiness and love!"

Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger added: "We have more access to reliable, and unreliable information than ever before. Therefore, my Christmas wish, my prayer, is that all of us in our community seek truth as best we can, especially the

truth about Christ and Christmas. God bless you."

Greg Schulte, board chair for the Upper San Juan Health Service District, the body that oversees and stewards Pagosa Springs Medical Center, shared his wish: "On behalf of the employees and the Board of Directors for the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, we of course wish you all good health and a wonderful holiday season. We hope you'll join us in a desire for peace, joy and prosperity for our community in 2021."

Pagosa Springs Medical Center CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb added, "On behalf of the staff and providers at Pagosa Springs Medical Center, I wish the community a happy, hope-filled Christmas and holiday season, and good health in the coming year."

Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Board Chair Connie Cook wrote, "My wish for Pagosa Country is that everyone stays healthy and spreads kindness all around!"

Archuleta County Treasurer and Public Trustee Elsa White wrote, "I hope everyone is safe and healthy, that the New Year brings us all together to make it better than 2020. Be kind to one another. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Archuleta County Assessor Natalie Woodruff added, "Hold close in your hearts your loved ones, even though we can't hold them close in person. Give thanks for the beautiful place we live in. Be humble and kind. Have a joyous and peaceful holiday."

Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Emergency Communications Director Kati Harr wrote, "I wish everyone an abundance of health and joy, lots of time out-

side, open minds and hearts, deep peace and even deeper faith, and the unshakable knowledge that we are all valued and we are all essential. Be kind to yourselves and one another—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Pagosa Fire Protection District Fire Chief Randy Larson shared, "My Christmas wish for Pagosa is that we can return to normal and that our local businesses can maintain and prosper in 2021."

Sheriff Rich Valdez wrote, "My Christmas wish is—that my staff, all first responders and the citizens of Archuleta County stay safe and healthy during 2021. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Archuleta School District Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza added, "May we all find creative ways to safely enjoy the holiday season. My Christmas wish is for good health and prosperity for our community and for our students to have the opportunity to return to school in-person in the new year. Merry Christmas!"

Archuleta School District Board of Education President Bruce Dryburgh added, "Thank you for being a part of our wonderful Community in these difficult times. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

The message of Christmas is one of joy, hope and peace on Earth. There is no denying the spirit of love and hope that spreads throughout the community at this time of year.

We mean it, as everyone does, when we wish you warmly a merry Christmas.
Terri Lynn Oldham House

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264-8304
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WHADDYA THINK? Do you believe in Santa Claus?

Poll results (155 votes)

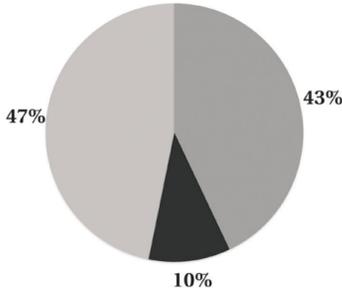
Yes. — 43 percent

No. — 10 percent

Once upon a time. — 47 percent

Vote this week online:

What will the local
economy do in 2021?
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LOOKING BACK



From the Nov. 17, 1983, Pagosa Springs SUN.

SANTA IS COMING — You better not shout, you better not cry. You better be at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on December 3rd when Mayor Ross Aragon officially introduces "Christmas in Pagosa" with the lighting of the Lions Club tree at Town Hall. Caroling, turkey drawings and special sales are planned for the evening.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 24, 1920

The telephone office will be closed on Christmas and New Years except from 9 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Frank W. Logsdon, deputy state factory inspector, made an official visit to this city this week. His headquarters are at Grand Junction.

A full-grown male wolf was caught by the foot in a trap of the Minium boys and Jesse Garvey in O'Neal park last week, but broke away ... The injury made it an easy matter to trail the brute in the snow, but it was several days before it was possible to get within shooting distance. He was then quickly dispensed with.

At the Baptist church tonight a Christmas tree and program will be provided, to which everybody is invited.

While skating on the San Juan last Friday night Miss Nellie Cato fell with such force that she was unconscious for about four hours.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 28, 1945

George Yamaguchi arrived home Tuesday with his honorable discharge. He is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Yamaguchi to be discharged and Tuesday was the first Christmas since war was declared that all of the Yamaguchi boys have been at home. Geo. spent several years at Camp Robison, Arkansas.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Belarde for dinner Christmas Day were Mr. and Mrs. Loren Belarde, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Martinez and daughters, Angela and Yolinda, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Belarde and sons, Lionel Jr. and Victor. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kaufman, of Las Vegas, Nev., Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Romero, Naomi Belarde, Adolph Belarde and son, Walter, of Monte Vista, and Billy Belarde.

The children of the Methodist Sunday School gave a very entertaining program Sunday evening at the church, under the direction of Mrs. Harvey Catchpole and Mrs. Aubrey Fowler. Mrs. Warren Bussing's second grade school children presented their Mother Goose play, and Harvey Catchpole sang a vocal solo.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 24, 1970

It was confirmed early this morning that a visitor from the North Pole is en route to Pagosa Springs. S. Claus, the visitor, is expected to be in the Pagosa Springs area tonight and will be visiting at the homes of local children.

Snowfall in town the past week has totaled about 15 inches, there were a couple of below zero nights and the entire county will be enjoying a white Christmas. All roads are open, travel is somewhat slow because of ice and snowpack, but conditions are generally good for this time of the year.

Snowfall in December to date on Wolf Creek Pass totaled 64 inches up until Sunday. Since that time, according to a late bulletin, another 46 inches has been received. That makes 89 inches in the week.

Joe Lister and his wife will be expense-paid guests of Admiral TV Co. in Las Vegas for five days after the first of the year. The trip was awarded because of the sales record for Lister Furniture Co. Mr. Lister should be a strong contender for first place if ever a contest is held to determine who has won the most contests.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 28, 1995

An early morning blaze on Tuesday severely damaged one River Center store, and caused varying degrees of smoke damage in several other establishments in the building on the east end of town. Pagosa Fire Protection District Chief Warren Grams said the fire started in, and was confined to, the Pedal the Peaks store on the ground floor at the River Center. Chief Grams said stores on either side of Pedal the Peaks suffered smoke damage, as did two spaces in the building above the site of the fire.

As one of their final items of business for 1995, the county commissioners on Dec. 19 certified the 1996 mill levies and expected revenues for various taxing districts in Archuleta County. With Archuleta County having an assessed valuation of \$86.31 million for 1996 the county commissioners approved a county-wide mill levy of 21.145 mills for 1996. The county commissioners set the general mill levy for the coming year at 16.805 mills in order to raise \$1.45 million for the general fund.

SANTA'S
NEW GEAR
in this time of
Virus Crisis

ROSE-COLORED
GLASSES FOR
A MERRIER
OUTLOOK

FLOAT VEST
FOR BOUYANCY
IN SEAS OF BAD
COVID NEWS

ONSTAR
FOR TRACKING
OLD NORMAL
CHRISTMAS

LUMPS
OF COAL FOR
STOCKINGS OF
HUMBUGS

SCOOP
SHOVEL FOR
CLEARING THE WAY
THRU POLITICAL
POOP

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Letters



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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.

'Pass it on'

Dear Editor:
"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke
Pass it on.

Paula Bain

'Thank you' is not enough

Dear Editor:
We ski in Colorado every year and always take lessons. Will not be going to Wolf Creek as planned this year (Covid and stuff) but I just remembered that I had meant to write a friendly reminder to other ski vacationers, who in past years, I have noticed never give their ski instructor a tip. Maybe you don't ever tip anyone. Maybe you don't know that you should - but we always hang around after the lesson to tip the instructor. It is, sadly, rare to see the other students in the groups do the same. If they have kids in a group, we notice they usually say "thank you", pick up their kids and just ski away. Please tip as you would a server, salon or anyone who gives you good service, 15-20% of the bill. A "Thank you" is not enough and does not pay their bills.

Lynn Hagedorn
Cape Coral, Fla.

Recycling plastic

Dear Editor:
As we get more and more information about plastic, it is becoming more and more clear that plastic simply is not recyclable as we think of that term today. You are probably familiar with the small triangle on some, but not all plastic devices. The number in the triangle is supposed to tell us which items are recyclable and which are not. What we have learned from recent news articles is that the molecular structure of the lower-numbered plastic containers are damaged by the recycling process requiring the addition of new material. The items with higher numbers go straight into a landfill.

Type "reuse of plastic for building blocks in Colombia" for what seems to be one solution that is working.

Other recent articles have shed some serious doubt on wind farms. The article I read showed a large pile of the wind vanes that propel the generators. They were said to not be usable or recyclable. Wind generators present a pretty big problem even if they work and the parts are recyclable. When the wind generators reach their service life they are required to be removed. One problem is that the base for a wind generator is approximately 20 tons of concrete. Another problem is that the contract with the property owner provides that the system, when it has reached its useful life, belongs to the property owner. That means that the

20-ton block of concrete has to be removed by the property owner, some of whom didn't read that part of the agreement. What exactly the property owner does with that is a question that has no easy answer. Adding the initial cost, the maintenance costs, and the end costs has shown by some calculations that wind generators just don't work as we have been told.

Read about the plastic blocks being built in Colombia. It will, at least, give you some hope and something to think about.

And, the next time you see an all-electric car, think about where that electricity came from.

Bill Hubbard

Audit election results

Dear Editor:
Further to my letter posted in your December 18th edition, I have more to discuss. In my previous post I asked whether Archuleta County or Colorado would audit the 2020 election results due to questions raised regarding Dominion Voting Systems' vote counting machines in other states. As it turns out, Republicans on the Colorado Audit Committee called a session last Tuesday (12/15). The session was attended by their Democrat colleagues and legal representatives from the Trump Campaign. The Republicans and Trump team members requested a forensic audit to verify the accuracy of the Dominion machine Colorado vote count. Not an unreasonable re-

quest given circumstances in other states. Of course, the Democrats objected due to "lack of evidence". I'm not sure how one gets evidence without first performing an investigation. Media reports of the event parroted the "no evidence", "debunked", and "baseless" claims seen in the national media. The Secretary of State's position was basically that Colorado, as a whole, has been using Dominion systems since 2015 and some counties since the 1990s. Thus, there's no need for an audit.

So, rather than taking up the challenge to prove no fraud occurred we are to be mollified by the fact that the current and previous Colorado administrations never looked for anomalies so why should we now. As if incompetence in government is an acceptable excuse. If the opponents of an audit are so confident, why not perform an audit to prove to us rubes how right they are? What is their objections to setting the voter's concerns to rest? Could it be that there is something to hide? How many politicians from both parties owe their souls and offices to Dominion Voting Systems?

If for one have had enough. If our elected officials are afraid to prove their legitimacy when vote counting systems have been called into question, then why should we be obligated to follow their dictates? Especially those proffered by executive order rather than legislation. I'm pretty sure I'm not alone in feeling this way. I'm reminded of the line from the movie Legends of

the Fall: "Screw 'em."

Mike Lane

Helping others

Dear Editor:
Timber Ridge subdivision had high hopes for planned holiday activities. As you might expect, the virus changed all of that. Instead of feeling glum about our dashed events we turned our focus towards those for whom isolation is a daily reality. We reached out to Archuleta Seniors and they matched us with 26 Meals on Wheels recipients. Our neighborhood community rose up, faster than Santa's elves and provided each senior with their requested gift, filled a stocking and stuffed a reusable shopping bag with practical home goods. We look forward to an ongoing holiday relationship with Archuleta MOW Seniors and wanted to share our collective cheer with the Pagosa Sun.

Merry Christmas.

Elizabeth Mattson

'No proof of voter fraud'

Dear Editor:
In the last issue of the Sun, Mr. John Meyer stated, "we will probably never know whether this election was legitimate or not." No, Mr. Meyer, although you may agree with the baseless rantings of Trump and his conspiracy spouting and lawsuit losing legal team, we know who won the election, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

What evidence do I have for this
■ See Letters A4



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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.

Letters

■ Continued from A3

verdict? First, we have the conclusions of Trump's own Attorney General Bill Barr, who has said there is no evidence of election fraud and now has refused to appoint a Special Counsel to investigate such fraud. Then we have Trump's former chief of cybersecurity, who has called this the most secure election in history. Governors and Secretaries of State, both Democrat and Republican, have confirmed the objectivity and integrity of their states' elections. Tens of thousands of honest, hard working election workers have not reported any irregularities. The Electoral College certified Biden's win. Finally, Senate Majority Leader McConnell has accepted Biden's victory, as have other Republican Senators. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) said "the Electoral College vote today makes clear that Joe Biden is now president-elect."

Over 50 lawsuits have been filed on behalf of Trump, almost all of which have been rejected out of hand by the courts or withdrawn before judgement. The suits have even been adjudicated by judges appointed by Trump himself. The Supreme Court, with a 6-3 conservative majority including 3 Justices appointed by Trump, refused to consider the election lawsuits. In all cases, the courts determined that there was no evidence of election fraud.

Against all of this evidence, we still have a variety of baseless claims from Trump and his disciples floating around. There is the grainy video of "suitcases" full of Biden ballots brought out late for illegal counting in Atlanta. Turns out these were the normal plastic bins used to hold ballots and were not counted after the deadline. An audit of votes from Dominion voting machines by an election monitoring group supposedly showed "millions" of Trump votes switched to Biden. However, the President of the monitoring group says no such audit was done. A postal worker in Pennsylvania claims to have seen Trump votes thrown out at his post office, but later recanted his affidavit. And the list goes on and on. Isn't it interesting that Trump and his lawyers claim to have thousands

of examples of fraud, but when they get into court under oath, the evidence seems to evaporate? Don't you think that if there actually was irrefutable evidence, this would be presented in court not just in the alternative universe of right wing "news?"

So, Mr. Meyer, you can support Trump's baseless and ego-driven assault on our Constitution and become complicit in the damage to our democratic institutions. Or you can follow the truth that there is no proof of voter fraud and accept Joe Biden as our 46th President.

John Porco

Great blessings

Dear Editor:

The covid-19 pandemic has changed so many aspects of our lives together: social, technological, medical, and spiritual. And it has brought an extra dose of death to our public consciousness. We must always lament death and allow it to drive us toward reflection on our purpose and practices in this world. But presently it seems we also suffer an extra dose of anxiety and panic.

We hear much rhetoric that the present pandemic is the "worst" in all ways. We like to use superlatives, perhaps to get each other's attention, but saying something is the "---est" introduces a logical problem: One must then compare that thing to all others that have come before. So if we are going to hear statements about the present pandemic being the "worst" or the "most lethal" or and other "---est," let's practice setting it up against another historical plague.

The bubonic plague (aka the Black Plague, the Black Death, etc) struck the world about 700 years ago. The germ theory of disease (the understanding that microscopic organisms caused disease) would not dawn on the world for another 400 years, so no one knew that a bacterium spread by fleas and rats caused the disease. Antibiotics would not be conceived or invented for another 500 years, so there was no medical (in our understanding of the term) treatment for it. A "scientific method" which would allow people to examine cases of the plague and figure out

by experience the best ways to mitigate its effects, was also at least four centuries away.

The Black Death killed between 45 and 60% of the population of Europe. Read that again: between 45 and 60% of the population died of something it did not understand, didn't know how to prevent, and could not treat. The world lived and died at the mercy of the disease.

Today we face a life-threatening virus. But we have the tools of science, the understanding of viral pathology, the biochemistry of vaccine creation, and a vast array of medical technologies. Let's balance our respect for the dangers of covid-19 with reason, gratitude, and respect for the capabilities at our disposal.

We will never come to a time when we will be able to ignore death. Facing disease and death is a task not for science but for faith--if you'd like to know more about my journey in that direction, look me up. I'd love to talk. In the meantime, let's keep a hopeful perspective.

Knowing that masks slow down the transmission of microscopic viruses is a blessing. Having vaccines is a blessing. Having access to medical care that can treat respiratory infection is a blessing. Having digital communications to mitigate isolation is a blessing. These were not always so. Be thankful for them.

And continue to thank God for those who further the advancement of science and medicine: medical professionals, scientists, and the funding that makes their work possible. They are all great blessings.

Emrys Tyler

Vaccine brings hope

Dear Editor:

2021 brings hope that the COVID-19 pandemic can finally be brought under control and that our lives can return to some semblance of normalcy, if that's possible in a post-COVID-19 world. Vaccine-acquired herd immunity is possible, but only if enough in the population are immunized, giving the virus nowhere to spread. Barring that, the virus will continue to spread from person to person, sickening many and killing the most vulnerable and the unlucky.

In the first phase of distribution, the COVID-19 vaccines are currently being administered to front-line

health workers and other high-risk populations, including residents of long-term care facilities. The next phase will prioritize the next-highest risk populations, including persons 65 and over and those with underlying conditions, and the final phase will include the rest of the adult population. Vaccines for younger people may be approved soon, if warranted by clinical trials.

As a physician, I know the value of vaccines; they can and do literally save lives. I know vaccines are safe and have trusted my health and the health of my family to vaccines. Many diseases are now controlled, thankfully, because of vaccination. Vaccines protect millions of people every year against measles, mumps, chicken pox, hepatitis, shingles, and so many other diseases. Populations in countries without access to these common vaccines often suffer devastating consequences.

As we continue rolling out phase 1 COVID-19 vaccine distribution and prepare for phases 2 and 3, I encourage everyone to plan to get vaccinated. Vaccination is voluntary, and while some may believe they are healthy enough or young enough to not need the vaccine, they very well might, and they certainly have the potential to spread it to someone who is at high risk of contracting the disease.

When it is my turn, I will not hesitate to be vaccinated. I know people, including family members and friends, who have been hospitalized and who have died because of COVID-19.

I will also not hesitate because I know it is the right thing to do. I know small business owners who have closed their shops and restaurants and lost their livelihoods and employees who have been laid off because we have been unable to control the spread of the virus by other means.

If you care about your health, the health of your loved ones, and the health of the local economy, I urge you to get vaccinated.

I am hopeful that our community can achieve vaccine-acquired immunity, but it will only happen if enough of us choose it. PSMC will be assisting in community vaccinations as they become available.

Rhonda Webb

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Obituary

Sidney W. Creech

Sidney W. Creech passed away on Dec. 21 at his home in Pagosa Springs. He was born in Brainerd Minn., and lived all over the world as a child as a "Navy brat." He attended high school in Garden Grove, Calif., and then joined the Army, where he did two tours in Vietnam. He moved to Colorado in 1980 and was an avid Broncos fan. In 2000, he and his wife relocated to Pagosa Springs where he was employed by Archuleta County Road and Bridge for many years and was a board member of Vets4Vets. He leaves behind his wife of 39 years, Julie Creech, a son, Doug Creech; and a sister, Joni Creed. Funeral will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on a date yet to be determined. Donations may be made in his honor to Vets4Vetspsco.org.



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Business

PS We Love You business support program up and running

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area
Chamber of Commerce

From Dec. 18 to Feb. 15, 2021, people will be able to access numerous local stores, restaurants and other industries and purchase items or gift cards/certificates.

Here is how the program works. Log on to the website, <https://www.32auctions.com/PSWeLoveYou>. That site has local participating businesses that are offering goods or gift cards for people to purchase. Purchase your item, then go to check out. You will be able to pick up the item or gift card at some stores, others will mail them out. The business will contact you about your purchase.

The store, in turn, will receive the full value of the item purchased. The Chamber, through a generous partnership with the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, will be picking up all the credit card and online store site fees in order for our businesses to recoup as much revenue as they can, thus the support part of the

program. Plus, it gives the stores another outlet for people to access their goods. Because of the town and county partnership, any business that is registered with the state is eligible to participate.

Businesses can list up to five individual items or different denomination gift cards. Within those five items, they can list as many gift certificates or items as are available — don't oversell your hard good items between actual and virtual shoppers. It's that easy. Business should have received an email with instructions on how to send your items that you want listed to the Chamber. We are still including businesses in the program, so don't miss out on this additional free sales opportunity.

Shop local from the comfort of your home or office. Remember, if you forgot that Christmas present and need a New Year's gift or perhaps a birthday or anniversary present, the program runs until Valentine's Day, so you can shop for your loved one online until then. Remember to shop local with PS We Love You! program. It is just one

more way to show your support to our business community. If a business would like to participate and has any questions, contact us at 264-2360 or at info@pagosachamber.com. Love your locals and shop Pagosa Springs through the PS We Love You program.

Voting open for the Chamber board of directors

Voting remains open for the 2021 slate of candidates for the Chamber board of directors. Businesses who are Chamber members are eligible to vote. There is a slate of six very qualified candidates this year. With each ballot, a member can vote for up to three candidates.

The candidates this year are Tabitha Zappone, Robin Young, Marissa Talamante, Shane Price, Curtis Nehring and Eric Hittle. A big thank you goes out to these candidates for "putting themselves out there" to run for the board. To find out more about the candidates, go to the Chamber home page, www.pagosachamber.com and click on the "Vote Now" — 2021 Board of Director Candidates tab under Chamber and Community News. This link will take you to a more

detailed description of each of the candidates and your opportunity to cast your ballot. You can also go to <https://pagosachamber.com/board-of-directors-member-vote/>.

The candidates' bios are interesting and informative. If you are not familiar with all of the candidates, read their bios and vote for a person that you believe can represent your business voice. The beauty of the make-up of the Chamber board is that there is a wide representation of businesses including food service, retail, lodging, nonprofits, service industry and professional services. Any of the candidates would be qualified; however, only the top three vote recipients will be elected to sit on the Chamber board for the next three years.

This is an important part of your Chamber membership — to vote for those representatives that will be your business voice. If you are not computer savvy or for some reason cannot cast your vote electronically, you are welcome to stop by the Chamber to cast your vote via paper ballot. Questions can be directed to the Chamber at 264-2360. Ballots can be cast until Jan. 8, 2021. Take just five minutes and cast your ballot.

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What small business owners can do to steer their way through a crisis

By Cathy Hayes
Special to The SUN

As the nation's economy continues to struggle because of the impact of COVID-19, small business owners and their leadership skills are being put to the test.

They face the task of adapting to the crisis and helping their employees adapt as well. But just what steps can business leaders take to keep employee morale high, make sure the business stays afloat and manage their own concerns about the future?

One of the most important things is to be transparent with employees about where the business stands, said author Adam Witty.

"Face the facts head on and don't try to sugarcoat it," said Witty. "Share with your team, in calm and rational terms, what impacts you expect the virus to have on your business and what the business is doing to try to mitigate those negative impacts."

Witty suggests other steps business leaders need to take as they manage their way through the crisis:

- Over communicate. With remote work, communicating is more important now than ever. In an office, much of the communication happens naturally as people drop by each other's offices or pass in the hallway. With everyone spread out, communication can easily fall by the wayside, so it needs to be more intentional.

Witty said it's critical to use video communication like Zoom or Google Hangouts whenever possible to interact with employees. He also makes a point of sending at least three company-wide video messages a week.

"In times of great uncertainty, communicate more, not less," he said. "In the absence of infor-

mation, people tell themselves stories and I can promise they are bad stories."

- Project calm. When a leader is anxious and fearful, everyone will pick up on that and they, too, will become anxious and fearful. "If your employees see that you are worried, they will begin to think it is all over," Witty said.

That doesn't mean to fake it or to pretend the situation isn't bad.

"We can't control the situation we find ourselves in," he said. "But we can control how we react to the situation, and how we react will dictate our results."

- Consider introducing new products or services. Now is a good time to get innovative, Witty said, so brainstorm with your team about alternative ways to bring in revenue if your usual sources have been disrupted. For example, some restaurants that were strictly sit-down establishments pivoted to offer takeout and delivery. Witty's own company created new publishing and marketing products aimed at potential clients who may be more cost conscious during these tough economic times.

- Finally, Witty said, have a plan.

"Hopefully, you already have a strategic plan for your business that you are executing week in and week out," he said. "As we continue to move along through this crisis, that plan will need to be adjusted as COVID-19 makes some pieces of your plan obsolete."

He suggested meeting weekly, if not more often, to keep updating the plan to reflect the new realities. Then communicate the plan and its latest adjustments to your team.

"When employees know the leaders have a plan," Witty said, "it creates calm and confidence."

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Volunteers hand out Christmas food bags at a COVID-safe distribution event at the Community United Methodist Church Monday afternoon.

Council approves rezoning Springs Development parcel to mixed-use town center

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At a regular meeting on Dec. 17, an ordinance was approved on second reading by the Pagosa Springs Town Council that rezones the property known as the north parcel of the Springs Development to a mixed-use town center.

Before discussing the matter, council member Rory Burnett recused himself.

At a meeting on Dec. 1, the town council unanimously approved Ordinance 945 on first reading.

"This is a property owner-driven request to rezone this property from mixed-use residential to mixed-use town center, which is consistent with the contemplated

development that was included in their vested right agreement which town council approved a number of years ago," Planning Director James Dickhoff said.

Olympus SL1 LLC submitted a zoning map amendment application requesting the rezoning of the parcel to be changed from mixed-use residential (MU-R) to mixed-use town center (MU-TC).

The parcel in question is the parcel that 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 Subdivi-

sion'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.

On Nov. 24, the town planning commission approved a recommendation to town council to approve Ordinance 945 to rezone the property to MU-TC, agenda documentation notes.

Dickhoff noted during the Dec. 1 meeting that the proposed development aligned more with MU-TC uses and less with MU-R.

During the Dec. 1 meeting, council member Shari Pierce raised a question on whether or not the

vested rights would be voided because the property is being changed from MU-R to MU-TC.

"It is a good thought because there are limitations as to zoning in this situation. However, there is a clear exception when an owner of the property requests the zoning variance or is otherwise made aware of it and does not object,"

Town Attorney Clayton Buchner said during the Dec. 17 meeting. "Since the owner brought the rezoning motion, and they are obviously clearly aware of it, and we can go to that statute and accept that zoning issue."

chris@pagosasun.com

County's unemployment rate 5.8 percent for November

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

The number of individuals employed in Colorado increased by 500 in November to 2,936,700, according to information released by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) in a Dec. 18 press release. This figure represents 63.2 percent of the state's 16-and-older population.

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent for the month of November, staying flat from 6.4 percent in

October.

Archuleta County's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate sits at 5.8 percent for the month of November, with 398 individuals unemployed. Last year, the county's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 2.6 percent.

Archuleta County's unemployment rate for October was 5.4 percent.

The press release states that, in November, "Colorado's labor force decreased by 100 ... to 3,136,000. The labor force participation rate

declined by one-tenth of a percentage point to 67.5 percent."

The highest county unemployment rates for November were as follows:

- San Miguel County at 11.2 percent.
- Pitkin County at 10.2 percent.
- Huerfano County at 8.7 percent.
- Pueblo County at 8.3 percent.
- Eagle County at 7.8 percent.

Archuleta County and all adjacent counties sit between 5 and 6.9 percent for unemployment. **■ See Unemployment A7**

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Archuleta County's rate of new COVID-19 cases declines

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Archuleta County received a bit of good news late last week, just in time for Christmas — the rate of new infections of COVID-19 is decreasing, and Archuleta County is trending toward Level Orange: High Risk on the state's COVID dial.

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) released the good news on Friday, Dec. 18.

In a press release, the organization states it "is pleased to report that both Archuleta and La Plata counties are making progress in critical metrics to return to Level Orange: High Risk public health measures on Colorado's COVID-19 Dial. The Dial pairs the public health protocols for businesses and events with underlying data about the pandemic in each county. In the past two weeks, both counties have begun to see improvements in case incidence and test positivity rates."

On Dec. 16, Archuleta County had a two-week cumulative incidence rate (the number of new cases in the last 14 days, adjusted for county population) of 1,235.6 cases per 100,000 residents according to the state, which SJBPH Environmental Health Director Brian Devine noted was "very, very high."

Archuleta County's incidence rate peaked above 1,300 cases per 100,000 residents shortly after the county moved to Level Red: Severe Risk on Dec. 6.

By Wednesday, Dec. 23, that rate had fallen to 649.9 cases per 100,000 residents.

SJBPH noted that test positivity is beginning to drop in both counties and is already within parameters for Level Orange.

Archuleta County's positivity rate for the week of Dec. 6, per SJBPH, was 10.74 percent.

As of Wednesday afternoon, SJBPH reported 444 cumulative lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among residents, as well as 78 nonresident cases and six active outbreaks.

"SJBPH knows that many of our businesses are hanging by a thread

and others have had to close," said Liane Jollon, SJBPH executive director. "Our community has sacrificed so much to keep each other safe and we know how difficult that has been. These improving metrics show that public health measures are working, but they will only continue to work with consistent policy and behavior in our communities. As we begin vaccinating our most vulnerable community members, we are concerned about increased cases associated with gatherings with the winter holiday, prior to kids going back to school in person, and have a grave concern about what may happen on New Year's Eve."

Hospitalizations in the region, however, have not declined.

According to the SJBPH press release, "Unfortunately, hospitalizations in the southwest region have not begun to decline and utilization of healthcare, especially intensive care, continues to be high."

"Hospitalization tends to be the last metric we track to rise or fall," Jollon explained, "because it takes time for people to develop symptoms serious enough to need hospitalization. Nevertheless, the data are showing that what we're doing is working. We urge everyone to continue good public health habits and to cancel any holiday gatherings they were hoping to have, so we can get through the rest of this winter and reopen businesses and schools safely as soon as possible."

The press release notes, "If cases and positivity rates continue to decline and hospitalizations (especially intensive care unit usage) begin to trend in the right direc-

tion, there will be a good chance of reaching the less-restrictive phase in coming weeks."

Increased testing continues

Archuleta County, in partnership with Western Heritage Event Center, Pagosa Medical Group, Axis Health System, Archuleta School District and the Town of Pagosa Springs, will hold a testing event on Wednesday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the all-weather Hughes Pavilion at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds, located at 344 U.S. 84.

There is no fee for testing and a doctor's order is not required.

Preregistration for the testing is encouraged on the day of the testing at: <https://curative.com/sites/14533/walkup>.

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) continues to test symptomatic patients through its clinic, and offers testing to asymptomatic individuals who may have been exposed through drive-through testing to the right rear of the medical center six days per week.

The drive-thru testing is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day but Sunday and will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb cautioned that tests are a "snapshot in time" and a negative test does not mean you won't later become symptomatic and spread the virus.

Providers offering testing include:

- Archuleta Integrated Healthcare: 264-2104.
- Pagosa Medical Group (including rapid testing if deemed appro-

priate by a provider): 372-0456.

- PSMC: 731-3700.

COVID-19 symptoms

The state suggests that people with symptoms should always get tested immediately. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.

Steps to slow the spread

According to SJBPH, the necessary steps that must be taken now by everyone to slow the spread of COVID-19 are:

- Universal use of face masks.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Avoiding nonessential indoor spaces.
- Getting tested if you are symptomatic, think you've been exposed or if you work in a high-contact position.
- Prompt following of quarantine guidance if exposed.
- Protecting people at higher risk of severe illness or death.
- Postponing travel.
- Improving indoor ventilation and hand hygiene.
- Protecting essential workers.
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available.

randi@pagosasun.com



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Unemployment

Continued from A6

sdale County was the exception, having had a 4 percent unemployment rate in November.

From October to November, nonfarm payroll jobs in Colorado decreased by 6,900 for a total of 2,680,700.

Over the year, the average work-week for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.2 to 33.9 hours, while average hourly earnings rose from \$30.66 to \$31.15, over \$1.50 more than the national average hourly earnings of \$29.58.

Unemployment claims

In a Dec. 17 press release, the CDLE offered data for statewide unemployment claims. The press release notes that:

- The CDLE has paid out more than \$6.49 billion in unemployment benefits since March 29.

"... The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reported that 19,854 regular initial unemployment claims were filed the week ending December 12th. There were also 20,621 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims filed for the same week. Since mid-March, a total of 682,362 regular initial unemployment claims have been filed and a grand total of 916,915 claims, including federal PUA benefits," the press release states.

According to the CDLE's data, the top 10 industries with the highest initial unemployment claims for the week ending Nov. 28 are:

1. Accommodation and Food Services: 5,606, or 45.5 percent of claims for the week.
2. Construction: 895, or 7.3 percent of claims for the week.
3. Healthcare and Social Assistance: 776, or 6.3 percent of claims for the week.
4. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services: 670, or 5.4 percent of claims for the week.
5. Education Services: 607, or 4.9 percent of claims for the week.
6. Retail Trade: 599, or 4.9 percent of claims for the week.
7. Professional and Technical Services: 461, or 3.7 percent of claims for the week.
8. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation: 455, or 3.7 percent of claims for the week.
9. Manufacturing: 443, or 3.6 percent of claims for the week.
10. Other Services: 286, or 2.3 percent of claims for the week.

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Declaration

■ **Continued from front** of the community," she explained further.

If extended, the local disaster declaration would run until Jan. 21, 2021, Phillips explained.

As of Dec. 14, there were 415 Archuleta County resident cases of COVID-19 and 75 nonresident cases as well as three outbreaks, Phillips noted.

Additionally, Archuleta County is considered "Severe Risk" on the statewide measuring dial, agenda documentation notes.

"That's based on our incidence rate of cases in the community, hospitalization and other metrics," Phillips explained.

Law and enforcement

Town Attorney Clayton Buchner clarified during the meeting that the local emergency disaster declaration has nothing to do with school closures.

"It has nothing to do with any mask mandates. The town has not passed an ordinance like many towns and counties across the state that require the wearing of masks. That's not what this emergency declaration does," Buchner said, adding that the town's declaration does not trump the state's.

The local emergency order has nothing to do with limiting capacity and local businesses and that is not a town council decision, Buchner added.

"Everyone needs to bear that in mind that the local emergency order has nothing to do with any of these issues," he said. "It's not your town council shutting down busi-

nesses, mandating masks, shutting down schools, limiting capacity in churches or allowing certain capacities in other venues such as Walmart. This local emergency order is totally irrelevant pursuant to those issues."

Even if the town rescinded its own declaration, it would still be under the orders of the state's declaration, Buchner noted.

According to Buchner, the town's local declaration provides the town with "a line" to the state for funds that come down in the event of an emergency.

"Our takeaway is that our local emergency order has nothing to do with our local closures," he said. "I think it's important that the public knows that keeping the local order in place or not locally will not change the state of emergency at the Colorado level."

In regard to enforcing the local health orders, the local public health department has the authority to enforce public health orders, Phillips explained, adding that there is a provision for local authorities to also take enforcement action.

"The state as well as local authorities have had the approach of seeking voluntary compliance first," Phillips said.

Since Sept. 1, the town has received 45 different complaints, with 36 of those complaints related to masks not being required or improper wearing of masks, Phillips noted.

Local law enforcement has been attempting to educate visitors, locals and business owners about what is expected of them under the statewide orders, she added later.

Five warnings have been given so

far with one summons being issued for a liquor license violation, she explained.

"In short, there are different remedies that can be taken," she said. "San Juan Basin Public Health can revoke a retail food establishment license for a restaurant. The town can suspend a liquor license and the state can actually revoke the license."

Additionally, the local police department can issue a trespassing violation to those who enter a business without a mask and refuse to leave, she added.

"At our local level, our local police cannot write a ticket for the state violation unless we have locally adopted those executive orders and or public health orders involving that particular allegation," Buchner said. "In our case, we have not adopted any ordinances criminalizing or adopting the public health orders."

The state public health orders contain criminal liability and executive orders contain civil liability, Buchner noted.

"Our policy now is to educate and ask for voluntary compliance at the local level. If complaints continue to come in, what happens is the district gets a hold of them and it leaves our purview and the health district can, as you heard, ask for a restraining order to enforce the public health orders that have been passed down by the state level," he explained further.

Health perspective

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb explained that the facility is licensed for 11 hospital beds, but only has 10, seven emergency rooms and the

facility does not have an intensive care unit.

"Our capacity has always been very fluid and always has been prior to COVID," she said. "We have had at various points in the past six weeks where our hospital inpatient ward was full or almost full. Not with COVID, but with patients, and we had challenges transferring patients to higher levels of care."

Regional hospitals have had their facilities full and have not been able to take patients in from PSMC for higher care, she explained.

Up until Dec. 1, PSMC did not admit COVID patients, she added later.

PSMC has also experienced staffing impacts due to COVID, with Webb noting that in November PSMC had 27 employees out of work due to COVID-19 sickness or exposures.

"On Nov. 19, we were informed that there were no ICU beds in the state of Colorado, but since then, we've had places we can transfer people but just not in our usual way," she said.

PSMC Board Chair Greg Schulte added during the meeting that the local health care system is "being stressed."

"It's not going to be, I think, the right message to send that everything is OK and that it's getting better because it's really not," Schulte said. "Our capacity is fluid and that changes from day to day, but personally, I would say that we still need to be on message that we need to take this seriously."

Whatever town council chooses that allows for the greatest amount of flexibility for PSMC to assist the

community is something that PSMC would support, Schulte added.

SJBPH Environmental Health Director Brian Devine, who also serves as the deputy incident commander for COVID, explained that, from his perspective, the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis in a "number of ways."

"Just last week, we saw that it was the leading cause of death in Colorado for the first time since the spring. I suppose I would dispute that people don't die from COVID-19. We've been fortunate in Archuleta County. I think largely thanks to the work of the medical center and public health and all of our county and municipal partners to have avoided any fatalities in Archuleta County so far," Devine said.

Council thoughts

Following numerous public comments, council member Rory Burnett explained that some businesses have a "legitimate fear" that they would lose government funding if the local disaster declaration were to be rescinded.

"It all comes down to balance and what that means to each individual is I think very specific," Burnett said. "I fully intended to vote no tonight, but I'm reconsidering that with the asterisk of I think what the people are looking for from us as a council that we are not going to retaliate against those who might not be following the orders to a T for the sake of those that are."

Shutting down the town's economy and schools and the community's collective life has more negative impacts than the actual virus in the long-term, council member Mat

deGraaf explained.

"As I watch as our tax revenues continue to grow month after month and visitors continue to stream into our community, I have a hard time declaring our town as a disaster area," he said.

A big part in any decision is managing expectations, council member Madeline Bergon explained.

"None of the mandates and restrictions go away if that's lifted," she said, adding that there is a "disconnect" between the council and some citizens.

Having a disaster declaration in place does not stop local businesses operating the way that they are operating now, but it has the potential to help those businesses should funds become available to the town, council member Shari Pierce added.

"I would personally rather have it in place and be prepared because I don't think the businesses know or hurt by having it in place, or the residents for that matter," Pierce said.

Following more discussion, deGraaf made a motion that town council allow the emergency declaration to expire at the end of the year.

That motion passed via a 4-3 vote, with Burnett, deGraaf, council member Matt DeGuise and Mayor Don Volger voting for the motion, while Bergon, council member Nicole Pitcher and Pierce voted against.

"For this particular one, I think, realistically speaking, it really doesn't make a big difference. The big difference will come in how we can support our businesses. That's what I really want to see. We need to support our businesses who are struggling," Volger said.

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Navigating

■ **Continued from front** going up across the country, except for Pagosa.

On Sept. 1, 48 cases had been reported among residents, with that number growing to 55 by Oct. 1.

Collabolla noted he recalled thinking things were about to change as he saw people continuing to come in from all over, hunters coming to town, restaurants bustling, and began to see more people without masks.

"I just started to feel a sense of, this isn't going in the right direction all of a sudden," he said.

On Nov. 1, Archuleta County had 69 cases. By Dec. 1, Archuleta County's cases had grown to 258, with that figure up to 444 as of Dec. 23.

"Cases just started booming here all of a sudden, just out of nowhere, it seemed like," Collabolla recalled, adding, "And that's when I started getting a little more concerned."

Collabolla said this fall he began noticing more people not wearing masks around town, seeming not to care.

Then, the pandemic hit even closer to home.

The first week of November, Collabolla's parents in Pittsburgh, Pa., called. His dad, Mark, had COVID.

"That's when it was like, OK, this isn't good. How'd that happen?" he recalled.

His parents, he said, had been on lockdown since the pandemic started, remaining very careful through things such as having groceries delivered.

Mark Collabolla, however, had undergone knee surgery and was in physical therapy, where Brian Collabolla said he may have picked

up the virus.

"That was the only place he was going to," Brian Collabolla explained.

His father had a mild fever for two to three days, he noted, and thought he was past it.

Then, after about a week, his father — who spent a lifetime with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease — was having trouble breathing and, after some time, decided he should go to the hospital.

"They put him on some oxygen right away and he felt much better," Brian Collabolla relayed.

Mark Collabolla received treatments and oxygen for two weeks, with his condition remaining the same — not better or worse.

Then Brian Collabolla got another call, this time his mom telling him his father was going to be put on a ventilator that evening, a Friday.

"I got a call the next day, 8 a.m., that he'd passed at about 3 a.m. Just quick," Brian Collabolla said. "Even that morning there was talk of putting him in a rehab facility ... everything was OK."

He added, "Now you know somebody that it's happened to and it's much more serious."

Brian Collabolla also faced a tough decision in deciding whether or not to travel back to Pittsburgh following his father's death, but ultimately decided not to.

"I couldn't risk going home," he said, noting he couldn't risk getting COVID-19 and passing it along, noting that he has two sisters who work in health care.

That, he noted, was probably the hardest part, but the family has

planned a memorial for the spring, when they hope things will be better.

One of the last times he spoke with his father, he said, was on Thanksgiving — his dad's 76th birthday.

He also noted the affect the pandemic has had on others he cares about, among them his 81-year-old mother-in-law who is affected by not being able to leave the house to do anything and a friend in their late 70s battling health problems who has lost 40 pounds and gone downhill over the course of the pandemic.

"This is affecting people in more ways than just, you know, people being unemployed," he said, noting that Pagosa Springs has a tendency to avoid much of what affects the rest of the country and is why people live here. But, he added, "This really is affecting our little town and people just don't realize it."

Now, he explained, everywhere he goes he notices everything: people not wearing masks, not being hygienic.

"I'm definitely more aware now. ... I get irritated easily by people that aren't taking it seriously," he said.

He dislikes seeing businesses in town not following public health orders and those orders not being enforced.

"It's not a political thing. It's not a hoax," he said. "It can happen to any of us."

And, he indicated, he just wants everyone to work together for the sake of the town.

"It's not about you," he said. "This is bigger than just you. Take care of others. Do your part."

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Vaccine

■ **Continued from front**

She further explained that the health care worker path of phase 1A is "almost complete for the first dose," noting that both approved vaccines — from Pfizer and Moderna — require a second dose a few weeks later.

The federal path does not go through SJBPH, she noted, but SJBPH is working to use its allocations "to speed up the vaccination of these facilities."

According to Ninde, SJBPH is serving as the lead coordinator for receiving and redistributing vaccine doses in southwest Colorado, and is checking in regularly with its clinical partners.

She noted that, "so far we have 100% on time vaccination distribution and administration."

Locally, PSMC has been working to administer doses within the community after it received an allocation of 200 doses for its employees.

"Thus far we have vaccinated 130 employees who are currently 1a or are 1b who will become 1a in the event of a surge. This week we vaccinated 70 1a and 1b community members. The nursing home is to be vaccinated in Colorado by Walgreens and CVS who will receive their

vaccines. We have reached out to them and offered to help administer vaccines if needed," PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb wrote in an email to The SUN Tuesday.

A statement released by PSMC last week clarified that PSMC received authorization from the state to begin administering doses to those who fall within phase 1B, which is moderate-risk health care workers and responders, including first responders.

Webb and other PSMC staff reported that Pine Ridge Extended Care Center is slated to have vaccines administered in early January.

Webb listed the businesses and organizations outside of PSMC served through the 1A and 1B distribution Monday and Tuesday: Pagosa Medical Group, Axis Health, Alpine Medical Specialty Practices, Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy, King Campbell Dentistry, San Juan Dental, Mountain Eye Care, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, In Balance Physical Therapy, Classic Air and Pagosa Smiles.

When more doses will arrive in southwest Colorado for dissemination wasn't clear as of press time Wednesday.

"SJBPH and partners receive a

weekly notification of expected regional shipments for the following week, and we work together to redistribute and allocate these doses week by week. We are hopeful that in the future we will have additional advance notice so we can establish a regular schedule and give people some more exact information about when they might be vaccinated," Ninde wrote.

It is expected that the initial supply of COVID-19 vaccine(s) will be limited for several months.

Ninde also pointed out that individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccination "should still practice public health precautions to control spread of the disease."

Those precautions include:

- Universal wearing of face masks.
- Social distancing by at least 6 feet.

• Avoiding all social gatherings with others outside of your household.

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

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

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Fees

■ **Continued from front**

that renewals take time as well.

Agenda documentation notes that it is \$400 for a new license and \$200 for a renewal, but only half of those fees support the general fund in which the departments are housed and the other half of the money goes into the affordable housing fund to be used for supporting various housing projects.

"I would be in favor of us raising our vacation rental license fees to be maybe more in line with what the county is doing and then we could still have some of that money go into the surcharge as we are now, but we would not really be going in the hole so much with our own expenses of taking care of these applications," council member Shari Pierce said.

Currently, Archuleta County charges \$400 for a license and \$400

per year for renewals, according to agenda documentation.

Council member Mat deGraaf indicated that he was in favor of increasing the vacation rental fee, but added that he believed there should be two different renewal fees.

"I feel like we should encourage more owner-occupied units and charge them a little bit less," he said. "I think that many of the problems that a community and a neighborhood has with vacation rentals is that, one, the home is vacant except for visitors. Well, when it's an owner occupied, the owner is still there, still a part of the community, still a neighbor."

Council member Nicole Pitcher added that she liked the idea of a discount for an owner-occupied vacation rental, but added that it should still be able to cover the town's costs.

If town council were to choose to

change the renewal and application fees, it creates problems as the town has already received fees from vacation rentals for 2021, Phillips explained, citing that the town could "grandfather" those individuals into the new schedule or request the additional funds.

Phillips added that town council could opt to have the change go into effect at a later date.

Following more discussion, town council voted to increase the application fee for vacation rentals to \$500 and the renewal fee for vacation rentals to \$400, with those who have already gotten their licenses approved for 2021 and paid being grandfathered in.

Pierce's motion also included a future discussion on owner-occupied vacation rentals and reduced fees for those parties as well.

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School

■ **Continued from front**

memo states. "So we are planning to return to in-person school on January 4. We realize that conditions change and there are dynamics that are out of our control. So the leaders will convene for a brief meeting on Thursday December 31, just to be sure our plan is still the right one to return to school. That said, our first priority and goal will be to safely return to in-person learning."

The memo then outlines plans for each school.

Pagosa Springs Elementary

School will return to in-person learning Monday through Thursday, with remote learning on Fridays. The school also announced "additional expectations" following the school's recent outbreak.

Those "expectations" include a strong recommendation that all kids wear masks in school, and requirements that all students wear masks in "transitional spaces" such as hallways.

Pagosa Springs Middle School will also return to in-person learning Monday through Thursday, with remote learning on Friday.

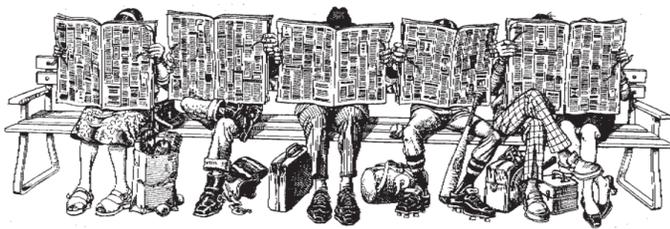
"Mr. Hinger has shared the renewed expectations for masks, social distancing, hand washing and movement throughout the building in order to emphasize health and safety," the memo states.

Pagosa Springs High School and San Juan Mountain School will return to the hybrid model they began the year in.

Pagosa Family School will return to in-person learning aligned with the middle school, and students will wear masks in accordance with the elementary school's guidelines.

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Thursday wouldn't be Thursday without ...



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The Blotter

Items listed in The Blotter report where an alleged incident occurred and the nature of the incident. Readers should not assume employees or owners of a place of business or a parking lot reported as the scene of an event are involved as perpetrators of the incident.

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Calls for service over two weeks: 276.

Dec. 8 — All other thefts, domestic violence, Lake Street.

Dec. 9 — Warrant arrest, County Road 500.

Dec. 10 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, County Road 700.

Dec. 10 — Information only, Valley View Drive.

Dec. 10 — Information only, Beucler Lane.

Dec. 11 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Dec. 12 — Information only, Fireside Street and Bonanza Avenue.

Dec. 12 — Death investigation, County Road 500.

Dec. 14 — Information only, Carlee Place and Pines Club Place.

Dec. 15 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160 and Oak Drive.

Dec. 15 — Information only, Fireside Street.

Dec. 16 — Illegal possession or consumption of alcohol by minor, Oakridge Drive.

Dec. 16 — Second-degree burglary, Oak Drive.

Dec. 17 — Second-degree burglary, all other thefts, crimes against at-risk adult/juvenile-theft no force, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 17 — Drove vehicle when license canceled, expired license plates, drove vehicle without insurance, Colo. 151.

Dec. 17 — Cruelty to animals non-aggravated torture/mutilation/kill, reckless endangerment, County Road 975.

Dec. 18 — First-degree criminal trespass-theft from vehicle, Escobar Avenue.

Dec. 18 — Third-degree trespass, Spruce Circle.

Dec. 18 — First-degree criminal trespass-theft from vehicle, Caballero Drive.

Dec. 18 — Information only, Bastille Drive.

Dec. 19 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Dec. 20 — Found property, Lakeside Drive.

Dec. 21 — Death investigation, Ute Drive.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service over week: 133

Dec. 8 — Theft, Bienvenido Circle.

Dec. 8 — Assault, Bienvenido Circle.

Dec. 9 — Failed to display valid registration, U.S. 160.

Dec. 9 — Procuring with intent to defraud, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 9 — Criminal tampering, South 8th Street.

Dec. 12 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 84.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Nov. 30 — Colton C. Peterson, failed to stop at stop sign, total fines and costs — \$107.50.

Dec. 2 — Rickie Amenowicz, weaving from traffic lane, speeding 5-9 over, total fines and costs — \$303.50.

Dec. 2 — Joshua C. Green, license plates-unlawful display, total fines and costs — \$113.50.

Dec. 2 — Cristina G. Hernandez, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Dec. 2 — Thomas E. McCarthy, speeding 25-39 over limit, total fines and costs — \$124.50.

Dec. 2 — Cheyenne Rose McSwain, speeding 1-4 over, total fines and costs — \$148.50.

Dec. 2 — Carly A. Powers, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Dec. 2 — Julie M. Simmons, speeding 1-4 over, total fines and costs — \$148.50.

Dec. 2 — John Sykes, speeding 20-24 over, total fines and costs — \$344.50.

Dec. 2 — Alba E. Castellanos, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Dec. 2 — Abraham Fernando Guzman Bhaggan, license plates expired,

speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$292.50.

Dec. 2 — Lenora Crow, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 2 — Valentin Ramon Salas, violation of bail bond conditions, 15 days jail, total fines and costs — \$224.50.

Dec. 2 — Derek J. Rix, license plates expired, total fines and costs — \$120.50.

Dec. 2 — Emma Rose Brown, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 2 — Rebecca Lynn Johnson, dog at large, total fines and costs — \$76.

Dec. 2 — Jude Michael Oubre, marijuana cultivation, total fines and costs — \$557.50.

Dec. 2 — Andrew Ryan Peter Stevens, passed when prohibited, total fines and costs — \$137.50.

Dec. 2 — Thomas Jordan Martinez, driving while ability impaired, 367 days jail, 24 hours community service, two years probation, total fines and costs — \$2,520.50.

Dec. 2 — Jeremy Kyle Gallegos, assault, driving under the influence, 60 days jail, 425 days jail, 48 hours community service, two years probation, total fines and costs — \$2,740.50.

Dec. 10 — Micah Villaral, speeding 20-24 over limit, total fines and costs — \$316.50.

Dec. 10 — Andrew J. Portnell, driving while ability impaired, 24 hours community service, total fines and costs — \$823.72.

Dec. 10 — Shane M. O'Neil, disorderly conduct-offensive gesture, total fines and costs — \$274.50.

Dec. 10 — Ryan K. Lewis, harassment-obscene language/gesture, 24

hours community service, total fines and costs — \$252.50.

Dec. 10 — Tianna M. Gallegos, speeding 5-9 over limit, total fines and costs — \$164.50.

Dec. 10 — Lance James Creede Ulery, disorderly conduct-offensive gesture, total fines and costs — \$61.

Dec. 16 — Lesley Yoke, careless driving, total fines and costs — \$346.50.

Dec. 16 — Derek P. Harper, driving under the influence, 17 days jail, 48 hours community service, total fines and costs — \$1,320.50.

Dec. 16 — Stetson Arletus Ruthardt, driving under the influence, 435 days jail, three years probation, total fines and costs — \$3,244.71.

Dec. 16 — Michael J. Byrum, driving while ability impaired, 24 hours community service, total fines and costs — \$806.50.

Dec. 16 — Christopher Flores, fishing without a license, total fines and costs — \$180.50.

Dec. 16 — Jose L. Lira, careless driving, total fines and costs — \$238.50.

Dec. 16 — Freddy L. Castaneda, possession/consumption of marijuana under 21, total fines and costs — \$166.

Dec. 16 — Dylan Matthew Marez, marijuana cultivation, total fines and costs — \$1,257.50.

Dec. 16 — Kaitlin M. Gundry, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 16 — Ambrose McCabe, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Dec. 16 — Eric E. Fincher, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 16 — Kimberly D. Lindsay, speeding 10-19 over, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Dec. 16 — William P. Been, license

plates expired, total fines and costs — \$185.50.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Dec. 7 — James Alden Rice, driving under the influence with three or more priors, 48 hours community service, 120 days jail, four years probation, total fines and costs — \$4,015.83.

Dec. 7 — Season Michelle Stover, assault three-known reckless injury, three days jail, one year probation, total fines and costs — \$931.50.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 7 — Juvenile, speeding 10-19 over prima facie limit, four points off, total fines and costs — \$197.

Dec. 7 — Drake Reed, failed to stop at stop sign, four points off, total fines and costs — \$116.

Dec. 7 — Hannah Burnett, following too closely, four points off, total fines and costs — \$146.

Dec. 7 — Hope Paul, failed to yield when proceeding from stop sign, total fines and costs — \$116.

Dec. 7 — Shania Stover, exceeded safe speed for conditions, three points off, failed to move vehicle involved in accident, failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$356.

Dec. 7 — Michael Trantham, careless driving, four points off, failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$252.

Dec. 8 — Amber Porter, animal running at large prohibited, total fines and costs — \$60.

Dec. 8 — Sarah Porter, animal running at large prohibited, total fines and costs — \$60.

Dec. 8 — Sienna Espinosa, reckless driving, eight points off, left scene without providing information after striking unattended vehicle/property, 12 points off, total fines and costs — \$335.

The gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of happiness.

May these be yours during this holiday season.



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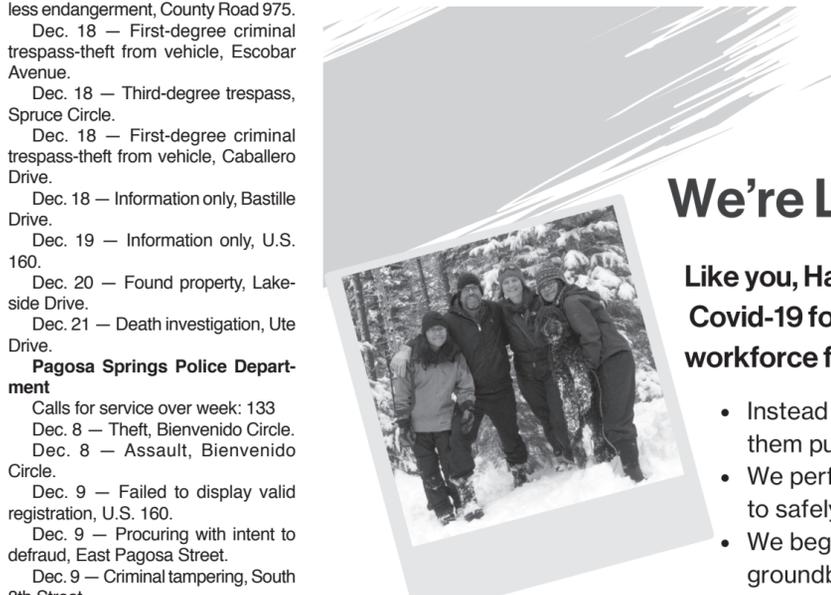
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At Habitat Archuleta, We're Looking Forward to Looking Back.

Like you, Habitat Archuleta faced unforeseen challenges in 2020. Even though Covid-19 forced us to adjust our plans, we still increased homeownership for local workforce families, and enabled senior homeowners to safely age in place:

- Instead of building a new home with our 2020 Partner Family, we helped them purchase an existing home with an affordable mortgage.
- We performed two critical repairs for senior homeowners, allowing them to safely age in place in their own homes.
- We began the build planning process with our 2021 Partner Family – groundbreaking is planned for June 2021.



Looking Forward includes looking back to say Thank You for these blessings of 2020:

• Your Time

Volunteers donated 2200+ hours in completing repairs for senior homeowners. You are the heart, soul and muscle behind our efforts.

Volunteers of the Year: Dale Holland, Terry Pickett and Glenn Tanis. Christopher Brown Patty Brown Aaron Couch Raymond Davis Katelyn Deluche Joe Dobes Jim Dorian Luke Erdman Chalyn Fitzgerald Kimberly Garcia Jerry Gallegos Julie Hinds Paul Lehmann Mike Milliard Pat Mulloy Larry Parks Debbie Pratt Martin Schmidt Paul Wilson Richard Woody Liz Woody

• Your Talent

Whether it was donating professional trade labor or materials, architectural services, or answering a call for advice, you were there for us.

A Affordable Storage All American Plumbing Bill Darling Code by Curtis Courtney King Studios, LLC Foam Insulation Specialists Hutch & Sons Construction Jean Brittingham Jerry Mastel Ross McFarland Quiller Electric TBK Bank USDA Rural Development Weminuche Drafting Whirlpool

• Your Donations

Cash donations pay for materials and resources that allow us to build and maintain affordable homeownership in Archuleta County.

Deborah Archuleta Bruce Beier Holly Boyd Brown Insurance Agency Build Pagosa & Pagosa Springs High School Trades Program Aaron Couch Kate Crawford Bill Darling Diane Davis Jim & Rebecca Dorian Philip Frisk William & Nancy Gorman Dave & Kim Guinn Jana Hoyer Stephen Keil Bob Lee Paul Lehmann June Marquez New Thought Center Ruby Osberg David & Janet Pain Larry Parks Terry Pickett Rica Potenz Debbie Pratt Malcolm & Joan Rodger Terri & Eugene Roseth Jean Rountree Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving Michael Smith Dr. Scott Vanderwall Jim Vierbicher Melissa Zimmerman

Grantors providing financial and consulting support: Anshutz Family Foundation Community Foundation of Southwest Colorado DeWalt Tools Habitat International – Covid Relief Fund LPEA Roundup Grant United Community Methodist Church / Russ Hill Bazaar USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Town of Pagosa Springs

You can help us Move Forward by donating your time or money to our 2021 priorities:

1. Build our 28th new home

Habitat Partner Families build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Their home provides a more stable environment to raise their kids, and makes the family more vested in our community.

2. Build a future workforce

Our Apprentice program with Pagosa High School Building Trades Program and Build Pagosa gives students hands on experience for a career in the construction industry while building a Habitat home.

3. Maintain Safe Housing for Seniors

Perform repairs for low income senior homeowners who would not otherwise be able to maintain a safe, secure home in which to age in place.

Christmas tree drop off

Special to The SUN

The Town of Pagosa Springs is offering a free Christmas tree drop-off location starting Monday, Dec. 28 and continuing through Jan. 31, 2021.

The location will be the parking lot in front of the Pagosa Springs High School baseball field located on 5th Street across from the lagoon property. Signs are installed to help identify the location.

To Volunteer or Donate:

Call: 970-264-6960
Mail: P.O. Box 2827
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Email: Director@HabitatArchuleta.org
Visit: www.HabitatArchuleta.org
703 San Juan St., #201



on edge

Colorado's shadow epidemic: Heightened anxiety, depression are testing families, communities and Colorado's already-frayed safety nets

By Tina Griego
and Susan Greene
Colorado News Collaborative

On Denver's west side, an elderly man had been managing his solitude just fine until the pandemic hit, taking with it what social life he had and leaving in its place a loneliness he had not felt for years.

Not far from his house, a young woman fights panic attacks after COVID-19 killed her grandfather and landed her in the hospital. Now, she fears the virus will come for her again and this time she will die.

In Fort Collins, the school district announces an early return to online learning, and moments later, a struggling mother calls the local mental health center: "I can't do this again."

On the Eastern Plains is a third-generation farmer, and if the pandemic does not weigh on him heavily, this year's record drought and the crop failure it caused do. It sets off an irritability and dread that words do not capture in the same way they cannot capture the layering of crises that marks this time: the body blows dealt by the pandemic, the shaky economy, climate-change driven fire and drought, civil rights reckoning and a polarizing election.

Coloradans are on edge. As individuals. As families. As communities. Colorado already had greater demand for behavioral health services than it could provide. And the safety net that even the state's top mental health official says has "too many holes" might be further frayed by the tight state budget.

These crises have led to a well-documented flood of calls to crisis and referral lines, and nearly half of Coloradans recently reported experiencing anxiety or depression.

"Everyone is really struggling with the same things," said Kristen Cochran-Ward, director of Connections, a mental health and substance abuse program at the Health District of Northern Larimer County. "I have heard people saying that we are all in the same boat. We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. And some people might be in a cruise ship and some might be on a tire raft."

To capture the current psyche of our state, The Pagosa Springs SUN is partnering with nearly 100 others



Photo courtesy Marc Piscotty

Betty Torres, 38, of Denver, walks at Garfield Lake Park in Denver one afternoon. Torres was diagnosed and hospitalized with COVID-19 back in March and has mostly recovered, but lost her grandfather to the virus and had it work its way through her entire family. Torres was scared to leave the house for a while after struggling to overcome COVID for fear of being exposed again.

through the Colorado News Collaborative (COLab) to document how Coloradans are coping. Our hope is that in a state where stigma around mental health struggles runs high, this reporting and the conversations that follow will prompt better understanding of widely misunderstood and hidden experiences.

If there is a silver lining to this time — and we choose to believe there is — it is the realization that even if we find ourselves isolated, we are not alone.

"This has affected all of our well-being, all of us," said Dr. Carl Clark, president and CEO of the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD). "So, I think it has kind of washed away that us-them thing around mental health. I think it is making people realize: 'Hey, it's not us-them. It's us.'"

'Too many holes in the net'

Colorado was in poor shape to handle 2020's confluence of crises. This year's heightened mental health needs have run headlong into a complex, ever-shifting constellation of decades-old challenges: the state's higher-than-average prevalence of high-risk mental health conditions; a backlog of demand caused by a thicket of red tape among state agencies and private insurers; a behavioral health workforce shortage compounded by low rates of psychiatrists and psychologists who accept public or private insurance; cultural stigma; and slow public and political rec-

ognition that mental health is as important as physical health.

For communities of color that have a history of trauma and lack of access to health care, the need has been especially acute.

The Colorado Health Institute has been surveying residents about behavioral health and access to care since 2009 and found the situation generally deteriorating ever since. Based on its data, 870,000 Coloradans were in significant distress in 2019.

Nationally, Colorado has the third highest prevalence of mental illness among adults, according to the most recent annual report by Mental Health America. That report, based on data from 2017 and 2018, also finds Colorado has the nation's highest percentage of adults with substance abuse disorder and the third-highest percentage of adults considering suicide. Colorado's suicide rate hit nearly 22 per 100,000 in 2018 compared to an average of 14 per 100,000 people nationally. Our national rankings for young people are not much better.

Theories about what explains Colorado's grim statistics run the gamut from altitude to higher rates of gun ownership to a culture of Western self-reliance that downplays emotions.

"Pull yourself up by your bootstraps" is probably the most misleading statement ever," said Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health

chief Robert Werthwein, noting the credo wrongly assumes mental health hinges solely on individual will rather than on genetics, brain chemistry, trauma and other factors.

State government is partially responsible, Werthwein said bluntly. A recent study by the Colorado Department of Human Services finds fault with a bureaucracy in which 10 different state agencies run 75 different behavioral health programs, with hundreds of funding streams, thousands of billing rules and no shared vision for care.

Seventy-five programs "means there are 74 wrong doors," Werthwein said. "There are too many holes in the net."

Some of the most gaping are sparsely populated communities, many of which have disproportionately high overdose and suicide cases and high rates of stigma around mental health challenges. The need for counseling or treatment doubled or tripled in many rural counties over the past six years.

■ See Epidemic A11

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Epidemic

Continued from A10

In the state study of Colorado's behavioral health system, lack of access to care was repeatedly cited as the greatest problem. Even as COVID began its spread, the state legislature cut hoped-for expansions of pilot programs and new money for mental health and substance abuse programs targeting people living in underserved communities and youth and adults in the criminal justice system.

The roar

The first recorded COVID death — an elderly woman in El Paso County — came on March 13. The state went under lockdown 12 days later.

People who could work from home did. Behavioral health care providers pivoted to telephone or video sessions. The number of people seeking help dipped across the state's 17 regional behavioral health centers in what care providers describe as a calm before the storm.

By mid-April, unemployment claims had skyrocketed — a red flag among mental health experts who know job loss can lead to suicide, so-called "deaths of despair." While the caseloads at some behavioral health centers remain below last year's levels, the urgency of the need has deepened, providers say. Under the weight of uncertainty and isolation, "what was once acute has become very acute, and what was very acute has become a crisis," said Carl Nassar, founder of Heart-Centered Counseling, the largest private outpatient behavioral health group in the state.

Our cups were already full, he said, and now they are spilling over.

The smell of burning forests triggers an anxiety attack. A marital spat about the presidential election blows up into thoughts about divorce. A high school student descends into depression because he can't hang out with friends. A young mom, cooped up with three little kids, crumbles.

At the pandemic's beginning, families worried what might happen, what they might lose, said Janis Pottorff, the director of Weld County's North Range Behavioral Health's Family Connects program. "Now we have families who have lost things, lost livelihoods, lost relationships, maybe some have lost family — actual physical death — lost confidence that they can manage the day, they can manage the week."

Pottorff noted that stress has spiked since the late-fall announcements of an early return to remote learning in some school districts. "We are hearing that roar in families' emotions."

Among those for whom the roar of mental illness predated this year's crises, increased isolation and the sudden inability to see

their trusted providers in person have made things even harder.

An August poll by the Colorado Health Foundation found one in two Coloradans reported increased psychological strain — "anxiety, loneliness, stress" — as a result of the pandemic. A more recent U.S. Census Bureau snapshot survey found that from Oct. 28 to Nov. 9, about 43 percent of Coloradans reported symptoms of anxiety or depression over the previous seven days. Meanwhile, the number of monthly calls and texts to Colorado's crisis line has climbed from nearly 16,000 in January to nearly 25,000 in October, a more than 50 percent increase. Most people are calling about anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts, some seeking immediate help, and others wanting information on providers or coping strategies.

"It's called the Colorado Crisis hotline, but you define the crisis for yourself," W e r t h e i n said. "... I don't want people not to call and say, 'Well this doesn't feel like a crisis' or 'Other people are going through harder things ...' No, call. It helps all of us the sooner that you call."

But getting longer-term help can be tricky. It generally requires reams of paperwork and long waits for public providers or a string of calls to private providers who often don't take insurance, are prohibitively expensive or not accepting new patients.

Pat Turner, a contractor in Meeker, sat on his porch twisting wires in his hands and drinking most of June and July as he sank into severe depression. He began disassociating from reality. His search for help drew him into a labyrinth of hold times, packed waiting rooms, 200-mile round trips to the regional behavioral health center in Grand Junction and a doctor failing to follow up after writing an antipsychotic prescription. His family found a private psychiatrist 90 miles away in Steamboat Springs who is helping treat Turner's newly diagnosed bipolar disorder.

"We have a real problem if the system doesn't treat a cry for help as an emergency," Turner said. "My mania got so intense that if my family hadn't been there to help, I'd probably still be out there in the abyss, potentially committing suicide or homicide or something."

For every person known to be in crisis, experts say there are more who are not known: Coloradans

without a support system, people experiencing cognitive or traumatic impacts from COVID, students in remote learning whose suffering is unnoticed by teachers and school counselors. Care providers are especially worried about people who have hunkered down, convinced they can just muscle through in silence.

Time to talk

A few months into the pandemic, the MHCD began using the video game Minecraft to help some of the young people it serves. Two clinicians each lead eight children as they mine materials and build worlds. The game feeds their need to connect to other kids, to play and to create environments over which they have some power.

MHCD also expanded its telehealth appointments from about five a week to 4,000 a week, a remarkable pandemic-spurred shift among all behavioral health providers in the state.

Lawmakers allocated about \$13 million in federal CARES Act funding for COVID-related behavioral health needs for smart devices, telehealth needs and other resources, such as PPE for therapists to meet high-need clients in person safely. Another \$2 million federal grant has been helping Coloradans who have tested positive for COVID receive behavioral health care.

Meanwhile, apps are allowing lonely singles to meet for coffee or cocktails online and for virtual meditation groups among strangers. Social media, often divisive, also has become a place for callouts to check on one another and for admissions that things aren't going well.

"I need something to look forward to," a man in Broomfield wrote on a recent Facebook post that elicited dozens of emoji faces hugging hearts.

Yet, despite innovative ways to connect, we are still hurting. As COVID tightens its grip, infecting record numbers of Coloradans, many of us have again retreated to our homes beset by compassion fatigue and Zoom fatigue and plain old fatigue fatigue. The divisive presidential election has given

way to a divisive aftermath. We are girding for a holiday season defined by remaining apart rather than coming together. And, as increased joblessness and evictions loom, a long winter awaits.

On the horizon are two glimmers of light: The promises of widely distributed COVID vaccines next year and of behavioral health reform in Colorado.

To tackle fragmentation, the state has been developing an on-line behavioral health registry — the first phase of which is expected to go live this April — with daily updates on available mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment. The Polis administration also has created a blueprint for ensuring people who need help are treated like people and not boxes checked for reimbursement.

But at a time when state revenues are stretched, how much can be done and how quickly are open questions. The fractures in Colorado's behavioral health systems have been decades in the making and will not be mended overnight.

"None of us know when we're going to experience a mental health crisis, and when we do, many of us don't know how few and poor the resources are to weather it, even in the best of times," said Vincent Atchity, president and CEO of Mental Health Colorado, the leading nonprofit pushing for state policy reform. "You can't feel good about a community that fails to provide life-sustaining support for people with serious mental health needs."

This moment, he and other advocates say, presents not a hypothetical test of Colorado's mental health policies, but an active emergency. Now, they say, is the time to get comfortable with uncomfortable conversations — lots of them. Now is the time to speak more deeply with each other without shame and to listen without judgment, to ask for and offer help: Are you eating? Are you sleeping? What do you need? What can I do?

"Do we show who we are by finding each other's humanity and finding solidarity or do we tear each other apart?" Atchity asked. Support networks are critical, he said. "Be sort of gardener-like about maintaining those relationships. Best to keep calling so-and-so when you're not in crisis, so when you are, they'll be there."

At least for now, still in the thick of it, our surest safety nets may be each other.

If you're struggling, help is available on Colorado's crisis hotline. Call (844) 493-TALK (8255).

In Fort Collins, the school district announces an early return to online learning, and moments later, a struggling mother calls the local mental health center: "I can't do this again."



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on edge

Perpetual timeout: Making extreme sacrifices in a pandemic

By Emily Green
Special to The SUN

My days before COVID-19 were busy. I juggled work and having four boys in a blended family, plus a husband. I was genuinely happy in my work. I worked really hard and threw myself into my work and the people I cared for. I spent time with my kids on the weekends and got pizza two times out of the week to feed my family. I followed the latest trend diets and my biggest concerns revolved around my bills and having enough money to have fun on the weekends.

My life was pretty darn easy. Then the news about the virus and its impact on our community was revealed.

Suddenly, our kids weren't in school, we had to wear masks everywhere we went, hand sanitizer was being used obsessively and there weren't any toilet paper or paper products at the store.

We learned to live in constant fear of a virus and the death that it could bring upon our family and friends.

It was the buzz that I didn't realize was going to become my life for many months to come. As the months dragged on, my family coped, compensated and collaborated on the next change, and then the next and then the next. We were constantly adapting. It was exhausting.

All three of my older kids failed their spring 2020 semester. Their education was suffering because both parents in the home worked.

It was at this time I began pondering the ultimate sacrifice that I would have to make with the onset of the fall 2020 semester. It was inevitable, I was going to have to give up my financial security for the sake of my children's education.

My anxiety wore on as the uncertainty of life's future balanced on an uneven precipice. I was lost with so many others tasked with juggling their "essentialness to society and to themselves and their family."

I ultimately came up with one final question. I was an essential

Whatever you're going through, crisis counselors and professionally trained peer specialists are available to help. Call the Colorado Crisis Service hotline at (844) 493-TALK (8255). There is no wrong reason to reach out.



Emily Green

worker, but was I able to be essential to myself and family?

My answer was no. I felt like a failure. I felt like giving up my job and staying at home to work on myself and my family was a failure.

I knew I wouldn't be able to provide for my family in the way I had once before. I knew, however, deep down inside, that if I didn't change something, that I would not be of use to anyone.

I did the unimaginable; I quit my job. I cried the day I left my job. The job that once and still did give me so much purpose was now going to be nothing but a distant memory. I was embarking on a new chapter in life. I was terrified to know what the coming months would bring.

Little did I know that I was about

to be confronted with many hard truths and revelations concerning my family.

Trying to find the meaning and my purpose at home those first couple weeks was proving difficult. Until I started to spend more time with my children, I didn't realize before how little "time" I actually spent with them.

I didn't realize how little I actually knew about them and their hobbies. I didn't realize how much I dismissed them because I was stressed from work and life in general.

I felt like a horrible parent. I realized I hadn't been a very good teacher to my children. I hadn't given them the tools they needed to be successful in life because I was too busy chasing my own career. I

had been selfish.

I justified my selfishness and measured it by the things I was able to buy for them instead of measuring it by the things that I was able to teach them. My kids were lacking the knowledge that I was supposed to pass down to them.

I have had a few weeks now to mend things and help shape my boys into the men they are going to be one day. I feel full of purpose. I can teach my kids to cook and bake. Teach them to use the potty, and say their ABCs and have the energy to be actually present in their lives.

Yes, we're still struggling. It's tough to spend so much time together, but it's needed; it was needed far longer than I ever imagined.

One day I will return to work and put these family matters back for a while, but until that day, I choose to be present. I choose to relish in the time I get to spend with my family.

This virus is awful and all of us have had to make extreme sacrifices. We don't know the effects this will have on our society in the now or in the future. One thing is for certain in these uncertain times and that is this virus has forced us all to slow down, stop and smell the roses. We have been forced to ask for help from those we didn't know we could and we have relied on those around us we thought we wouldn't have to.

We have all had to swallow a huge chunk of pride in finding the root of what matters the most.

However, in this personal and societal growth, this perpetual timeout, we gained so much more than what we lost. We've gained friends, I earned some new tips and have grown closer to those who matter the most, our family.

If you're struggling, help is available on Colorado's crisis hotline. Call (844) 493-TALK (8255).

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Education

Pagosa Peak Open School remains free of COVID cases

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

At its regular meeting held on Monday, Dec. 14, Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) board declared that the school has no confirmed positive COVID cases in its student body or staff at this time. The school has been in distance learning since the return from Thanksgiving break. At the meeting, PPOS School Director Angela Reali Crossland explained that the school should return to in-person learning after the winter break. "I will be meeting with the staff and district leadership the second week of break to make a final deci-

sion related to this," she said. Crossland is considering implementing serial COVID testing (weekly testing) for staff in the school, as well, though she stated that she hasn't made a final decision on it. "The idea is that we're hoping to prove that we're a healthy population ... that we're providing a safe work environment," Crossland said. The board also held a special meeting late Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 23, to discuss a COVID-related emergency policy concerning who has the authority to open and close the school. The meeting was "to discuss

whether the board wants to approve a resolution to give the Board sole power to close the school in the future, or if that should be the School Director's call," relayed PPOS board President Ursala Hudson. Results of that discussion were not available by press time Wednesday. For more information, see next week's edition of The SUN.

In other business

In other business at the meeting, the board and staff discussed several other matters:

- Thomas Davenport, PPOS third- and fourth-grade advisor, will be leaving his position at the school for another opportunity. Members of the board expressed

and put Internet in the parking lot so families can come and do schoolwork "for in or outdoor classrooms," Crossland said.

- In terms of upcoming grants, Crossland mentioned two grants offered by the Colorado Department of Education. PPOS will work with the Colorado League of Charter Schools on the Relevant Information to Strengthen Education, or RISE, grant.

Crossland explained she will also apply for the Building Excellent Schools Today, or BEST, grant. The latter is a facilities grant for between \$8,000 and \$10,000. This grant could potentially cover up-grading ventilation in the PPOS warehouse, which could be used as educational space in the future, could fund security cameras in the halls and exterior, and more.

- A new family and student engagement advisor position was approved at the meeting. This position is temporary, to last between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2021. It is CCSP grant-funded and under social-emotional learning to help support families during this unusual time.

The family and student engagement advisor position will lead into a full-time counseling position.

Julie Simmons, PPOS board member, motioned to approve the creation of the position. Board member Bill Hudson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

- In its 2021 board meetings calendar, the board states that its first meeting of the new year will be held on Jan. 11, 2021, with a work session beginning at 5 p.m. and regular board meeting beginning at 6 p.m.

The board will meet in January for strategic planning, though the date and time have not yet been decided.

simone@pagosasun.com

Celebration



Destiny Soto graduated from Texas A&M on Dec. 11 with her Master of Science degree, magna cum laude. Soto is the granddaughter of Gabriel and Barbara Hendricks. Soto attended Pagosa Springs High School 2010-2011; she played varsity basketball both years.

"The idea is that we're hoping to prove that we're a healthy population ... that we're providing a safe work environment," PPOS School Director Angela Reali Crossland said.

their well-wishes for him in his transition.

Fawn Firestone will be filling the position.

- Crossland mentioned that another position had been filled, as well. Deb Hayward has joined PPOS as an interventionist.

"She is doing both math and reading intervention ... She does have a degree in special education for moderate needs and has taught middle school and high school language arts for many, many years," Crossland said.

- PPOS's food service has been going well, according to Crossland. More than 100 food packs were handed out to families on Monday, Dec. 7.

"It's our after-hours food pantry that's in partnership with the Food Coalition," PPOS Business Manager Chenni Hammon explained.

- The school received a remote learning grant from the Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP).

Crossland described this as a noncompetitive grant that had a simple application process.

"We were awarded our maximum amount of \$35,000," Crossland said.

The grant will provide electronic subscriptions "to support engagement" as the students come in and out of distance learning this year, Crossland explained.

In addition, with these awarded funds, Crossland explained that the school will order 15 Chromebooks "to meet the needs of families"



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Outdoors

Colorado Avalanche Information Center urges extra care Three people killed in two days linked to unusually dangerous avalanche conditions

Colorado Avalanche Information Center

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) is urging people headed to the mountains to exercise extra care in the mountains and pay special attention to the avalanche forecast.

"Since Friday, three Coloradans lost their lives in avalanche accidents and 132 avalanches were reported. One hundred and eight avalanches were triggered by people in the last week," said Ethan Greene, director, CAIC, on Dec. 20. "More people die in avalanches in Colorado than any other state and this year, conditions are especially dangerous."

"This is not the landscape-changing event we saw in March of 2019, but it is the weakest snowpack we've seen since 2012. People

need to recognize we have unusual conditions and their usual practices may not keep them out of harm's way. As we gain more snow in the coming weeks, avalanches could become even more dangerous. We urge everyone to check the avalanche forecast before you plan your day in the mountains (www.colorado.gov/avalanche), particularly as we enter the holiday season."

- Here are the numbers.
- In the last week:**
 - 380 avalanches reported.
 - 108 triggered by people.
 - Since Friday:**
 - 132 avalanches.
 - 49 triggered by people.
 - Nine people have been caught in avalanches.
 - Three people were killed in avalanches.

Why is this important?

There have been a lot of avalanches and a lot of people are getting caught in them. The snowpack is below average across the state. Avalanches are mostly small, but very easy to trigger. This week, we have seen avalanches grow in size and they are going to continue to get bigger as the mountains get more snow.

We have avalanches every year, why is this different?

Colorado is the home of weak snow and avalanches are not uncommon. This year is worse. We haven't seen conditions this bad since 2012. Although the avalanche conditions are not unprecedented, they are worse than many people are used to. People are using avalanche-safety strategies that have

worked in recent years, but current conditions require additional caution.

What can you do?

The most important thing you can do is check the avalanche forecast before you go into the backcountry. Go to www.colorado.gov/avalanche or get the Friends of CAIC's mobile app. Look at the current avalanche conditions and plan accordingly.

Steep slopes where the snow supports your weight are dangerous. Avalanches are easy to trigger. They can break wider than you expect. You can trigger avalanches from low-angle terrain, below or to the side of a steep slope. If you're unsure about the conditions, stay on slopes less than 30 degrees steep that are not connected to steeper terrain.

Public input sought for Turkey Springs project

By Lorena Williams
Forest Service

The San Juan National Forest's Pagosa Ranger District invites your input on a proposal for the Turkey Springs Vegetation Management Project.

You can participate in the planning process by sharing suggestions for how to make the project better, specific concerns or information you may have about the project area. The public scoping period is open for 45 days, with comments accepted until Feb. 1, 2021.

The proposed project area is west of Pagosa Springs and west of Pagosa Lakes in Archuleta County. This is a high-priority area due to the dense population, high recreation use and important wildlife habitat.

Proposed treatments include fuels reduction and vegetation management activities such as thinning, mowing, mastication and tree harvests. Variations in forest conditions, management objectives and past vegetation treatments across the landscape will result in the use of different approaches in different areas.

The need for the proposed project is to reduce or rearrange

fuels to facilitate safe and effective wildland fire management, to promote a forest structure and composition resilient to disturbances such as wildfire and drought, to promote conditions that provide for long-term wildlife habitat sustainability, and to provide wood products for commercial and noncommercial uses. These activities would improve the forest ecosystem, moving it closer to desired conditions outlined in the 2013 San Juan National Forest Land Resource Management Plan.

You can view the scoping letter, maps and information about how to comment at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59146>. There will be additional opportunities for input as the planning process continues, but early participation is encouraged.

For additional information on the proposed Turkey Springs Vegetation Management Project, contact Matt Tuten at 264-1513 or matt.tuten@usda.gov.

All offices on the San Juan National Forest are currently conducting business and providing services virtually. For information on the San Juan National Forest, call 247-4874.

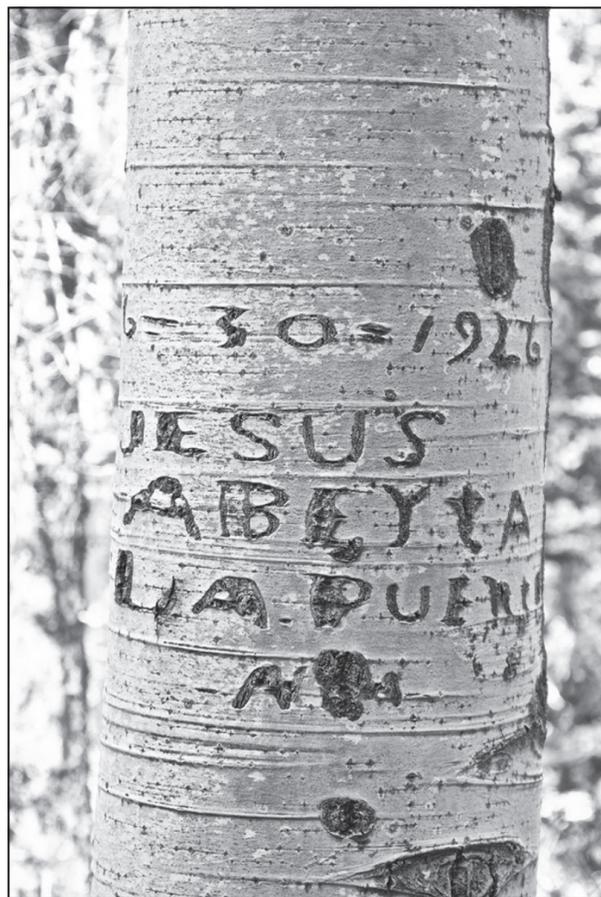


Photo courtesy Gary Musgrave

This arborglyph was discovered near Pagosa Springs. If you have any information about the person whose name is etched in the tree, please email editor@pagosasun.com with details.

Snowpack remains over 100 percent

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Water and Climate Center's snow pack report, the Wolf Creek summit, at 11,000 feet of elevation, had 13.1 inches of snow water equivalent as of 1:15 p.m. on Dec. 23.

The median snow water equivalent amount for that date was 13 inches.

While the amount of 13.1 inches of snow water equivalent is 101 percent of the Dec. 23 median for Wolf Creek summit, the entire basin, including the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins, were at 72 percent of the Dec. 23 median in terms of snowpack.

Last week's reading showed that the Wolf Creek summit had 12.7

inches of snow water equivalent.

Lake levels

According to a report from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Manager Justin Ramsey, this week, Hatcher Lake is 47 inches from full, contributing to a five-week trend of level increase. Last week, it was 50 inches from full.

Stevens Lake is currently 63 inches from full. Last week, Stevens Lake was 61 inches from full. This is the lowest level that Stevens Lake has had in five weeks.

Lake Pagosa, Village Lake and Lake Forest levels all remained the same from last week.

Lake Pagosa maintained 16 inches from full this week from last week.

Village Lake kept its level of 10 inches from full.

Lake Forest remained at 3 inches from full.

Total diversion flows remain at 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) this week. The West Fork diversion is still contributing 3 cfs and the Four Mile diversion is adding another 2 cfs.

From Dec. 11 through Dec. 17 of this year, total water production was recorded at 10.20 million gallons.

The Snowball water treatment plant added 2.98 million gallons to that total, while the Hatcher water treatment plant added 7.22 million gallons.

Last year in that same time frame, water production was listed at 9.52 million gallons, with 2.99 million gallons contributed from the Snowball water treatment

plant. The amount added from Hatcher water treatment plant was 6.53 million gallons.

From Dec. 4 through Dec. 10 of this year, water production was listed at 9.26 million gallons.

River report

As of Wednesday, the San Juan River had a flow of 45.4 cfs and the average for Dec. 23 was 62 cfs, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Based on 85 years of water records, the San Juan River had the lowest flow total for Dec. 23 back in 1990, when the river had a flow of 24 cfs.

The highest flow total came in 2011, when the San Juan River had a flow of 130 cfs.

simone@pagosasun.com

Happy Holidays from the Food Coalition

We are working to provide food support, including meals and food boxes, to all in need during these hard times in partnership with other agencies, community groups and businesses.

See our website for details of the work we do www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org

While there consider making a donation to support this critical community effort.

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Luke 2:8-12

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Wolf Creek Ski Area reports a summit depth of 75 inches with 135 inches of snow received season to date.

Photo courtesy Sam Bricker/Wolf Creek Ski Area

Winter is here: Please be responsible as you enjoy the outdoors

By Lawrence Lujan
Forest Service

Now is a great time to get out and enjoy the winter snow, but with the new season comes challenges and safety considerations to take into account. We want everyone to be able to enjoy this incredible time of year safely.

Travel conditions can vary greatly from the time you leave your home until you reach your destination, especially in mountain passes and at higher elevations. It's important to check road conditions before heading

out and make sure you have the right gear in your car in case you run into delays. Winter weather can change quickly. Tire chains may be required. Remember to slow down when driving in winter conditions and use extra care while driving and parking.

Choose your destination wisely. Have a backup plan in place in case you arrive to find a crowded trailhead or unsafe conditions. Be certain that you have the proper safety gear for your winter adventure, including extra layers, a shovel, a probe and an avalanche beacon, depending on the nature of your trip. Consider your

vehicle as part of your winter emergency gear. Be sure that your tires are ready for the snow and carry extra clothing, food, water and a sleeping bag in case you get stuck.

Avalanches can strike even the most prepared winter recreationists. Check conditions with your local avalanche center or the National Avalanche Center online before venturing out. Remember that avalanche equipment is only as helpful as your corresponding training and decision-making in avalanche terrain. Know how to use your gear and respect your physical limita-

tions. Let people know where you are going. Get avalanche educated or hire a guide before you visit the backcountry.

Finally, be sure to practice winter wellness. Be respectful of others. Cover your nose and mouth when you can't maintain 6 feet from others or when you are indoors. When possible, eat and rest outside. If you feel sick, stay home.

Enjoy your national forests and please exercise good judgment as you visit them this winter. More information can be found at www.recreateresponsibly.org/.

Water conservancy district extends contract with board consultant, looks to hold contract negotiations for 2021

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors voted unanimously at a board meeting on Dec. 10 to extend its current contract with board consultant Renee Lewis for an additional two months while contract negotiations take place for 2021.

Lewis was brought on board to assist the SJWCD as a volunteer consultant in September of 2018 and the two parties eventually came to an agreement on a professional consulting agreement in March of 2019.

That agreement outlined that Lewis would assist the SJWCD in its mission accomplishment, with the primary focus being the development of the district's strategic plan.

Other goals outlined for Lewis within the 2019 professional consulting agreement include assisting the board in developing long-term relationships and effective partnerships with various government officials and water organizations in development of the strategic plan, and assisting the district's treasurer in the budgeting process.

That agreement outlines that the SJWCD agreed to pay Lewis a rate of \$40 per hour, not to exceed a total of \$9,500.

The March 2019 professional consulting agreement was set to end on Dec. 31, 2019, according to the agreement.

On April 20, the SJWCD agreed to a revised professional consulting

agreement with Lewis that was set to expire on Dec. 31 of this year.

The most recent agreement describes that, in addition to assisting the district with its strategic plan, Lewis would perform the

duties of "Recording Secretary to the Board."

The duties of the recording secretary include drafting meeting minutes, preparing documents for



Photo courtesy Zhena

Elk herds have been abundant in the area this winter. These elk were spotted recently near Parelli's campus.

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Tuesday, Dec. 29

Upper San Juan Health Service District special meeting. 5:30 p.m. Zoom meeting. Join us at <https://zoom.us/j/96904926293>, meeting ID: 969 0492 6293, phone in using (346) 248-7799.

Wednesday, Dec. 30

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

Tuesday, Jan. 5

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

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

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session — Includes swearing in of newly elected officials. 9 a.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Archuleta County Republican

Women's meeting. Noon, Boss Hogg's, 157 Navajo Trail Drive.

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

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

Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors regular meeting. 6:30 p.m., Administration Building, 165 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation regular meeting. 5:30 p.m. Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89609739191?pwd=N2lmVWpXcG8yVHZZeWZsSlJlSk1QT09>.

Thursday, Jan. 14

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

Tuesday, Jan. 19

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.

Pagosa Peak Open School work session. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Zoom meeting.

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.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Upper San Juan Library District board meeting. 4 p.m. Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398449146>, meeting ID: 833 9844 9146.

Thursday, Jan. 21

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

Tuesday, Jan. 26

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 27

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

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

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Donna M Carroll
Samuel E Heizer
Nancy M Heizer
Constance J Petersen
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Randall E Duncan
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Kathryn May
William J Hicks
Peggy G May
Kenneth C May
Larry E Benzel
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CB Windham Jr.
Donna Marie Windham
Daryl Templeton
Cindy L Templeton
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the date of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice. This is an in rem action of judicial foreclosure on your timeshare interest(s) located at Masters Place Condominium for failure to pay assessments to Masters Place Condominiums Property Owners Association, Inc. Plaintiff Attorney: Christopher B. Conley, Attorney at Law, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Published in the Pagosa Springs Sun December 3, 2020. Last Publication: December 3, 2020. **Case No.:** 2020CV30018 **COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM** Sheriff Sale 2020-11 District Court, Archuleta County, State of Colorado Court Address: 449 San Juan Street, P.O. Box 148 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Tel. 970.264.2400 **Village Pointe Property Owner's Association, Inc., Plaintiff** **James T Umbarger, et al** Defendants **Case No.:** 2020CV30018 **COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM** Sheriff Sale 2020-11 This is to advise you that a Sheriff's sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order recorded on January 6, 1989 and C.F.S. § 38-38-101. This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums, recorded on July 29, 1983 in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 160495, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 9, 2020, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof Owner(s): PAGOSA TIMESHARE LLC PHILLIP A THOMPSON KATHRYN M ODELL LYNN ROGER YOUNG III DANIEL GOLDBERG ABBY GOLDBERG ADAM CHRISTOPHER HEAPHY T & T TRANSPORTS INC Evidence of Debt: Declaration of Condominium and Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums, recorded on January 6, 1989 at Reception No. 160495, Book 239, Page 2, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. Current Holder of evidence of debt secured by the Declaration: Village Pointe Property Owners Association, Inc. Obligations Secured: The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs. Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Village Pointe Property Owners Association, Inc. Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act. THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION. The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 1 o'clock P.M., on Friday, January 29, 2021, Sale Number: 2020-11 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association thereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law. First Publication: 12/03/2020 Last Publication: 12/31/2020 Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO. IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED. THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL (1-800-222-4444), THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (1-855-411-2372), OR BOTH. BUT THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or conducted at the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office for Archuleta County, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, 970-264-8434. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed October 28, 2020. Exhibit A Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE I Amount Property Owner: PAGOSA TIMESHARE LLC Unit Number: 7507 Building Number: 2 Unit Week Number: 7 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 in that property which is described as a parcel of land being a portion of Parcel B, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded as Reception No. 130304, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado, that property on which is located two (2) two-story buildings containing four units per building, which are designated, respectively, as Building 1, Units 7501, 7502, 7503 and 7504; and Building 2, Units 7505, 7506, 7507, and 7508 as per Plat File No. 331 A-E, Reception No. 0168713, and which are subject to that certain Declaration of Condominium and Interval Ownership dated December 30, 1988, recorded January 6, 1989 at Reception No. 0160495, Book 239, Page 2 and Second Amendment to Declaration of Condominium and Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums recorded January 16, 1990, at Reception No. 0168714, Book 280, Page 213, with the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado, at such time as the final as-built plat has been recorded. Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Village Pointe Condominiums in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate. Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE II Matter Amount Property Owner: LYNN ROGER YOUNG III Unit Number: 7514 Building Number: 4 Unit Week Number: 42 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: 307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 in that property which is described as a parcel of land being a portion of Parcel B, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded as Reception No. 130304, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado. The property is described as Village Pointe Phase II recorded in Plat File No. 332-332A-E under Reception No. 171189 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado and is subject to the First Supplemental Declaration to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums Phase II recorded May 3, 1990, Reception No. 171190, Book 292, Page 242, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. The property has located upon it two buildings described as Building 3, containing four units designated, respectively, as Units 7509, 7510, 7511 and 7512; and Building 4 containing four units designated, respectively, as Units 7513, 7514, 7515, 7516. Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Village Pointe Condominiums in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate. Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE III Matter Amount Property Owner: DANIEL GOLDBERG and ABBY GOLDBERG Unit Number: 7521 Building Number: 5 Unit Week Number: 10 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 Property Owner: ADAM CHRISTOPHER HEAPHY Unit Number: 7520 Building Number: 5 Unit Week Number: 21 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 Property Owner: T & T TRANSPORTS INC Unit Number: 7530 Building Number: 6 Unit Week Number: 41 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 in that property which is described as a parcel of land being a portion of Parcel B, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded as Reception No. 130304, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado. The property is described as Village Pointe Phase III as recorded in Plat Filed No. 238A-F under Reception No. 179324 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado and is subject to that Second Supplemental Declaration and Third Amendment to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums Phase III recorded November 21, 1990, Reception No. 176323, Book 315, Page 350. Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Village Pointe Condominiums in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate. Published December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2020 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. District Court, Archuleta County, State of Colorado Court Address: 449 San Juan Street, P.O. Box 148 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Tel. 970.264.2400 **Eagle's Loft Property Owner's Association, Inc., Plaintiff** **Karl Stauffer, et al** Defendants **Case No.:** 2019CV30095 **COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM** Sheriff Sale No. 2020-12 This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft Condominiums, recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered June 30, 2020, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the property described as follows: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof Owner(s): Karl Stauffer Fabiana Stauffer Kenneth Sallee Mary E Sallee Charles E Rousenberg Jr. Walter Edward Randolph Scott Latoya Metta Buffman Margaret E James, Trustee of the James Living Trust Agreement dated April 14, 1994 Evidence of Debt: Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft Condominiums, recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. Current Holder of evidence of debt secured by the Declaration: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Obligations Secured: The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs. Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act. THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION. The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 2 o'clock P.M., on Friday, January 29, 2021, Sale Number: 2020-12 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association thereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law. First Publication: 12/03/2020 Last Publication: 12/31/2020 Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO. IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED. THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. 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County, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, 970-264-8434. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed October 28, 2020. 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Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE III Matter Amount Property Owner: DANIEL GOLDBERG and ABBY GOLDBERG Unit Number: 7521 Building Number: 5 Unit Week Number: 10 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 Property Owner: ADAM CHRISTOPHER HEAPHY Unit Number: 7520 Building Number: 5 Unit Week Number: 21 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 Property Owner: T & T TRANSPORTS INC Unit Number: 7530 Building Number: 6 Unit Week Number: 41 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 in that property which is described as a parcel of land being a portion of Parcel B, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded as Reception No. 130304, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado. 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Box 148 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Tel. 970.264.2400 **Eagle's Loft Property Owner's Association, Inc., Plaintiff** **Karl Stauffer, et al** Defendants **Case No.:** 2019CV30095 **COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM** Sheriff Sale No. 2020-12 This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft Condominiums, recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered June 30, 2020, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the property described as follows: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof Owner(s): Karl Stauffer Fabiana Stauffer Kenneth Sallee Mary E Sallee Charles E Rousenberg Jr. Walter Edward Randolph Scott Latoya Metta Buffman Margaret E James, Trustee of the James Living Trust Agreement dated April 14, 1994 Evidence of Debt: Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft Condominiums, recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. Current Holder of evidence of debt secured by the Declaration: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Obligations Secured: The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs. Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act. THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION. The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 2 o'clock P.M., on Friday, January 29, 2021, Sale Number: 2020-12 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association thereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law. First Publication: 12/03/2020 Last Publication: 12/31/2020 Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO. IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED. THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. 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Current Holder of evidence of debt secured by the Declaration: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Obligations Secured: The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs. Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act. THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION. 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Exhibit A Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE I Amount Property Owner: PAGOSA TIMESHARE LLC Unit Number: 7507 Building Number: 2 Unit Week Number: 7 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 in that property which is described as a parcel of land being a portion of Parcel B, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded as Reception No. 130304, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado, that property on which is located two (2) two-story buildings containing four units per building, which are designated, respectively, as Building 1, Units 7501, 7502, 7503 and 7504; and Building 2, Units 7505, 7506, 7507, and 7508 as per Plat File No. 331 A-E, Reception No. 0168713, and which are subject to that certain Declaration of Condominium and Interval Ownership dated December 30, 1988, recorded January 6, 1989 at Reception No. 0160495, Book 239, Page 2 and Second Amendment to Declaration of Condominium and Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums recorded January 16, 1990, at Reception No. 0168714, Book 280, Page 213, with the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado, at such time as the final as-built plat has been recorded. Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Village Pointe Condominiums in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate. Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE II Matter Amount Property Owner: LYNN ROGER YOUNG III Unit Number: 7514 Building Number: 4 Unit Week Number: 42 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68 Interest: \$182.60 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: 307.09 Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,669.37 in that property which is described as a parcel of land being a portion of Parcel B, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded as Reception No. 130304, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado. The property is described as Village Pointe Phase II recorded in Plat File No. 332-332A-E under Reception No. 171189 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado and is subject to the First Supplemental Declaration to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Village Pointe Condominiums Phase II recorded May 3, 1990, Reception No. 171190, Book 292, Page 242, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado. The property has located upon it two buildings described as Building 3, containing four units designated, respectively, as Units 7509, 7510, 7511 and 7512; and Building 4 containing four units designated, respectively, as Units 7513, 7514, 7515, 7516. 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Continued from A16

132402 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado and shall be subject to that Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, and further subject to that Third Supplemental Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft recorded on July 10, 1985, under Reception No. 132403, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado (the "Declarations"). Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Eagle's Loft Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Published December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2020 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

District Court, Archuleta County, State of Colorado
Court Address: 449 San Juan Street, P.O. Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Tel. 970.264.2400

Plarmigan Property Owner's Association, Inc., Plaintiff
v.
Suzanne Quintana A/K/A Sanford, et al Defendants
Case No.: 2020CV30008

COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM
Sheriff Sale No. 2020-10

This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses, recorded on February 18, 1988, Reception No. 0153260, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered June 30, 2020, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof Owner(s): Suzanne Quintana A/K/A Sanford McQuiddy Communications and Energy, Inc.

Ross G Durbin Blowers Wholesale Products, LLC Nustret Hajrulla Manushage Hajrulla Mark A Collier Sandra Collier Bonnie J Dakan John H Wiesner Donald E Jett Donna Kassel Jett Deborah L Settler Kathleen J Powers, Trustee of the Powers Living Trust, dated July 16, 2020 Samantha R Powers, Trustee of the Powers Living Trust, dated July 16, 2001 Kim F Robinson Shirley A Robinson Ila Nell Holden Barbara Vincent J.F. Vincent

Evidence of Debt: Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses, recorded on February 18, 1988, Reception No. 0153260, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Current Holder of evidence of debt secured by the Declaration: Plarmigan Property Owners Association, Inc.

Obligations Secured: The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs.

Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Plarmigan Property Owners Association, Inc.

Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act

THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION.

The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 11 o'clock A.M., on Friday, January 29, 2021, Sale Number 2020-10 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association hereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, as provided by law.

First Publication: 12/03/2020 Last Publication: 12/31/2020 Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.

THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL (1-800-222-4444), THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (1-855-411-2372), OR BOTH, BUT THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901

INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or conducted at the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office for Archuleta County, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, 970-264-8434.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed October 28, 2020. Rich Valdez, Sheriff, Archuleta County, Colorado By: /s/ Lorena Medina Lorena Medina, Office Manager Exhibit A

Plarmigan Townhouses – PHASE I Matter Amount Property Owner: Suzanne Quintana A/K/A Sanford Unit Number: 7206 Building Number: 3 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,361.93 Interest: \$263.37 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$4,026.07

Property Owner: McQuiddy Communications and Energy, Inc. Unit Number: 7207 Building Number: 4 Unit Week Number: 5 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,083.53 Interest: \$203.19 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,687.49

Property Owner: Mark A Collier and Sandra Collier Unit Number: 7203 Building Number: 2 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00 Interest: \$205.48 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,706.25

in that property which is described as Parcel 'E'

Plarmigan Townhouses as recorded in Plat Sheet No. 324 & 324A under Reception No. 153256, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado and subject to that Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses recorded February 4, 1988, under Reception No. 153260 and re-recorded on February 18, 1988 under Reception No. 153557 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Plarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Plarmigan Townhouses – PHASE II Matter Amount Property Owners: Ross G Durbin Unit Number: 7214 Building Number: 007B Unit Week Number: 36 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,361.93 Interest: \$263.37 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$4,026.07

Property Owners: Bonnie J Dakan and John H Wiesner Unit Number: 7212 Building Number: 6 Marina Bay & Midler Services, LLC BMA Services LLC D L FROEHLICH G M FROEHLICH WALTER DARRELL FROEHLICH AZTEC INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES, INC. JOHN E GASPER, Co-trustee of the Gasper Revocable Trust under date of May 25, 2006

Property Owners: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett Unit Number: 7212 Building Number: 22 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00 Interest: \$205.48 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,706.25

in that property on which is located four (4) one-story buildings containing two (2) one-level townhouse units per building which are designated, respectively, as Building No. 5, Units 7209 and 7210; Building No. 6, Units 7211 and 7212; Building No. 7, Units 7213 and 7214; and Building No. 8, Units 7215 and 7216 as per plat recorded on June 7, 1988, in Plat Sheet No. 325 under Reception No. 156199, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado, and subject to that certain First Supplemental Declaration to Supplemental Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses recorded on June 7, 1988, under Reception No. 156200, Book 219, Page 33-38, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit in Plarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Plarmigan Townhouses – PHASE III Matter Amount Property Owners: Blowers Wholesale Products, LLC Unit Number: 7222 Building Number: 11 Unit Week Number: 41 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,361.93 Interest: \$263.37 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$4,026.07

in that property on which is located three(3)one-story buildings containing two(2)one-level townhouse units per building which are designated, respectively, as Building No. 9, Units 7217 and 7218; Building No. 10, Units 7219 and 7220; and Building No. 11, Units 7221 and 7222 as per plat recorded on June 7, 1988, in Plat Sheet No. 326 under Reception No. 156202, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado, and subject to that certain Second Supplemental Declaration to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses recorded on June 7, 1988, under Reception No. 156203, Book 219, Page 43-48, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit in Plarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Plarmigan Townhouses – PHASE IV Matter Amount Property Owners: Nustret Hajrulla and Manushage Hajrulla Unit Number: 7223 Building Number: 12 Unit Week Number: 33 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,361.93 Interest: \$263.37 Late Fees: \$50.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$4,026.07

Property Owners: Deborah L Settler, Kathleen J Powers, Trustee of the Powers Living Trust, dated July 16, 2001 and Samantha R Powers, Trustee of the Powers Living Trust, dated July 16, 2001 Unit Number: 7226 Building Number: 13 Unit Week Number: 4 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00 Interest: \$221.12 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,721.89

Property Owners: Kim F Robinson and Shirley Robinson Unit Number: 7227 Building Number: 14 Unit Week Number: 15 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00 Interest: \$205.48 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,706.25

in that property on which is located three(3)one-story buildings containing two(2)one-level townhouse units per building which are designated, respectively, as Building No. 12, Units 7223 and 7224; Building No. 13, Units 7225 and 7226; and Building No. 14, Units 7227 and 7228 as per plat recorded on November 3, 1988, in Plat Map No. 327 under Reception No. 159241, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado, and further subject to that certain Third Supplemental Declaration to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses recorded on November 2, 1988, under Reception No. 159242, in Record Book 233, Page 171 and rerecorded on November 21, 1988, under Reception No. 159517 in Record Book 234, Page 283, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit in Plarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Plarmigan Townhouses – PHASE V Matter Amount Property Owners: Ila Nell Holden Unit Number: 7229 Building Number: 15 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00 Interest: \$205.48 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,706.25

Property Owners: Barbara Vincent and J.F. Vincent Unit Number: 7230 Building Number: 15 Unit Week Number: 44 Unpaid Asmts: \$795.95 Interest: \$145.31 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,076.25

in that parcel of land being a portion of Parcel D, Third Replat of South Village Lake, recorded under Reception No. 139304, Plat Filed 314A-C, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado, on which is located one building containing two, one level townhouse units designated, respectively, as Building 15, Units 7229 and 7230 described as Plarmigan Phase V as recorded in Plat File No. 341, under Reception No. 1738 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado and is subject to that Fourth Supplemental Declaration to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Plarmigan Townhouses recorded May 22, 1991, Reception No. 179511, Book 331, Page 164 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit in Plarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Plarmigan Townhouses – PHASE VI Matter Amount Property Owners: Mark A Collier and Sandra Collier Unit Number: 7203 Building Number: 2 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00 Interest: \$205.48 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$350.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,706.25

in that property which is described as Parcel 'E'

Eagle's Loft Property Owner's Association, Inc., Plaintiff

Thomas J Chiffelle, et al Defendants
Case No.: 2020CV30006

COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM
Sheriff Sale No. 2020-09

This is to advise you that a Sheriff's sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order dated June 30, 2020, and C.R.S. § 38-38-101. This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft Condominiums, recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.

Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 23, 2020, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof Owner(s): THOMAS J CHIFFELLE MARIANNE T CHIFFELLE MARINA BAY & MIDLER SERVICES, LLC BMA SERVICES LLC D L FROEHLICH G M FROEHLICH WALTER DARRELL FROEHLICH AZTEC INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES, INC. JOHN E GASPER, Co-trustee of the Gasper Revocable Trust under date of May 25, 2006

Property Owners: Piero Ossani Building Number: 8 Lot (Unit) Number: 8 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 12 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$128.47 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

in Phase II of Eagle's Loft as recorded in Reception No. 119118 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado and shall be subject to that Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, and further subject to that First Supplemental Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft recorded on October 7, 1983, in Book 203, Page 564, Reception No. 119119, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado (the "Declarations"). Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Eagle's Loft Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Phase III of Eagle's Loft Matter Amount Property Owner: Thomas J Chiffelle and Marianne T Chiffelle Building Number: 38 Building Number: 18 Lot (Unit) Number: 18 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 21 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,671.67 Interest: \$134.31 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,078.75

Property Owner: D L Froehlich, G M Froehlich and Walter Darrell Froehlich Building Number: 21 Lot (Unit) Number: 21 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 41 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$159.72 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

Property Owner: Aztec International Enterprises, Inc. Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act

THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION.

The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 10 o'clock A.M., on Friday, January 29, 2021, Sale Number 2020-09 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association hereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication: 12/03/2020 Last Publication: 12/31/2020 Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.

THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL (1-800-222-4444), THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (1-855-411-2372), OR BOTH, BUT THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901

INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or conducted at the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office for Archuleta County, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, 970-264-8434.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed October 28, 2020. Rich Valdez, Sheriff, Archuleta County, Colorado By: /s/ Lorena Medina Lorena Medina, Office Manager Exhibit A

Phase I of Eagle's Loft Matter Amount Property Owner: Thomas J Chiffelle and Marianne T Chiffelle Building Number: 5 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 38 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,671.67 Interest: \$134.31 Late Fees: \$25.00 Cost: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,078.75

Property Owner: Marina Bay & Midler Services, LLC Building Number: 4 Lot (Unit) Number: 4 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 20 Unpaid Asmts: \$2,635.69 Interest: \$461.12 Late Fees: \$25.00 Cost: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

Property Owner: Yolande K Bestgen Building Number: 49 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 22 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$159.72 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

Property Owner: Roderick Fruland and Judith M Fruland Building Number: 43 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 29 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$159.72 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

Property Owner: Patricia A Hammond Building Number: 42 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 12 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,762.07 Interest: \$150.81 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,185.65

Property Owner: Scott E McVicker Building Number: 43 Lot (Unit) Number: 43 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 43 and 44 Unpaid Asmts: \$3,624.38

Interest: \$442.86 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$4,301.32

Property Owner: Leroy F Buck Building Number: 10 Lot (Unit) Number: 10 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 42 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,590.88 Interest: \$128.47 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$2,992.12

Property Owner: Piero Ossani Building Number: 8 Lot (Unit) Number: 8 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 12 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$128.47 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

in Phase II of Eagle's Loft as recorded in Reception No. 119118 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado and shall be subject to that Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, and further subject to that First Supplemental Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership for Eagle's Loft recorded on October 7, 1983, in Book 203, Page 564, Reception No. 119119, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado (the "Declarations"). Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Eagle's Loft Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.

Phase III of Eagle's Loft Matter Amount Property Owner: Thomas J Chiffelle and Marianne T Chiffelle Building Number: 38 Building Number: 18 Lot (Unit) Number: 18 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 21 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,671.67 Interest: \$134.31 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,078.75

Property Owner: D L Froehlich, G M Froehlich and Walter Darrell Froehlich Building Number: 21 Lot (Unit) Number: 21 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 41 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$159.72 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

Property Owner: Aztec International Enterprises, Inc. Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Association Assessments Due to: Eagle's Loft Property Owners Association, Inc. Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A" Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act

THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION.

The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 10 o'clock A.M., on Friday, January 29, 2021, Sale Number 2020-09 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association hereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication: 12/03/2020 Last Publication: 12/31/2020 Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO.

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The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901

INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or conducted at the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office for Archuleta County, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, 970-264-8434.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed October 28, 2020. Rich Valdez, Sheriff, Archuleta County, Colorado By: /s/ Lorena Medina Lorena Medina, Office Manager Exhibit A

Phase IV of Eagle's Loft Matter Amount Property Owner: Thomas J Chiffelle and Marianne T Chiffelle Building Number: 38 Building Number: 18 Lot (Unit) Number: 18 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 21 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,671.67 Interest: \$134.31 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,078.75

Property Owner: Marina Bay and Midler Services, LLC Building Number: 43 Lot (Unit) Number: 43 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 37 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$159.72 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

Property Owner: Yolande K Bestgen Building Number: 49 Lot (Unit) Number: 49 Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 22 Unpaid Asmts: \$1,810.69 Interest: \$159.72 Late Fees: \$25.00 Costs: \$247.77 Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00 Total: \$3,243.18

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PANDEMIC PIVOT

'I knew I was going to be OK': Barb Eaklor's story of healing amidst a pandemic

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

Those suffering from illness during the pandemic often have to face treatment, and even recovery, alone.

For Barb Eaklor, the effect was not what you might imagine in spite of these restrictions.

"To say that COVID was tough on us through this treatment, I can't say that completely, because I felt like I got excellent health care ... I can't say enough about my team of doctors. The people at Anschutz were amazing and honestly I don't think my health or my care was compromised because of COVID," Eaklor said.

Eaklor was diagnosed on April 9 with stomach cancer.

"I was diagnosed with a pretty aggressive cancer ... It was called limited high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma; it's a mouthful, huh?" Eaklor chuckled.

She agreed to share her story for others who may need the inspiration.

"I feel like it is an opportunity for me to help people advocate for their health. And that's where my heart is with all of this right now,"

she said.

She began her story from the beginning. "I had been having ongoing issues, and had been dealing with this since June of 2019 ... and finally requested that I be referred out to somewhere else.

"In late March, I was transferred out to a different doctor, who is now my primary care doctor and my doctor who has cared for me throughout all of this process."

Eaklor later disclosed that the doctor she was transferred to was Dr. David Shaeffer with Pagosa Medical Group.

"This doctor I will credit to the ends of the earth for saving my life," she said. "I want the community to know what a wonderful, wonderful resource we have."

She transferred doctors just as the pandemic was shutting certain facilities down.

"[I] talked to my new doctor on the phone, told the doctor what was going on. There was immediate concern. [He] requested I go to the office the following morning and be checked, other than just through telehealth," Eaklor said.

She continued, "[I] went in, they did an ultrasound, they believed that I had a gallstone stuck in

my bile duct ... They sent me to Farmington to have basically an endoscopy. When they did the endoscopy they found the mass in my stomach."

Eaklor described Shaeffer as having acted quickly to begin treatment and to assemble a team of doctors for Eaklor.

Chemotherapy began and Eaklor was required to do this part of treatment alone due to the pandemic.

"My husband would take me but he could not go in at all. So, he would have to sit in the vehicle while I would go in.

"Infusion was like, one day it was like eight hours and the next two days were like between three and four hours. We did four rounds of chemo," Eaklor said.

Next, Eaklor prepared for surgery.

"My surgery was scheduled for Aug. 13 at UCHealth Anschutz Cancer Center in Denver. We had to go up there early and we had to do a COVID test. That was one of the most horrific things I went through," Eaklor laughed at the thought of it.

She went on, "They removed my entire stomach, my spleen, a portion of my pancreas, a portion of my intestines, and 80 lymph nodes. Yeah, it was a pretty extensive surgery."

Following her surgery, Eaklor got clear margins. She no longer had, nor has, any evidence of disease.

Eaklor reminisced on her experience at the UCHealth center.

"My husband was allowed to be with me the entire time we were in Denver during visiting hours ... He was there at 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night with me ... If we were in my room we didn't have to have our masks on. They were beyond compassionate," she said.

She spoke of how she reacted to the beginning effects of the pandemic during early treatment.

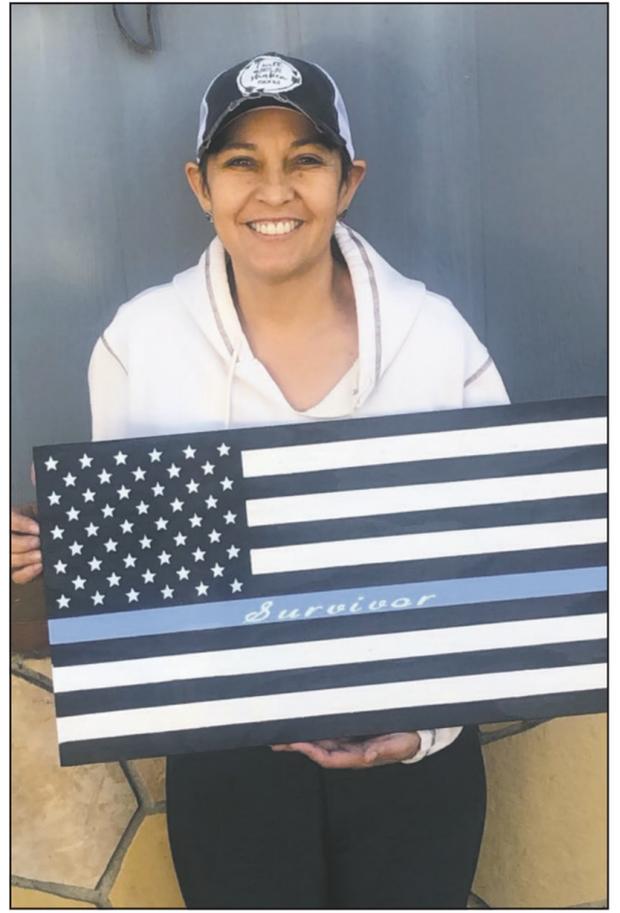
"I was immediately quarantined as soon as I got my diagnosis ... I was able to continue working from home up until I went into surgery. When I went to treatment, I just took extra caution, but I didn't really go anywhere because I knew my immunity was compromised, so I didn't go to the grocery store, I didn't go out and about. I just went to my doctor's appointments and I went home," she said.

For Eaklor, the pandemic had little effect, however, on her strength of mind or on her conviction throughout recovery.

"The minute I was diagnosed I knew that I was going to be OK," she said.

"I don't know where a lot of people are ... but I am a very strong Christian, and I believe that it was God that brought me through this and healed me ... and most people that know me are shocked at how well I'm doing," Eaklor continued. "I believe it's all faith and it's all God ... and a great team of doctors, and my family, my support system. I say God, doctors, support system."

simone@pagosasun.com



Barb Eaklor



SUN photo/Terri House

The star on Reservoir Hill can be seen above lighted trees in downtown Pagosa Springs. Lights and decorations throughout the community have made for a beautiful Christmas season.

Town council amends 2020 budget

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Town Council amended its 2020 budget during a meeting on Dec. 17.

During 2020, there were several budgeted items that town council approved to take money out of reserves to pay for, Town Clerk April Hessman explained.

State statute requires town council to approve budget amendments if a particular fund spends more than the original budgeted amount, according to agenda documentation.

For example, in February, town council approved \$22,750 from general fund reserves to support the waiving of sewer connection fees for the Rose Mountain Townhomes housing project, Hessman explained.

Another example is town council using up to \$83,000 in tourism reserve funds to purchase a mobile event stage, she added.

"The end result is going to be a decrease in general fund reserves, about \$299,000 less," Hessman said.

Some of the revenues that had not been anticipated by town council stemmed from the town being reimbursed by the Department of Local Affairs for a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant that facilitated in order for Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) to purchase its building, Hessman explained further.

In the general fund, revenues increased \$500,000 from corona-

virus relief funds and expenditures increased \$799,215 for COVID assistance and property acquisition, leading to a year-end reserve of \$1,590,410, which, according to agenda documentation, is \$299,215 less than budgeted.

Capital fund revenues increased not only from the PPOS grant, but also from the town maintenance facility grant and certificates of participation and COVID relief funding for a total of \$1,541,800 in revenues, according to agenda documentation.

Capital fund expenditures increased \$1,339,303 for the Visitor Center purchase, 8th Street sidewalk completion, PPOS grant and construction of the town's maintenance facility, agenda documentation noted.

This will leave the capital fund with a year-end reserve of \$990,928, which is \$202,248 more than budgeted, according to agenda documentation.

The lodgers' tax fund was amended due to increased expenditures of \$83,000 for the mobile event stage and \$69,302 for the Visitor Center payoff, leading to a year-end reserve of \$432,144, which is \$152,302 less than budgeted, according to agenda documentation.

The geothermal fund has amended budgeted expenditures by \$10,000 for system condition and utilization assessment, leading to a year-end reserve of \$67,707, which is \$10,000 less than budgeted.

chris@pagosasun.com

Pagosa Springs Town Council

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ARTS & LIFE



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Our very best wishes
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Christmas filled
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The SUN teamed up with Santa and his elves to help deliver letters to the guy in the big red suit, with the promise we could share those Christmas wishes with our readers, as they were written.

Hi Santa my name is Jaiden I'm five! I live in Pagosa springs Colorado in the mountains. Santa will you send snow please and make everyone's dreams come true. If it's not too much I would love film for my camera maybe some hatchimals there tiny and cute. Thanks you so much Santa for taking time we know your busy! Happy Christmas

Love, Jaiden Martin

Dear, Santa Clause

This christmas I do not want anything. I want to help people and stop this cov 19 but if you can bring me a baby doll set and a slime set.

from: Alexa Morin

dear Santa for christmas I wont 6 brbeas for christmas and a popsea yoniccon and a lol kit.

from Abigail, age 8

Dear, Santa

I would like a lot of things but what I want most is some clay, cilm, markers and more fake nails. But want I want the verry most is this pandimic to be over so I can see my friends again. thank you!! Give this to your elves

Thank you for the presents under the cristmas tree every year. and a happy famly! Merry christmas thank you elves

Love Olivia

dear santa my name is attikus vanness i am 4 years old an would like a new snow suit and boots size 11 or 12. a sled bike a hot wheels race track n car carrier a remote control cars and a new bike. please and thank you santa.

dear santa my name is anabella vanness i am 5 years old an would like a new snow suit and boots size 11 or 12. a big sled i wont fall out a tea set with table and doll a play house and a new bike please. thank you santa

Dear Santa,

Hi it's Dalton, I want a RC vehicle of any kind in yellow or blue I also want

- xbox
 - nerf gun - fortnite one
 - phone
 - semi truck
 - peterbilt log truck
 - GTA for my xbox and fortnite
 - optimus prime w/ bumble bee
 - flatbed trailer and truck black
 - remote control boat
- Have a great day

Love, Dalton, 7 years old

Dear Santa,

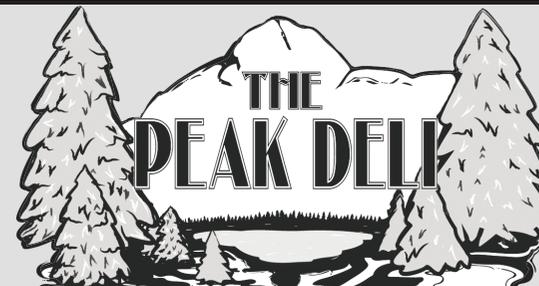
I want 100 smasher eggs and a parrot to keep grandpa company when I'm at school.

Orion, 4 years old

Dear Santa,

can I have a makeup set?

■ See Letters on page 4



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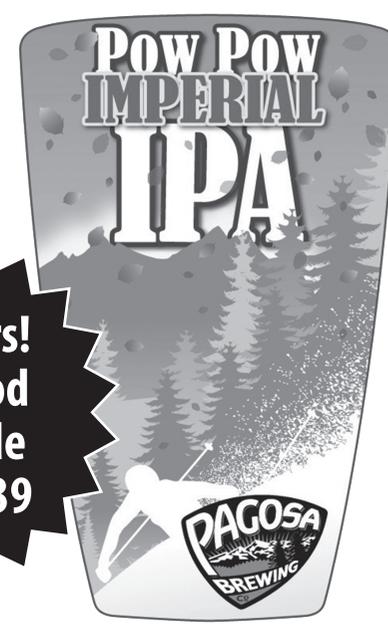
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Letters

■ continued from page 2

Darla age 6

Dear Santa,
I want all the things that Santa will give me. And a Santa book. I want all the presents.

Piper age 4

Dear Santa,
I want a wizard fafmir for Christmas.

Finley, age 8

dear Santa,
My name is Logan and I am 6 years old. This year I have been mostly nice. This year for Christmas I would really like a chewbacca mask. It is what I want more than anything else. Of course, I do have a few more things on my list.

I also want sand art, rock tumbler, Buzz Lightyear, spider man band. The things I need are bike helmet with flames. Gifts I would wear are socks! And I would like to read audio books.

I can't wait for you to visit! Just 18 more days.

Signed, your biggest fan, Logan
Bristow

Dear Santa,
I love you, Santa. I want fire LEGOs for Christmas, please. What is your favorite kind of cookie?

Love, Amelia, age 5

Dear santa,
I hope you are doing well.
I wish covid-19 would go away.
I wish for a new camera, a flint fire starter, a robot, and a cat.
I wish for my family, friends and pets to stay healthy.

Your friend,
Hans, 10 years old

To santa
I would like to have this christmas a nerf gun, legos, whuppie cushion, markers and crayons, blank pieces of paper and four covid vaccines

From zyan

I want a new keyboard and some nerf guns so i can play with my friend And some sweaters and mabe some shorts and socks

From Haze, 4th Grader

My name is Amon Phillips and I am nine years old.

A hoverboard, a crossbow nerf gun.

Dear Santa,
How are you and the reindeer doing? Is it cold up in the North Pole? We finally got snow here in Pagosa Springs. I love to play in the snow. Do you and the reindeer ever build snowmen? I would like some snow shoes for Christmas. Then I could go hike in the forest in the winter. Pagosa is a beautiful place. I hope you have a good Christmas!

Your Friend, Reilly

Dear Santa,
I want a tablet and a big giant teddy bear and a lot of candy and a Racecar and I want a coloring case that has a lot of markers and a happy family and a doll house

From De'Mia, 4th grader

My Christmas List.
A husky. Reason: because cats aren't really playful and I want a dog that likes snow and outside.

Mha jackets. Reason: Cause My Hero Academia is my favorite anime and I would like the merch to show how much I love it.

A controller. Reason: I want a controller for the Nintendo. All my other family members have one except for me.

A trampoline. Reason: I have been on a trampoline before but I never had one of my own.

From Elisa, 4th grader

Dear Santa,
How was this year for you?
It's not my favorite year.
How are the elves and you?
I'm doing well.
What I want for Christmas is no Corona so I can see my friends.
Have a happy Christmas!
Bye for now, see you soon!!
(no name given)

Dear Santa,
How is the North Pole? I hope the elves are staying busy making toys for kids. How are the reindeer? This Christmas I hope for everyone to spread joy around to people and for everyone to share good memories. I enjoy Christmas a lot. It's my favorite holiday season. One of my favorite traditions is opening my new Christmas pajamas on Christmas Eve.

Love, Brynn 10 years old

Dear Santa,
I love my elf named Buddy and I love Christmas. It is the best time of the year. How are the reindeer doing? Is Rudolph ready to lead your sleigh? I hope you go around the world safely. I hope you have a really Merry Christmas. You are the best.

Love, Colle 7 1/2 years old

Hi my name is Ember Liverett. I am nine years old.

What I want from santa for christmas is a charm bracelet.

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! how do you fly around the world in one night I wrote this letter not to tell you what I want! I want to tell you what my family wants! Mom cowboy cup. Dad! hamer. Aonni! swetter. Pops! DP hamster food. Dogs: Bones. And finly me for christmas, I want to have fun with famly!

Love Riley!!!

P.S. I Dont care what I get for christmas Thank you!

Dear Santa

you are so nise to kids. you are amazeng. you giv toys to kides.
Love Abbigale XOXOXO

Dear Santa,
How are things going at the North Pole? Must be very busy getting ready for Christmas Eve.

I'm probably asking for 1 or 2 games, a few plushies, but this one is a huge wish. I don't think you can bring people back to life, but I was wondering if you have a way to help me talk to my grandpa Chaison please. I never got to meet him. No pressure. And I will list the other things I mentioned in the letter.

- Umbreon plushie
- Jolteon plushie
- Amy Rose plushie
- Minnchino plushie
- Alolan Vulpix plushie
- Jet the Hawk plushie
- Lemmy Koogling
- Larry Koopallino
- Luang Koopallino
- Sally Acorn plushie
- Nintendo 3DS Pokemon Ultramoon

I don't know what kind of cookies to leave out for you on Christmas Eve. Do you want me to sur-

■ See Letters on next page

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The story of poinsettias at Christmas

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern Mexico known as Taxco del Alarcon, where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them “cuetlaxochitl.”

The Aztecs had many uses for them, including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts rather than being flowers) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers.

The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett. He was the first ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825. Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina and while visiting the Taxco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

One of the friends he sent plants to was John Bartram of Philadelphia. At the first Philadelphia flower show, Robert Buist, a plantsman from Pennsylvania, saw the flower and he was probably the first person to have sold the poinsettias under their botanical, or Latin, name *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (it means “the most beautiful *Euphorbia*”). They were first sold

Extension Viewpoints

as cut flowers. It was only in the early 1900s that they were sold as whole plants for landscaping and pot plants. The Ecke family from

Southern California were one of, if not the first, to sell them as whole plants and they're still the main producer of the plants in the USA. It is thought that they became known as Poinsettia in the mid-1830s when people found out who had first brought them to America from Mexico.

There is an old Mexican legend about how poinsettias and Christmas come together; it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

“Pepita,” he said, “I’m sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy.”

Pepita didn’t know what she could give, so she picked a small

handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into
■ See Viewpoints on next page

Letters

■ continued from previous page

prise you? Can you please say hi to the elves, Mrs. Clause, and the reindeer for me please? We're moving into another house for a year. I wanted to let you know.

From Trinity

Dear Santa Clause,

I wish for a nerf much ihe gun and heth in our worled
(No name given)

Dear Santa,

Can I have a \$100 Amazon gift card plese and a XBOX1 plese and a controler for the XBOX1 Plese. and insted of the amazon gift card that wold be cool but insted can I have a \$20 robrox gift card plese and thank you. and last can I plese have a CDot roblox for the XBOX1 so I have a game to start out with thank you.

(Is cindy on the noghty list)
(Plese right me back about all of these gifts)

Thank you, Santa!!!!

I mesed up can I plese have a Xbox 360. thank you Santa!!!!

Noah Allen, age: 9



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Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning

Despite being unable to host its annual family Christmas party, Seeds of Learning and its youngsters found a way to present holiday cheer to families and the community: through a recorded show that can be found on Seeds of Learning's YouTube channel.

Seeds of Learning presents holiday cheer

By Pete Macomber
Seeds of Learning

During regular times, our beloved Seeds of Learning would be hosting its family Christmas party filled with families mingling and a musical performance from the little Seeds of Learning reindeer.

Holiday cheer still rang throughout Seeds of Learning last Wednesday. The butterfly classroom children had been working hard to memorize some classic Christmas

carols, including "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty is Coming to Town."

The party might have been canceled this year, but, as they say, the show must go on. Adorned with reindeer antler hats and red noses, the Seeds of Learning children sang their hearts out to the video camera. Board member and Seeds parent Pete Macomber operated the camera and recorded all the tiny reindeer play.

"I know myself and the Seeds families look forward to this performance every year and so do the kids. We thought, why not make a video and send it out to all the parents who could not join us in person?" said Macomber.

To view the Christmas performance, head over to Seeds of Learning's YouTube channel.

Viewpoints

continued from previous page
bright red flowers and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought of as a symbol of the star of Bethlehem which led the wise men to Jesus. The red-colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity (<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/poinsettia.shtml>).

For information, please call the Archuleta CSU Extension office

at 264-5931, visit us on the Web at <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/> or like us on Facebook and get more information <https://www.facebook.com/CSU-ARCHCTY>.

CPR and first aid classes

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



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Addison A., Facebook

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Centerpoint Church offering virtual Christmas Eve service

By Jon Duncan
Centerpoint Church

Join us online for Centerpoint Church's Christmas Eve Service, available Thursday, Dec. 24, at www.centerpointpagosa.com.

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.' When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them." — Luke 2:8-18.

I think of all the characters in

the Christmas story, the shepherds are the ones that we most identify with — simple, hardworking, regular people just doing their job.

Many scholars believe that these shepherds were special — that they were watching over the flock that was destined for temple sacrifice. Jewish tradition was very clear that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and that the announcement of His arrival would be made from Migdal Eder, "the watch-tower of the flock." This area was located just outside Bethlehem on the road to Jerusalem. Though we cannot be sure, if this is true, the announcement of the angels would have held perhaps even more meaning for them, and the symbolism is obvious: the shepherds that protected the sheep that would be sacrificed to cover the sins of the Jewish people would be the first to hear of the birth of the Sacrificial Lamb that would take away forever the sins of the world. What an amazing way to announce the birth of the Savior.

And, yet, this is not the only possibility in understanding the shepherds of the Christmas story. Other scholars see these shepherds as just regular, ordinary shepherds who were caring for the flocks that would be part of most families of that agricultural setting. What most of us do not realize is just how shepherds were looked at during those days — they were looked down on by many and shunned by many more. Listen to these comments by religious teachers found in the Mishnah,

Judaism's oldest written record of the oral law on how shepherds were thought of in the time of Christ:

One passage describes them as "incompetent"; another says no one should ever feel obligated to rescue a shepherd who has fallen into a pit.

One teacher documents the fact that shepherds were deprived of all civil rights. They could not fulfill judicial offices or be admitted in court as witnesses. He wrote, "To buy wool, milk or a kid from a shepherd was forbidden on the assumption that it would be stolen property."

He also notes: "The rabbis ask with amazement how, in view of the despicable nature of shepherds, one can explain why God was called 'my shepherd' in Psalm 23:1."

Shepherds were generally under the ban of the Rabbis, on account of their necessary isolation from religious ordinances, and their manner of life, which rendered strict legal observance unlikely, if not absolutely impossible.

Smug religious leaders maintained a strict caste system at the expense of shepherds and other common folk. Shepherds were officially labeled "sinners" — a technical term for a class of despised people.

(Taken from Alfred Edersheim Collection, 3-in-1 (illustrated), "Sketches of Jewish Social Life," "The Temple," "Jesus the Messiah.")

Shepherds were not popular people, not a group held in high regard. They were part of the lower class that was looked down upon

■ See Service on page 10

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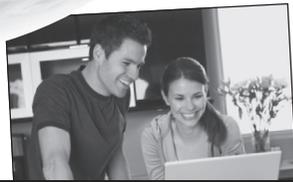
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303-525-7037

New Thought topic: ‘Create the Life You Want in the New Year’

By Lisa Burnson

New Thought Center
for Inspirational Living

“When you awaken every day, you are reborn. Unless you repeat what troubled you the day before, it will not trouble you in your new beginning. You are the creator of your experience.” — Esther Hicks.

All are welcome to join the Pagosa New Thought Center for Inspirational Living this Sunday, Dec. 27, at 10:30 a.m., for our presentation, “Create the Life You Want in the New Year.”

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.

Service

■ continued from page 10

and pushed aside; they were prohibited from attending synagogue and considered by many to be outcasts of the Jewish nation. But even though they were vital to the religious sacrificial system of their day, they were often still treated as just a necessary evil, and as long as they stayed outside the city and didn't try to mix and mingle with everyone else, they could be tolerated and ignored. The Roman historian Flavius Josephus records the number of lambs that would be sacrificed during a Passover celebration — at least during the reign of Nero — to be 256,500; there had to be lambs available for the celebration and shepherds were necessary to watch the herds that would be taken to the temple to supply that need. Isn't it interesting that these were the men that God chose to be the very first to see the Christ child; this group of shunned and ignored peasants would be the very first missionaries who would share the greatest news ever offered to mankind.

From the beginning, God has always welcomed the lost, the poor, the unwanted, the despised. Jesus came to seek and save those who were lost — in reality, those who realized that they were lost. Those who recognized that they had nothing to offer, no heritage to boast about, no resources to fall back on, no name to drop or group to be sought out by. God delights in using those whom no one else even thinks to use, to include those that everyone else intentionally ignores. And the announcement of the birth of the Savior of the world was no different. God chose the least likely to carry the greatest message. He included as a top priority those that so many were anxious to overlook. He did what He always does. He did what was least expected.

The message of Christmas is still being proclaimed just as it was on

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. 25, 12:30 p.m.: Christmas potluck. Call for location.

Thursday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m.: New Year Burning Bowl ceremony. Release the old and welcome in the new. Participants 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 pro-

motes living a spiritually centered life, and promotes the philosophies of Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. New Thought honors all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

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

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

that first Christmas night: the Savior is born, the Messiah has come, the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world has come to dwell among us. Jesus' mission to seek and to save those that are lost is still underway and is still being accomplished. God continues to reach out to those who realize that they are lost, to those who realize that they have nothing to offer the God of the universe in exchange for their entrance into heaven. People like you and like me; regular, ordinary, hardworking people just doing their best to get through life while making ends meet.

So, where does this story find you? Are you lonely, discouraged, abandoned, ignored? Do you feel

unwanted, unneeded, unimportant, forgotten? Do you identify with the shepherds of the Christmas story?

Have you believed the message of the shepherds? Have you recognized the child in the manger as the Savior of the world? Have you knelt in wonder before the child recognizing Him as the only answer to your greatest need for forgiveness and acceptance into the family of God? Take heart, God still chooses those who have nothing to offer, with no claim to fame or credentials to brag about. Join the shepherds in adoration at the manger. Bow down. Believe. Accept. Share the good news. The Savior has come.



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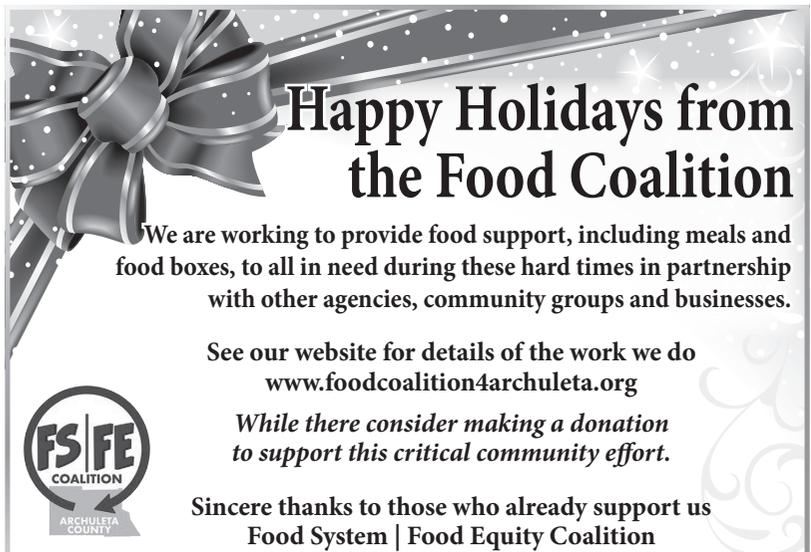
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Happy Holidays from the Food Coalition

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See our website for details of the work we do
www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org

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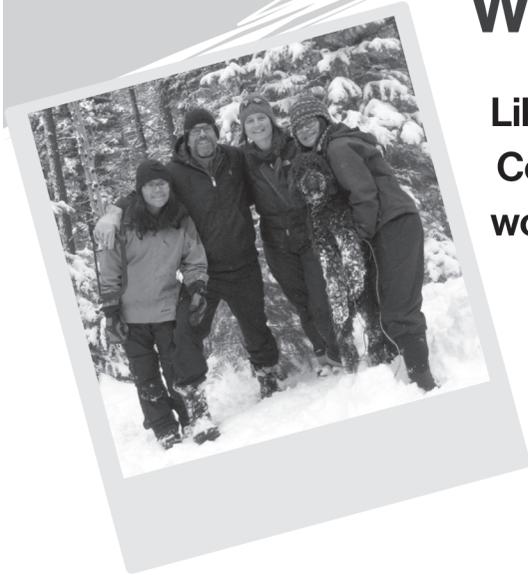
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At Habitat Archuleta, We're Looking Forward to Looking Back.

Like you, Habitat Archuleta faced unforeseen challenges in 2020. Even though Covid-19 forced us to adjust our plans, we still increased homeownership for local workforce families, and enabled senior homeowners to safely age in place:

- Instead of building a new home with our 2020 Partner Family, we helped them purchase an existing home with an affordable mortgage.
- We performed two critical repairs for senior homeowners, allowing them to safely age in place in their own homes.
- We began the build planning process with our 2021 Partner Family – groundbreaking is planned for June 2021.



Looking Forward includes looking back to say Thank You for these blessings of 2020:

• Your Time

Volunteers donated 2200+ hours in completing repairs for senior homeowners. You are the heart, soul and muscle behind our efforts.

Volunteers of the Year: Dale Holland, Terry Pickett and Glenn Tanis. Christopher Brown Patty Brown Aaron Couch Raymond Davis Katelyn Deluche Joe Dobes Jim Dorian Luke Erdman Chalyn Fitzgerald Kimberly Garcia Jerry Gallegos Julie Hinds Paul Lehmann Mike Milliard Pat Mulloy Larry Parks Debbie Pratt Martin Schmidt Paul Wilson Richard Woody Liz Woody

• Your Talent

Whether it was donating professional trade labor or materials, architectural services, or answering a call for advice, you were there for us.

A Affordable Storage All American Plumbing Bill Darling Code by Curtis Courtney King Studios, LLC Foam Insulation Specialists Hutch & Sons Construction Jean Brittingham Jerry Mastel Ross McFarland Quiller Electric TBK Bank USDA Rural Development Weminuche Drafting Whirlpool

• Your Donations

Cash donations pay for materials and resources that allow us to build and maintain affordable homeownership in Archuleta County.

Deborah Archuleta Bruce Beier Holly Boyd Brown Insurance Agency Build Pagosa & Pagosa Springs High School Trades Program Aaron Couch Kate Crawford Bill Darling Diane Davis Jim & Rebecca Dorian Philip Frisk William & Nancy Gorman Dave & Kim Guinn Jana Hoyer Stephen Keil Bob Lee Paul Lehmann June Marquez New Thought Center Ruby Osberg David & Janet Pain Larry Parks Terry Pickett Rica Potenz Debbie Pratt Malcolm & Joan Rodger Terri & Eugene Roseth Jean Rountree Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving Michael Smith Dr. Scott Vanderwall Jim Vierbicher Melissa Zimmerman

Grantors providing financial and consulting support: Anshutz Family Foundation Community Foundation of Southwest Colorado DeWalt Tools Habitat International – Covid Relief Fund LPEA Roundup Grant United Community Methodist Church / Russ Hill Bazaar USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Town of Pagosa Springs

You can help us Move Forward by donating your time or money to our 2021 priorities:

1. Build our 28th new home

Habitat Partner Families build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Their home provides a more stable environment to raise their kids, and makes the family more vested in our community.

2. Build a future workforce

Our Apprentice program with Pagosa High School Building Trades Program and Build Pagosa gives students hands on experience for a career in the construction industry while building a Habitat home.

3. Maintain Safe Housing for Seniors

Perform repairs for low income senior homeowners who would not otherwise be able to maintain a safe, secure home in which to age in place.

To Volunteer or Donate:

Call: 970-264-6960

Mail: P.O. Box 2827

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Email: Director@HabitatArchuleta.org

Visit: www.HabitatArchuleta.org

703 San Juan St., #201



Mary, did you know?

She was a teenager when she learned her life would change forever. The voice of a visitor with a heaven-sent message would have been enough to shake anyone at their core. But, for the one who was betrothed, it was a moment of excitement and anticipation.

Learning that she would conceive a son, as a young mother to-be, her mind must have been flooded with dreams and desires. To be obedient meant to submit to the purpose of the promised one.

With little thought and not knowing the road ahead, a commitment was made. "Let it be to me according to your word."

There was a decree, then a long haul on a path of dirt and rocks. The journey would have been difficult enough if not on the back of a donkey, let alone if about to give birth.

I can't imagine what it must have felt like to be Mary, to have every door closed in your face. Where finding comfort befitting the lowly would otherwise be the least likely of anything desired.

For anyone else, such a journey would have been accompanied by a song of despair. Not so for the one who would give birth to the blessed child. To the mother who first laid her son in a manger, hers would be one of hope and promise.

Sheep baaing and cattle mooing is anything but soothing to the tired and weary. I'm not sure I would've placed my trust in the smelly, splintering cradle where Mary laid Jesus. But for her, it was all part of the commitment she made, one that she would see through to the very end.

As it is for us today, others in the days of biblical times were also asked to make a commitment to the life they would be given.

Hannah bore a son and named

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



him Samuel. He grew up under the authority of a man who didn't know how to rule his own children. Even under those circumstances, God made him a great prophet, someone venerated by the Jews as a communicator between God and his people.

Then, Elizabeth. She was given a son named John. He would be the voice of a new economy, the one called the prophet of the highest. His calling was to prepare the way by revealing the knowledge of salvation, even in the most challenging of wilderness.

Did they know that their surrender to God was part of delivering a promise to a dying world? Did Mary know that her son would live a blameless life yet be hated by the masses? Did she know that her son would live a life absent of blemish, yet be scarred and battered beyond recognition?

As the words from a familiar song say, "Did you know, that your baby boy has come to make you new? That this child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you."

Final brushstroke: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, what commitment is being asked of you? What do you need to deliver as you carry the knowledge of Jesus, without regard for the pain and trials that may plague you? Are you willing to say, "Let it be to me according to your word?"

Readers' comments

Send your comments to 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. 27, our theme is "Health and Healing."

"Now, if thou wishest to know the

true remedy which will heal man from all sickness and will give him the health of the divine kingdom, know that it is the precepts and teachings of God. Focus thine attention upon them." — 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. Our local contact is archuletabahais@gmail.com.

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Wishes, dreams and hope

By Sami Fortin
PREVIEW Columnist

Dear Lord,

I love how you love me, You always know exactly what I need at any given moment. You came to earth more than 2,000 years ago to show how much You care for each of us.

This time of year, it's so important for the believer and unbeliever alike. It's a time of wishes and dreams come true. Even though we can still see the trouble the world is in, we can also see the hope that's in this season. Not just for this day, but for the future when You come back and set all things right again.

Help us to remember the reason You came, to save mankind, some might not understand, but You have put eternity in our hearts and we all know that this isn't the end of the story.

As we journey through this life, some experience extreme pain and loss while others seem to glide through. May we remember the joy that is ours when we think of our salvation and Your promise to work all things together for good for those that love You and are called according to Your purposes. Open our eyes to see the magnificent gift of Your son Jesus. Tug on our hearts when we sing the old melodies that recall Your birth.

A Matter of Faith

Help us to realize that with our trials there's always something to look forward to, like Christmas Day, the way a child's face lights up and is so excited to open their gift. I'm hoping that even in the poorest home there would be the gift of revelation. All is not lost, no, You've been chasing after us and we can stop running when we know how much You love us.

I'm hoping that we'll all look around us and see that there are people that love us and are willing to share what they have so that all people will enjoy Christmas Day. Lord, help us to spread the cheer to the lonely and homeless to the orphan and the widow. Open our hearts to share one another's burdens and pass even more love than we thought we had. Lift our spirits in this year of chaos and show us a new way to express peace even in the noise.

Lord, we stand on Your promises and declare Your goodness over all the earth. You will not let any weapon forged against us prevail.

Strengthen Your people. Make us bold and courageous to sing Your praises to testify to your goodness. Cause us to light up the world like the star on the night You were born. May tidings of good cheer go out this season to warm our hearts and draw us to you.

In Jesus' name, Amen

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Serve up warmth for the holidays

Special to The PREVIEW

People often associate holiday imbibing with eggnog, but many other beverages can be enjoyed this time of year. Wassail is a hot, mulled cider that was traditionally consumed while wassailing, a ritual of Medieval English Christmas and Twelfth Night celebrations. A warm beverage and caroling go hand-in-hand.

Wassail can be made in many different ways, depending on one's tastes, but cider is an integral ingredient in most wassail recipes. Home cocktail creators can use this basic recipe and modify as they see fit.

Wassail

- Serves 8 to 10
- 1/2 gallon apple cider
- 2 cups orange juice or pineapple juice

juice

- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 8 whole cloves
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 cup orange juice
- Whiskey, if desired

Add all ingredients to a large pot over medium heat. Allow to boil. Reduce and simmer for 30 to 45 minutes. Strain out the cloves and cinnamon sticks. For an alcoholic drink, add whiskey to desired taste.

Wassail is traditionally served out of a communal punch bowl, but can also be presented in individual mugs garnished with cinnamon sticks.



Correction

Last week's PREVIEW article "St. Patrick's offering live worship and special programs during December" included a quote stating that St. Patrick's Episcopal Church's food pantry is open Tuesdays and Fridays. In fact, it is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Merry Christmas

from our family to yours

As the holidays near, we remember the year behind us and look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share new memories and endless possibilities with our friends, families and neighbors of this great community.

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VA announces single access point to all VA contact centers

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced the formal launch of 1-800-MyVA411 — (800) 698-2411 — a single access point to all VA contact centers.

The number is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

Responding to veteran feedback on the challenges of knowing the right number for VA assistance, 1-800-MyVA411 serves all members of the veteran community seeking information or help. Veterans and their families can still reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly at (800) 273-8255 and pressing 1, by chat or by texting 838255. The White House VA Hotline is also still available at (855) 948-2311 for veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns.

“1-800-MyVA411 is always the right number to reach VA and is a great example of the department’s customer service strategy in action,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “1-800-MyVA411 provides easy access to specialized contact centers as well as an option to immediately talk to a live agent.”

When dialing (800) MyVA411, callers have the option of pressing zero to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or provide a warm handoff to the appropriate VA expert.

During the pilot phase from Oct. 1, 2019, to Sept. 31, 1-800-MyVA411 connected more than 1.3 million callers with VA contact centers and experts.

1-800-MyVA411 provides information on:

- COVID-19 updates.
- Health care eligibility and enrollment.
- VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers, among others.
- The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

Veterans Corner

Raymond Taylor



to veterans, VA Medical Center operational updates and connection to VA Medical Center operators.

- Directory assistance and technical support for www.VA.gov.
- Debt and payment options.

Vets4Vets grant

Vets4Vets has received a grant from the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. This is to support veterans in our community through the following assistance: housing, utilities, mental health counseling, dental services, travel assistance, automobile repairs, gas and food cards, and emergency veteran assistance.

Contact Vets4Vets at 799-VETS or www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.

Contact information

Veterans: Thank you for your service. Welcome home.

For further information on VA benefits, please call or stop by the Archuleta County Veterans Service Office (VSO), located at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center in the Ross Aragon Community Center on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The office: 264-4013, fax number: 264-4014, and email is raytaylor@archuletacounty.org. Bring your DD Form 214 (discharge) for applications to VA programs or benefits for which the veteran may be entitled to enroll, and for filing in the Archuleta County VSO. Always leave a message and phone number to contact you.

The following veterans groups meet in Pagosa Springs:

- American Legion Post 108: second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.
- Veterans for Veterans: every Tuesday at 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Breakfast meeting on the

first Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

• Combat Veterans PTSD Group: every other Tuesday at noon, Community United Methodist Church, Lewis Street. Contact Gary Hanneman at 946-2540.

• Women’s Group of Spouses of Veterans: first and third Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., Dr. Carter’s office; contact Charlotte at 903-9690.

Important information

- 799-VETS, www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.
- Durango VA Outpatient Clinic: 247-2214.
- Farmington VA Center: (505) 326-4383.
- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M.: (800) 465-8262.
- VA Health Care Emergency Notification: (844) 724-7842.

The Veterans Crisis Line offers free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365. Call (800) 273-8255, chat online or text 838255.

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“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And so the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’”

Luke 2:8-12

The greatest gift...

To you a Savior is born.

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Join us ... Sunday

AM Worship

10:30 a.m.

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HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve Service
Online ONLY
December 24 at 4pm

**The PBC Brass & the
“Noel” acapella vocal
quartet will be
performing!**

*The Christmas Eve service will be available any time afterwards as well on our website and Facebook page.

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Photo courtesy John M. Motter
Dr. Mary Winter Fisher circa 1900,
 a Pagosa Springs doctor for
 whom Pagosa Springs medical
 facilities have been named.

www.pagosaphoto.com

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 33 Masters Circle \$330,000 MLS 769988	 26 Cottonwood Dr \$287,500 MLS 768848	 145 Davis Cup Dr \$265,000 MLS 763989	 490 Hopi Drive \$236,000 MLS 774128	 5 Port Avenue \$235,000 MLS 766687	 247 Davis Cup Dr \$170,000 MLS 772582	 224 Highlands Ave \$160,000 MLS 774732
 145 Bonanza Ave \$160,000 MLS 772935	 301 Talisman \$152,250 MLS 768128	 52 Bonanza \$139,900 MLS 760232	 302 Talisman \$129,000 MLS 771864	 371 Lake Street \$127,500 MLS 767215	 197 Blue Jay Dr \$90,000 MLS 765668	 197 Blue Jay Dr \$85,000 MLS 768012

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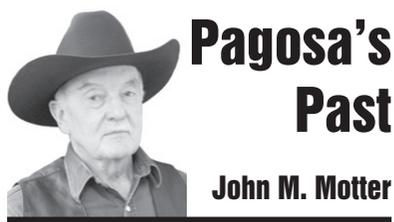
Locating Pagosa Country

An hour south of Pagosa Springs in New Mexico is the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. The Indian Agency headquarters for the Jicarilla Apache Nation is located in Dulce. The tribal government is located there and that is where most tribal activities are conducted.

Dulce is located on the Amargo River near its confluence with the Navajo River. The Navajo River joins the San Juan River in Archuleta County, after which their mingled waters flow into the Colorado River and thence into the Pacific Ocean by way of the Gulf of Lower California.

A few miles from Dulce over a gentle divide (the Continental Divide) are the headlands of the Chama River. The Chama drains into the Rio Grande River and eventually their joined waters flow into the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the great trails of the early west began in Santa Fe, ran north along the Rio Grande River, turned northwest and followed the Chama River to the vicinity of Los Ojos, crossed the Chama River, crossed the Continental Divide, passed down the Amargo River near Dulce



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

and on to the Navajo River, then the San Juan River, thence westerly to Los Angeles, Calif. Native Americans, fur traders, '49ers headed for the California gold fields and settlers "lookin' for a home" all followed this trail. It became known as "The Old Spanish Trail."

The Old Spanish Trail and other geographical similarities link the Chama River Valley of New Mexico with Pagosa Country. Roads, railroads, logging and kinship of settlers has strengthened. In this history, it is all treated as Pagosa Country.

Today, much of the Chama River Valley is taken up by the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation. The word Jicarilla means "Basket Maker" in old Spanish.

Next week, we'll launch a brief history of the Jicarilla.

It's Your Right to Know.



SUN



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Holiday greeting cards can be recycled into gift tags, ornaments or even framed to stretch out their usefulness.

Creative ways to reuse Christmas cards

Special to The PREVIEW

Roughly 1.6 billion Christmas cards, including boxed cards, are purchased in a given year. That's quite a lot of cards to address and mail, and many festive greetings for recipients to read and display.

With so much money and effort put into sharing Christmas greetings, some people may wonder how they can prolong the merriment offered by these cards. Here are some creative ways to put Christmas cards to new use once this holiday season has come and gone.

Make your own gift tags. Christmas card stock is the perfect medium to turn into gift tags for presents. Cut the cards into squares or rectangles or use a stencil to create whatever shape you desire. Then use a hole punch to create a space for ribbon or another tie. Use the tag to dress up gifts with something more unique than self-stick tags.

Get magnetized. All it takes is scissors, some glue and sheets of magnet for a decorative and fun craft project. Turn favorite Christmas cards into mementos that can be saved year after year, which also will dress up refrigerators or other magnetic surfaces. This idea works well for photo greeting cards as well.

Make Christmas card ornaments. Use the cards to create uniquely shaped ornaments for the tree. Cards can be turned into

block shapes and hung with ribbon. Another idea is to punch out circles or ovals from the cards and tile them on a foam egg to look like a multicolored pinecone. Explore your creative side and decorate your tree at the same time.

Create greeting card garlands. Display cards by stringing them together and hanging them from the mantle or another prominent area. If cards are too large, punch out large circles from the cards and then attach those disks to heavy thread.

Decorate your packages. Instead of overspending on preprinted gift bags, make your own. Buy plain bags in a solid color and then embellish them with cutout patterns or pictures from Christmas cards.

Frame favorite cards. Make greeting cards a permanent part of holiday decor by framing the most decorative ones you receive. Use these frames year after year and put them on display with other holiday decorations.

Make a wine bottle gift tag. Use a 1 1/4-inch hole punch to create an opening for the neck of a wine bottle on a piece of folded card stock. Glue a greeting card to the portion of the card stock that will lay flush with the wine bottle and you have a decorative wine tag.

Shred older cards for confetti. Fill gift boxes or bags with homemade confetti made from recycled Christmas cards.

Wishing you a Pawsome Holiday!



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B	H	M	K	A	Z	R	R	M	K	Z	D	S	L	E	G	E	N	D	D

WORDS

- AMBASSADOR
- AZTEC
- BLOOMING
- BOTANICAL
- BRACTS
- CARE
- CENTRAL AMERICA
- CHRISTMAS
- DECEMBER
- DECORATION
- FESTIVE
- FOLKLORE
- HOLIDAY
- LANDSCAPING
- LEAVES
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- MEXICO
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Holiday lights



PREVIEW photo/Terri House

The winner of this year's residential holiday lighting contest is the Lewis residence, 240 Paciente Place.



PREVIEW photo/Terri House

Second place went to the Bush residence, 601 Stevens Circle.



PREVIEW photo/Terri House

Third place went to the Losee residence, 732 Cloud Cap Avenue.



Photo courtesy Cliff Losee

The winner of this year's business holiday lighting contest is the Neon Mallard.



PREVIEW photo/Terri House

Second place in the business competition went to Four Corners Hydroponics.



PREVIEW photo/Terri House

Third place in the business competition went to Two Old Crows.





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Gavin Kiker

Welcome
Aboard!



Jennifer Rose



Tenant Holiday Drawing Winners!



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Holiday Church Events



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

Thursday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service. Noon. Online. Join us online at www.centerpointpagosa.com. For more information, call 731-2205.

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 Service. 4 p.m. Pagosa Bible Church. Online only. The PBC Brass and the Noel a cappella vocal quartet will be performing. Go to www.pagosabiblechurch.org. For more information, call 731-3120.

Christmas Eve Service. 5 p.m. A Zoom Christmas Eve service of worship and special music. You'll find the livestreaming service at www.stpatrickspagosa.org. For more information, call 731-5801.

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.

Christmas Day Service. 10 a.m. A Zoom Christmas service of lessons and carols featuring members of the congregation reading beloved scripture passages and joining in to sing favorite Christmas carols. You'll find the livestreaming service at www.stpatrickspagosa.org. For more information, call 731-5801.

Christmas Day Service. Online. Join us at www.cumcps.org. Drive-thru communion service from 11 a.m.-noon. For more information, call 264-5508.

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.

Burning Bowl Ceremony. 6 p.m., New Thought Center for Inspirational Living, 3505 W. U.S.. 160. All are welcome to participate to let go of the old and welcome in the new for the coming year. Potluck to follow.

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.

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There's No Place like Home for the Holidays



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Preview Calendar

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

Saturday, Dec. 26

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. 28

PALS by Appointment. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Adult edu-

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

Tuesday, Dec. 29

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail

■ See Calendar on next page



3 Bedroom, 4 Bath • \$555,000
40 Mule Deer
Lake house, 3700 sq. ft., 7 garages,
1.66 acres • MLS 770905



4 Bedroom, 1 Bath • \$525,000
301 Barton Circle
Fenced pasture, 32 acre feet Pine River Irrigation,
fruit trees, 28 acres • MLS 773798



3 Bedroom, 2 Bath • \$399,000
35 Harman Park Drive
Historic Fred Harman home on 1.74 acres,
close to amenities, views • MLS 773338



79.69 Acres • \$350,000
1243 County Road 332
Agricultural opportunity on 79.69 acres,
2 stock ponds, 80 water shares • MLS 770671



.24 Acre • \$135,000
103 Laguna Place
Lake front property, water & sewer on property
MLS 776583



5 Acres • \$90,000
740 River Forest Drive
Great lot with mountain views,
5 acres, close to town • MLS 770858

UNDER CONTRACT
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath • \$65,800
790 Prospect Boulevard
fenced yard, big trees • MLS 776430

UNDER CONTRACT
1.5 Acres • \$60,000
217 Summit Drive
Water tap available, close to Navajo Lake
MLS 771255

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210 Crooked Road
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MLS 771256

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

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

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

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

Drive. Veterans and associated members are invited. Social distancing is required at this time. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

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

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

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. 30

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.

Monday, Jan. 4

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

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and associated members are invited. Social distancing is required at this time. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

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

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

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, Jan. 6

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.

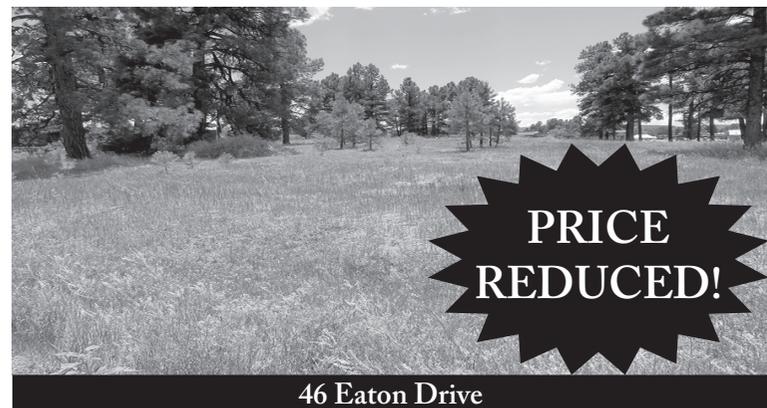
Family Storytime. 10 a.m. For all ages. Join us for great stories and fun songs. Wednesday storytimes are on Facebook Live, so if you go to Facebook at 10 a.m., you can interact with Josie. If you have a Facebook account, you can log in and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have 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, Jan. 7

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Due to the CO-
■ **See Calendar on next page**



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Looking ahead to our 46th year in business here in Pagosa Springs, we would like to thank the community for your continued support. As Pagosa's oldest flooring store, we have seen some challenges through the years but nothing has compared to 2020. Going forward, may you and yours stay healthy and ready to confront whatever 2021 has planned.

We appreciate your patronage and giving us the opportunity to take care of your flooring needs. Stay safe Pagosa.
— Dan and Jared Wirth

Preview Calendar

continued from previous page

VID-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 Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

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

Friday, Jan. 8

HER Story. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to

grow and heal as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence. In-person meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19. If you are interested in a virtual option, email us at contactus@riseaboveviolence.org.

The Good News Club. 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children in 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, Jan. 9

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, Jan. 11

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

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Tennyson Build-

ing Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and associated members are invited. Social distancing is required at this time. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

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

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasan.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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A story of a traffic stop and identity theft

By Joyce Holdread
PREVIEW Columnist

David held the xeroxed copy firmly down over the “tails” side of the quarter. With a red crayon, he rubbed lightly all along the round rim and over the spread-winged eagle. There. The official “stamp” was complete with the national symbol of the United States of America. He executed a few more copies — just in case.

We’d spent nearly six months teaching in the monastery school. Now we prepared to drive back up to the border over a long weekend to renew our visas. A six-month stay was the maximum for “tourists.” Several of our ex-pat friends in San Miguel, as well as Father Francisco, had told us we should be armed with several copies of our driver’s license — colored, clipped, pasted on thick card stock and laminated. David’s eagle “stamp” was his finishing touch. In Mexico, a stamp was the insignia of everything official.

We crossed over at Reynosa-McAllen and mailed the checks for some important bills. Next, we did some shopping and satisfied our gringo hunger pangs. Last, we renewed our visas and headed back down Highway 97. Somewhere, a bit south of San Fernando de Presas, the local traffic cop ordered us to the side of the road. Transport on this major highway was heavy this time of day and progressing slowly in both directions.

“Licencia, por favor,” the policeman asked with a scowl.

David fished in his pocket for his wallet and drew out one of the recent creations. He handed it to the officer.

“From Colorado. My brother-in-law was working in Colorado — Pueblo, I think. Where are you going?” asked the officer.

“San Miguel de Allende,” said David, hoping he had understood the question correctly.

“It’s still a long way to San Miguel. What are you doing there?”

“We are teaching in a small village school about 8 kilometers outside San Miguel,” I answered. “We have to be back by tomorrow.”

“Oh ..., that’s why you were speeding — going 20 kilometers per hour over the speed limit. That brings the fine up to quinientos pesos,” said Señor Mordida (Señor Bribe). He began writing up the ticket.

“¡Quinientos pesos! Oh, señor, that kind of speeding would be impossible in this traffic.” Fortunately, I remembered to accompany that with a big smile. A genial

The Writers’ Circle

“Señor, if we can’t pay because we don’t think we committed these violations, what do you suggest we do?” I inquired as affably as possible.

tone and a friendly smile would go a long way to ameliorate any challenge to his machismo.

“No, señora, I was standing right here and clocked you when you passed. The speed limit is 30 km per hour and you were going 50,” he replied. “You also were trying to pass the semi ahead of you in a no-pass zone. And your license plate number begins with ‘3.’ Only those beginning with ‘6’ or ‘7’ are allowed to drive on this road at this time of day.”

“What’s he saying?” David piped

up. “What’s the trumped up charge this time?”

“He says we were speeding — 20 km per hour faster,” I reported. “Also that we were trying to pass in a no-pass zone. And our license plate starts with the wrong number for driving on this road now.” I rolled my eyes as I spoke. The officer still had his head down checking off all the “proper” boxes on the ticket.

“So how much is the fine?” David asked.

“Five hundred pesos, but we shouldn’t pay it. He’s just trying to squeeze a bribe out of the gringos.”

“You’re darn right,” David remarked. Turning to the patrolman with a smile, he stuttered out the Spanish equivalent of “No can pay.”

“Señor, the transport truck was already far ahead of us when we reached the no-pass zone. And we had no idea that the initial number on the license determined the days on which you could drive on this road. We aren’t from here. We don’t know these things,” I said, as charmingly as I could manage.

“It doesn’t matter,” he retorted. “You need to find out the regulations when you live in another country.”

“Señor, if we can’t pay because we don’t think we committed these violations, what do you suggest we do?” I inquired as affably as possible.

“Well ..., you can see the judge,” he sniggered, his authority a little shaken.

“If we don’t want to pay, we have to see the judge,” I told David.

“Ask him how we can do that. Where is the judge and when can we see him?” he replied.

“Well, thank you, señor, for providing us that option,” I beamed courteously. “Yes, we’d like to see the judge. When and where can we do that?”

“Uh ..., well ..., you’ll have to wait five days. The judge only comes on Fridays.”

“Well then, could you recommend a good hotel somewhere close by?”

By now Señor Mordida was sizing up the situation and realizing that many other drivers and profitable possibilities were slipping past him. The “kickback” from these gringos was not very likely. And the potential action of the judge might provide him a “kick back” in his career.

“Listen,” he said, “I can erase these two infractions. That makes it only 200 pesos. Just pay that and you’ll be on your way.”

“Oh, señor, I’m so sorry ..., but we can’t do that. We don’t feel we were speeding.”

Just then he noticed a brand new Lexus with Texas plates approaching from the oncoming traffic. He held out his left hand to indicate that the driver should stop. With his right hand still clasping David’s driver’s license, he motioned that we should remain where we were. He quickly scuttled across the road to the glowering Texan.

“Here’s our chance,” said David. “Let’s just beat it out of here!” He maneuvered the Nissan back onto the highway, watching in the rearview mirror as we started down the road. Señor Mordida took a few steps toward our truck, holding the driver’s license firmly in his upraised fist.

“You can’t leave here,” he shouted. “I have your driver’s license.”

We smiled and waved and wished him luck with Mr. Lexus.



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A little absent-minded

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

When we visit our children, one thing I really enjoy is pizza and movie night with my grandchildren. It usually gives their parents time for a date, and it gives my wife and me time with our grandchildren. I always buy the pizza and the pop and rent the movie.

One time, we were visiting our daughter, Celese, and her family in California. When it came time to get the pizza and the movie, I asked the grandchildren what they wanted to watch. They settled on Veggie Tales. Frankly, I didn't know what Veggie Tales was, but I was more concerned about time with them than I was about the type of movie, as long as it was kid-friendly.

I invited my grandchildren to go with me to pick it out, and they gladly headed out to the van. Then, since I was unfamiliar with the city and didn't have a GPS, I asked Celese for directions to the nearest video store.

"Hey, Dad, why don't I just go with you?" she replied. "That would be easier than trying to tell you how to get there."

Since I am very much a country person, I think she was afraid I would get lost with her children, and she would never see them again. But having her go sounded like a good idea.

We all piled into the van and headed on our way. We wound all over the place and finally came to a stop in front of a huge grocery store. We tramped in and went directly to the video rental. The children picked out a video, handed it to me, and then followed me to the front of the store so I could pay for the rental. We then all went out and climbed back in the van.

After everyone was buckled, I turned to Celese and asked, "Now, where do we go for pizza?"

"Oh," she said, "this place has got the best pizza. They make a

take-n-bake pizza that is fabulous. We can just buy it here."

So we all unloaded out of the van again and went to the pizza counter. After we decided what we wanted, I ordered it. We waited until it was ready, then we traipsed back to the front to pay for it. It just happened that the shortest line was with the same lady that had been the checker for the video.

"Back again so soon?" she asked. I nodded. "Yeah, we didn't get

Since I am very much a country person, I think she was afraid I would get lost with her children, and she would never see them again.

the pizza."

I paid for the pizza, and we all loaded into the van again. We just finished buckling again when one child asked, "Grandpa, weren't you going to get some pop?"

"Yes," I said. "I totally forgot that."

The children were feeling tired of going in and out of the store, so they just told me the kinds of pop they wanted, and then they stayed in the van.

Celese went with me. "There are a few things I need to get," she said. "I will just find them while you get the pop."

"Do you want me to wait for you?" I asked.

She shook her head. "You go ahead and check out. I'll take care of my own stuff."

I found the pop and selected the kinds the children wanted, along with root beer for me. When I went to check out, I had hoped to find someone new, but the same clerk as before was the only one with no one in her checkout line.

She looked at me with a strange look as I rolled my cart up. "Just forgot the pop," I said. I joked about it and said, "This is the last thing I forgot. I promise."

After I finished paying for it, I quickly left the store. But as I was putting the pop from the cart into the van, I realized I was missing the case of root beer that I had paid for. Just then, Celese came out pushing her cart, sporting a grin.

"Dad, did you forget anything else?" she asked.

I nodded. "I forgot the root beer, and with the way the lady looked at me last time, I think I will just leave it here."

Celese laughed, pulled the root beer from her cart, and said, "The lady handed this to me on my way out and asked if you were my father. When I said yes, she laughed and said, 'Well, it looks like you turned out OK, anyway.'"



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A very different Christmas under COVID restrictions

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.” That’s an inspirational observation from Dale Evans. For those readers too young to recognize her name, she was a radio star, actress, singer and songwriter who co-starred with her husband, singing cowboy Roy Rogers, in “The Roy Rogers Show” on TV and in many western movies.

For most people in Archuleta County, this will be a highly unusual Christmas, as we forgo in-person celebratory gatherings with family and friends in the interest of everyone’s health and safety.

In these difficult times, we hope you will be able to create new rituals to replace cherished traditions, and find new ways to get together using technology like Zoom and FaceTime or maybe masked and socially distanced outdoor visits on decks or driveways.

In any case, we wish you a very happy holiday season. And we hope the arrival of the vaccine will bring us all an end to the fear and uncertainty that COVID has delivered.

Holiday closures

Your library will be closed today, Dec. 24, and tomorrow, Christmas Day, in celebration of Christmas, but curbside service will be available until noon today. We also will be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2021, in celebration of New Year’s, but curbside service again will be available until noon on Thursday, New Year’s Eve.

Free COVID book for indigenous families

Thanks to an anonymous donor, copies of a new book titled “Our smallest warriors, our strongest medicine: Overcoming COVID-19” are available free at your library for indigenous families.

The book is intended to be read by a parent, caregiver or teacher with a child or group of children. It is beautifully illustrated by Joelle Joyner, a freelance artist and pow-wow jingle dancer from Detroit.

The story features conversations between two young twins and their mother, who is a front-line nurse, as well as their grandmother, Grandfather Eagle and their friends, about how to keep themselves, family and friends safe from COVID. There also are several pages of helpful guidelines for adults to help make the book more relevant to their children.

To produce the book, the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health convened a team of

Library News

experts in child development and communications to take advantage of indigenous storytelling skills and traditions to portray a sense of communal strength and hope in the face of COVID-19.

In addition to the free copies available to indigenous families, a copy has been added to our collection for everyone’s enjoyment.

Library operations update

As a safety measure, your library staff has been split into separate smaller workgroups in an attempt to lower exposure and keep the library open should somebody test positive. Because of this, you may notice that occasionally service is a little slower than usual.

“Because libraries have been declared an essential service, we are very glad that we can continue serving our community’s needs while still keeping patrons and staff safe, said Meg Wempe, library director. “With circumstances changing quickly, though, we encourage you to email or call with any questions that you may have about our operations — and to keep up to date with state and county COVID guidelines.”

Here is the current status at your library:

- We are limited to 15 patrons at a time plus staff in the building, since we must operate at only 25 percent capacity.
- We remain 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 popula-

tions. Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays: closed.

- We are accepting meeting room reservations only for individuals or members of the same household, 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.

- 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 a very limited basis. Please call for an appointment. The cost is \$5 per notary.

- You can place holds on items from other libraries. They are in different stages of being open, so items may take longer than usual.

- We’re happy to provide tech help in person or over the phone for our online resources.

■ See Library on next page

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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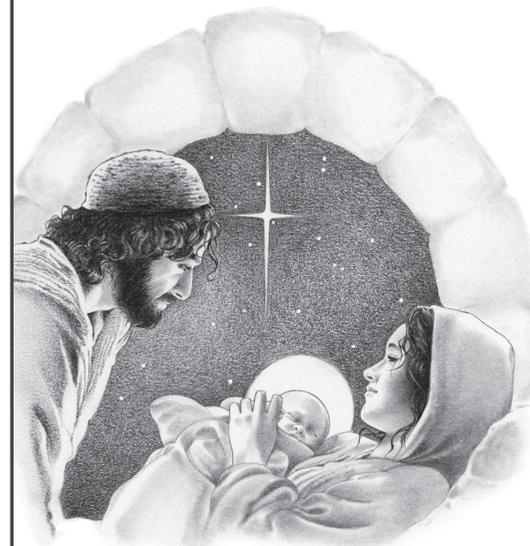
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Luke 1:14



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Library

■ continued from previous page
Special note

“We want people to always feel welcome in the library, and to experience a very friendly vibe when they visit,” Wempe said. “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 are pleased to assist you outside the building through our curbside service.”

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo

Like so many other activities in our current COVID world, our annual holiday Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo has had to adapt — and move to your homes rather than take place at the library. We have free materials for crafts, activities and packets to make hot chocolate at the library for you to pick up until supplies run out. Have fun at home.

Knitting takeaways

We have added free knitting takeaways to our collection of crafts and activities you can pick up at the library entrance during open hours to take for your in-home enjoyment. We'll have patterns craft ideas, instructions and some limited supplies available.

New writing challenge

On Dec. 21, we posted a new writing challenge on the library's Facebook page. We hope you will challenge your creativity by participating. This is a free all-ages activity.

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.

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 is suspended due to COVID safety concerns.

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. 17-30 theme is writer friendships. After you finish the walk, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library.

Tech Time

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

ESL

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

Dungeons and Dragons

Join us Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for Dungeons and Dragons free for teens and young adults on Google Meet. Contact claire@pagosalibrary.org to learn how to join. If you don't have Internet access, contact us anyway — we may be able to accommodate you in the library.

Children's programs on Facebook

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m., join us on the library's Facebook page for free children's programs. Wednesday storytimes are on Facebook Live, so you can interact with Josie. Saturday's Discovery Times — with games, art ideas, science experiments, history and more — are prerecorded.

If you have a Facebook account, log in to Facebook and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon (a lowercase f) in the upper left-hand corner of the

■ See Library on next page

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Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to poinsettias.

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Answers: Bracts

Gingerbread makes the perfect holiday treat

Special to The PREVIEW

The holiday season is synonymous with many things, including family gatherings, shopping, elaborate lighting displays and Santa Claus. For foodies, this time of year is the perfect opportunity to indulge one's love of baked goods.

Between office parties and gatherings with family and friends, it's hard to avoid baked treats come

the holiday season. Perhaps no baked good is more closely linked to the holidays than gingerbread, an indulgence many people enjoy only around Christmastime.

Holiday hosts or those who want to bring a dessert to their next holiday gathering can whip up this recipe for "Sticky Chocolate Gingerbread" from Maxine Clark's "Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers" (Ryland, Peters & Small).

Sticky Chocolate Gingerbread

Makes an 8-inch cake
 2 1/3 cups dark molasses
 6 ounces dark chocolate (60 to 70 percent cocoa solids), grated
 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons ground ginger
 5 ounces whole pieces preserved stem ginger, drained and roughly chopped

■ See Treat on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page 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.

Books on CD

"The Awakening" by Nora Roberts is book one of the new Dragon Heart Legacy series of adventure, romance and magic. "Piece of My Heart" by Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke is the latest in the Under Suspicion mystery series. "Troubled Blood" by Robert Galbraith is the latest in the Cormoran Strike mystery series set in Cornwall. "A Warm Heart in Winter" by J.R. Ward is the latest in the Black Dagger Brotherhood series.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"Daylight" by David Baldacci is an FBI agent Atlee Pine thriller.

Other novels

"Perestroika in Paris" by Jane Smiley is a charming Christmas story of three extraordinary animals and a young boy.

DVDs

"When Hope Calls" is season three.

Nonfiction

"Unsinkable" by James Sullivan tells the stories of five brave men on the USS Plunkett, the famous Navy destroyer in World War II.

Large print

"Dark Tides" by Philippa Gregory

is book two in the Fairmile historical fiction series set in 17th century London and Venice. "The Awakening" by Nora Roberts is book one in the new Dragon Heart Legacy series.

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donations, we thank Constance D'Angelis, Lynn Steinert, Stephanie Wagner and Carol Sheets. Please put your material donations into the drop box at the library — not at City Market, which is reserved for returns. Donations undergo the same rigorous three-day quarantine process as returns.

Quotable quote

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach." — Charles Dickens (1812-1870), English writer and social critic in his classic novel "A Christmas Carol."

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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.

The Pagosa Springs SUN

Holiday Hours & Early Deadlines

Issue of Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020
 Legal advertising deadline
 noon, Thursday, Dec. 24

Issue of Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021
 Legal advertising deadline
 noon, Thursday, Dec. 31

Our offices will be open until noon, Thursday, Dec. 24
 We will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Jan. 1
 Have a safe and merry Christmas!

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If you need help, ask for it — and if you can lend a hand, offer one

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

This story is about caregivers — which is not an us-and-them tale. Each of us sits on both sides of the caregiver/receiver coin at any given point in our lives. Even those who seem the most fortunate, hardworking, capable and strong will need a hand at some point. Right now, we all fall in the need-a-hand category — everyone is seeking balance on some level.

At ASI, our focus is largely on robust nutrition and social engagement. Good nutrition makes everything else possible for all of us — across the socioeconomic spectrum. Social engagement lets us know we have a place in our community.

Yet, 15 million more people in the U.S. this year will experience food insecurity than last year — for a total of 50 million — according to Feeding America.

The most recent Census Household Pulse Survey from University of Chicago and University of Notre Dame reports that:

- Our national poverty rate

Senior News

jumped to 11.7 percent in November, up from 9.3 percent in June — nearly double the largest annual increase since the 1960s.

• One in three adults are having a somewhat or very difficult time covering household expenses; and more than 27 million adults — almost 13 percent of all adults in the U.S. — are in households with sometimes or often not enough to eat.

All of this means little things matter more than ever. Remember that everyone around you is also trying to find time to take care of themselves while they keep up with the rest of daily life. Smile more, bark less. And if you have a hand to lend, offer it.

If you're a family caregiver to someone in your home or a professional caregiver in the community,

you may want to take a look at a just-released report on wellness coaching: <https://mlia.cmail19.com/t/r-l-judkcc-otdtldyfk-i/>.

You can learn more at: <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

Take-out meals continue at Senior Center

In order to continue providing meals, The Pagosa Springs Senior Center is 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

■ See Senior on next page

Treat

■ continued from previous page

1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, softened

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar, sifted (to remove lumps)

2 medium eggs, beaten

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

2 tablespoons milk, warmed

A pinch of salt

Extra-large crystallized ginger pieces, to scatter (optional)

A deep 8-inch square cake pan or 8x6x3-inch oval cake pan

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Grease and line the base and sides of the cake pan with nonstick parchment paper.

Put the molasses in a pan and heat gently until hot, but do not allow it to boil. Remove the pan from the heat and add the chocolate. Stir until melted.

Sift the flour, ground ginger and salt together in a bowl. Add the stem ginger and toss it around in the flour until every piece is coated.

Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl. Beat in the eggs, then the molasses and chocolate mixture and finally the flour mixture. Dissolve the baking soda in the milk and gradually beat this into the batter.

Pour into the prepared cake pan, scatter with the crystallized ginger, if using, and bake for 45 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 300 F and bake for another 30 minutes. (If using the

oval pan, cook for about 45 minutes at the higher temperature, then about one hour at the lower temperature, as it will be deeper.) A metal skewer inserted into the center should come out clean. Let cool for five minutes in the pan,

then turn out onto a wire rack and let cool completely. When cold, store in an airtight container for at least a couple of days to mature and become sticky. Don't worry if it sinks a bit in the middle — this is normal.

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A simple, tasty holiday treat

Special to The PREVIEW

Baking is a holiday tradition in many families. Gingerbread cookies may be the first baked goods that come to mind when people envision the holiday season, but celebrants need not limit themselves when preparing special treats for their families.

Macaroons are one beloved baked good that busy holiday hosts may believe are too time-consuming to prepare. However, the following recipe for “Coconut Macaroons with Dried Cherries” from Laurey Masterton’s “The Fresh Honey Cookbook” (Storey) is easy to whip up and makes for a tasty holiday treat.

Coconut Macaroons with Dried Cherries

Makes 25 to 30 small cookies

1 cup unsweetened flaked coconut

1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
8 egg whites
Salt

1/4 cup dried cherries
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon honey, preferably orange blossom honey

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Combine the unsweetened and sweetened coconut on a baking sheet. Lightly toast in the oven for 5 to 10 minutes. Keep close watch so the mixture does not burn, though you do want a nice toasted golden brown color. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

3. Reduce the oven temperature to 325 F. (If using a convection oven, leave at 350 F.)

4. Whip the egg whites with a

pinch of salt in a medium bowl until the whites stiffen into firm peaks.

5. Fold the toasted coconut into the egg white mixture.

6. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Drop tablespoon-size rounds, perhaps using a small ice cream scoop, of the coconut mixture onto the baking sheet. Press one or two dried cherries into the top of each macaroon.

7. Melt the butter and honey together in a microwave on high for 20 seconds. Drizzle the mixture over the top of each macaroon. Sprinkle with a tiny pinch of salt.

8. Bake the macaroons for 20 to 25 minutes, until lightly browned (watch carefully to avoid burning), or for 8 to 10 minutes if using a convection oven. The macaroons should be dry to the touch. You may need to bake them longer if it is a humid day. If you live in a dry area, these will keep well for a week.

Chef's note: If you want to be really fancy, melt some chocolate and dip each one halfway into it.

Senior

■ continued from previous page 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. 24 — Closed for Christmas Eve.

Friday, Dec. 25 — Closed for Christmas Day.

Monday, Dec. 28 — Cod and white bean cassoulet, braised greens, milk, salad and carrot cake.

Tuesday, Dec. 29 — Chicken and dumplings, broccoli, milk, salad and cranberry cheesecake.

Wednesday, Dec. 30 — Beef stroganoff with buttered noodles, Brussels sprouts with sweet chili lime sauce, milk, salad and chocolate mousse.

Thursday, Dec. 31 — Closed for New Year's Eve.

Happy Holidays

Thank you Pagosa

This holiday season, we reflect on what we're thankful for

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It's time to come to the aid of wildland firefighters

By **Harrison Raine**
PREVIEW Columnist

By mid-September, there was no one left to call. The west, with its thousands of federal, state and local fire engines and crews, had been tapped out.

Wildfires across the west had consumed the labor of all available wildland firefighters and though there were fewer fires burning, those fires were larger and more difficult to contain. They consumed 13 million acres — an area almost the size of West Virginia.

In the midst of the 2020 wildfire season, John Phipps, the Forest Service's deputy chief, told Congress that this "was an extraordinary year and it broke the system. The system was not designed to handle this."

Draining the national wildland firefighting pool was why my fire crew and I had to work longer and harder than usual on the Idaho-Oregon border. We were fighting the Woodhead fire, which had peaked at 85,000 acres and threatened to burn the developed areas around the towns of Cambridge and Council, Idaho.

With only three crews to try to contain a fire that required probably 10 crews, it meant day and night shifts for 14 days. Each crew found itself with miles of fire line to construct and hold. With not enough person-power, we were always trying to do more with less and it was no comfort to know that what we faced was not unique.

Across the nation, the large fires meant working in hazardous conditions that called for far more workers than were available. For those of us on the line, it came down to little sleep and a heavy workload, combined with insufficient calories and emotional and physical exhaustion.

Fighting wildfires week after

Writers on the Range

week takes a toll on the body. Smoke contains carcinogens and firefighters spend days exerting themselves immersed in air thick with ash. We all figure that the long-term health effects cannot be good.

One of my co-workers confessed that he goes to sleep "with pain in my knees and hands," and added, "I wake up with pain in my lungs and head." Over a six- to eight-month fire season, minor injuries can become chronic pain.

Wildland firefighters are also vulnerable to suicide due to job-related stress and the lack of resources outside of the fire season. Long assignments put a strain on firefighters' families and can damage relationships. A 2018 psychological study, conducted by Florida State University, reported that 55 percent of wildland firefighters experienced "clinically significant suicidal symptoms," compared to 32 percent for structural firefighters.

Wildland firefighters who work for federal agencies, such as the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, are classified as "Range Technicians" or "Forestry Technicians" — a title more suitable for golf course workers than people wearing heavy packs and working a fire line.

Calling them "technicians" negates the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to work with wildfire. Most firefighters sign contracts as seasonal "1039s," agreeing to work 1,039 base hours for \$12-\$16 an hour. This is one hour short of being defined as a temporary

worker who is eligible for benefits such as retirement and year-round health care.

Overtime work is what allows "technicians" to pay the bills, but once they reach 1,039 base hours, some firefighters are laid off even while the fire season continues and their regions continue to burn.

There is a remedy in sight: the Wildland Firefighter Recognition Act, which formally identifies wildland firefighters as exactly that, tossing out the technician term and recognizing the "unusual physical hardship of the position."

Montana Republican Sen. Steve Daines introduced the bill last year and, recently, California Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa introduced the bill in the House. Co-sponsored by California Democratic Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, the bill currently sits with the House Oversight and Reform Committee. This is a non-partisan bill that deserves support from every westerner.

We all know fires will continue to burn throughout the west, but right now, many of the men and women who fight those fires on our behalf are suffering from burnout. Addressing wildfires as a national priority starts with recognition of the profession fighting them.

Harrison Raine is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the west. He started fighting wildfires in 2016 and is a recent graduate of Colorado College.

The gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of happiness.

May these be yours during this holiday season.



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CHANDLER: Hi there! I'm Chandler, let's be friends! My best buddy Phoebe and I would love to go to a home together. Need some furry love? Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.



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Small and Large
Jobs Welcome

Westward Inc.
Call (970) 264-0913



PagosaSUN.com

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

SERVICES

BAZ THE HANDYMAN PAGOSA Springs is your one stop shop for wide range of home maintenance and repair solutions. Just call Baz (480)433-1776.

FRAMING, SIDING, DRYWALL, DECKS, sheds, roof extensions, floors, remodels and more. (970)731-0180. Leave a message!

AUTHENTIC ADOBE CONSTRUCTION: Dwellings. Solar Greenhouses. Kiva fireplaces. Adobe and cob homos. Garden walls. More! Energy efficient "Rocket Mass Heaters." Highly experienced "Master" earth builder. Project management. Consulting. David, 264-4923.

FEATURING DRYER VENT CLEANING and dump runs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep 731-2543.

TREE REMOVAL. Licensed and insured. Free estimates. Call OR text (970)903-8068.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/ sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/ operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted.

SNOW REMOVAL. SNOWBLOWER, roof raking and shoveling. (970)264-4324 or (970)903-2297.

HOME REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS: Decks. Masonry. Tile. Carpentry. Painting. Drywall. Plaster. Adobe. Rocket mass heaters. More! Honest, well experienced craftsman. David, 264-4923.

NOTARY SIGNING SERVICES- by appointment or walk in! Barbara Swindlehurst and Gary Cheadle are now accommodating Notary requests at Mountain & Meadow Real Estate (Ray's old barbershop), 409 Lewis St. Call our office: (970)264-6673 for an appointment or just walk in masked and ready with your IDs and documents. We welcome your visit and questions. Barbara, (303)618-7423 or Gary, (970)749-4983.

WHO WATCHES KITTY WHEN out of town? Cat Man do! Kitty Kare. Text (256)366-0406.

DREAM MAKER MORTGAGES would love to help you refinance or purchase your home. 30 years experience making dreams come true. Rather you need to lower your rate, take cash out or purchase a new home. Please give me a call: Trudy (303)514-7858.

FIRE MITIGATION, WOOD CUTTING, wood splitting, land clearing. \$45/hour. (970)661-3888.

HANDYMAN SERVICES. SMALL PROJECTS. Honey do lists. Carpentry. Honest and reliable. Call Manny at (228)355-1628.

LABOR, SHOVELING, moving, hauling, clearing, painting, carpentry, construction, etc. Experienced and reliable. Satisfaction guaranteed. (970)398-1227.

PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC, GROUP of detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Starting at \$25/ per hour. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

CARPENTER. LOCAL. 38 YEARS experience. Smaller jobs. (970)946-6280.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. 946-2061.

SNOW PLOWING. ALL PHASES of snow removal. Call (970)946-3923.

RANCH HANDS, OFFERING CONSULTING/ support for ranch and home. We provide infrastructure support, remodeling/ restructuring operations, armed /unarmed/tech security, forestry/ wildlife rehabilitation, bee/ pollinator support, active income generation, etc. We DO NOT serve cannabis operations. Regards. (720)224-6898.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AL-ANON MEETS EVERY TUESDAY at 6p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall. www.al-anon-co.org. As of 3/31, our meeting space is temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions. For updates, please text (303)815-8569. For a list of online and phone meetings, please visit al-anon.org.

PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7p.m. at the Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive (between Boss Hogg's Restaurant and 1st Southwest Bank). Contact Charlotte or Ken at (970)903-9690 or Nate at (970)507-1004.

MIGGLES IS OPEN. Electronics, tools, sporting goods, household items. 2035 Eagle Dr., Mountain View Plaza. (970)946-6168. Open Monday- Saturday, 10a.m.-6p.m.

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA is now meeting every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30p.m. and Sunday at 10a.m. at 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). In accordance with the State, County and San Juan Basin Health, masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Online meetings are Sunday at 10a.m.: Zoom ID 858-319-763, password 754234; and Friday at 7p.m.: Zoom ID 899 6048 4578, password 532-306. For meeting schedule and information email aapagosa@gmail.com or call Marcia (970)946-8475, Kathi (970)946-1482 Ranza (970)731-9774, Val (970)946-6086 or (719)792-7974 or central office (970)245-9649 or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

Sell It in the classifieds

HEALTH SERVICES

TRABAJO DE ENERGIA. REIKE. Susie (970)398-1836.

MASSAGE THERAPY. Susie Nixon, LMT, (970)398-1836.

ENERGYWORK. REIKE. Susie (970)398-1836.

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS Wellness Center. Chiropractic, acupuncture, craniosacral, massage, water therapy in the hot springs. Auto and sports injuries. 1/2 hour \$60 and 1 hour \$120 treatment. (971)221-4797, hotspring-shealers.com. Home visits. Durango hours on Wednesday.

HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDE- P/T position. No experience necessary. Competitive pay/ benefits. Energetic. Dependable, multi-tasker a must. Submit resumes to Rocky Mountain PT, 35 Mary Fisher Cir.

MASSAGE THERAPIST WANTED at Overlook Hot Springs. Minimum pay- \$37.50/ hour, tips- 17-18%. Full-time, part-time or on call positions available. Apply in person.

HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

USE YOUR CAREGIVING TALENTS to help others stay in their home. Training and flexible schedule. LifeCare (970)516-1234.

SNOW REMOVAL FOR THE LIBRARY. Pick up RFP at Library or visit pagosalibrary.org. Due by January 5, 2021. (970)264-2209.

CNA CLASS STARTING SOON. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM is a fast growing, successful Pizza Brand. Are you looking for a career opportunity and not just a job? We are looking for full- and part-time people. Amazing opportunity for career progression. Wonderful teams- ain't no Family like a Pizza Family. Apply in person at 175 Pagosa Street. Pagosa Springs, CO.

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a yard associate/ driver. Lumber experience is a plus. Duties include helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks, and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and medical and dental insurance for full time employees. Please apply in person or contact Darrin at (970)731-4111.

CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTANT. Great hours and work environment. Please email resume to mydentalofficechoice@gmail.com.

KITCHEN HELP, MORNING AND afternoon shifts. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule and competitive wages. Apply in person, Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs. EOE.

MECHANIC NEEDED. Archuleta County Public Works is accepting applications for a full-time Mechanic. These are full-time positions with excellent benefits. For job description and wage details, visit www.archuletacounty.org, submit application and resume to HR, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or fax (970)264-1879 or email rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CDL/ TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. Minimum 1 year experience. Forestry equipment knowledge helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Send resume to PO Box 4490, Pagosa Springs CO 81157 or email: pagosaland@pagosa.net. EOE.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

BWD CONSTRUCTION IS LOOKING for excavation and construction help. Competitive pay, great benefits and positive work environment. Come join our growing team! Email resumes to: dsucker@bwdconstruction.com. (970)731-9700, ext 110.

MOUNTAIN HOME SOUND AND SECURITY is now taking applications for a security technician, experience a plus but not required. An interest in current technology is a must. Desire to work and learn in a fast paced environment. Background check, valid driver's license and neat professional appearance required. Please pick up application at 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B-3, Monday- Friday 9a.m.-5p.m.

HELP WANTED

CLEANERS, UP TO \$15/ hour. Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. Text Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL District is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's **Instrumental Music Teacher.** Along with conducting our high school and middle school band programs, this position will also oversee the development of our elementary instrumental music appreciation program. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher in Music or Music Education. The applicant must also possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, Jr/Sr High Principal, at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or Amy Duda, Elementary Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co.

ROOFING CREW NEEDED. Asphalt shingle crew. Must have Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance. Please email contact information and experience. roofersneeded2@gmail.

SEEDS OF LEARNING is seeking a food service professional to provide breakfast and lunch to 50 children daily and year-round. Must have the required health certification to prepare meals, follow all health and sanitation requirements and be willing to follow the Child and Adult Care Food Program food guide. This position will start in January 2021. Please contact Lynne at (970)264-5513 for more information.

HUMANE SOCIETY THRIFT STORE of Pagosa Springs, Store Clerk. 32 hours/ week, may include Saturday. Process incoming donations, price, tag and display inventory; cashier and customer service. Must be able to lift repetitively and may help with pickups and deliveries. Must be a team player and adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols (includes wearing mask and frequent cleaning). Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, social security card and background check required. Pick up application and apply in person at the Humane Society Thrift Store, 279 Pagosa Street/ Hwy. 160 E. between 10a.m. and 5p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

FULL-TIME DRIVER NEEDED. Must have Class B CDL with hazmat endorsement as well as current health card, be able to pass random drug and alcohol screenings, willing to work some overtime, altering weekends and on call shifts during winter. Basic computer skills are preferred. Call 264-5823 for an application or pick one up in person at 1040 E. Hwy. 160.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER EMS is looking for a motivated **Full Time Paramedic or EMT.** We are seeking candidates with varying levels of experience that value providing safe and compassionate care, with integrity and transparency in a just culture. We provide exceptional BLS and ALS services to our community of over 1800 sq/mi. Shifts vary and wages are competitive. Every employee is hired to make significant contributions to the organization. Minimum current certifications in order to be considered for employment: Valid driver license, Colorado Paramedic or EMT certification, BLS for Healthcare Providers (AHA), and ACLS and PALS for ALS providers. For more information or a detailed position description please email connie.cook@psmedicalcenter.org. Applications may be picked up at PSMC registration or downloaded from www.pagosaprimedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

HELP WANTED

THE DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH School is seeking a qualified **Secondary Social Studies Teacher.** Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Social Studies endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or contact Aaron at (719)657-4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Deandra at dberes@peoplecarehs.com or (970)399-8257.

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION HELP NEEDED. Reliable transportation required. Excellent pay based on experience. Please call (970)403 5119.

PERSONALS

IT CAN STOP! Let us help. 24-hour domestic violence or sexual assault hotline. Confidential. 264-9075.

PETS

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call 731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

WHO WATCHES KITTY WHEN out of town? Cat Man do! Kitty Kare. Text (256)366-0406.

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS. AKC black lab puppies, \$650. (360)926-4381.

FOR SALE

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$220/ cord. Delivered. Pine, spruce, aspen mix. Also have bundles for \$10. (970)661-3888.

80,000 BTU PROPANE, CONSTRUCTION space heater, \$75. (970)946-4067.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. 731-PAWN (7296).

DIESEL AG- RED DYE. 250 gallons at \$1.50/ gallon in 55 gallon barrels. Upper Blanco Basin. Call (970)819-3877.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND HOMEOWNERS. Are you remodeling or tearing down? Call Durango Salvage, we buy and sell building materials. Tom, (970)749-2271, Mark, 749-8235.

DOUGLAS FIR FIREWOOD FOR sale. \$250 per cord. Call (970)317-3120.

BUY LOCAL THIS YEAR! Handmade turkey calls, elk bugles and turquoise jewelry. Just in time for Christmas! Call or text for information. (719)480-4932 Zach Thompson.

FIREWOOD. DRY AND SEASONED and split. Ready to burn. Free delivery, \$175. (970)731-2902.

TERESA FOSTER DBA BRIGHT Earth Jewelry. Offering customized gold and silver jewelry. Ring sizing, jewelry repair and restoration. Pagosa Springs. Call (620)339-5726.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

FOR SALE

NEED FIREWOOD? CALL FIRE&ICE! Get 1 cord split and delivered for \$225 or a HUGE dump truck load for \$400. Pine mix. Contact Dan at (970)582-0006.

ASPEN, PINE, SPRUCE, FIR mix firewood. Split and delivered. \$200 per cord. (970)317-3837.

GRASSROOTS MEATS NOW ACCEPTING orders for fall delivery of quarters, halves, and whole 100% grass finished beef, ground beef packages, half and whole grass finished lambs and pastured pigs, and bulk packs of organic chicken. Call Lois at (970)582-0166 or order online at www.grassrootsmeats.com.

AUTOS

2014 RAM 1500 LARAMIE. 4X4, red, excellent condition, camper shell, loaded with options, Below Book, \$24,900. (618)580-7084.

1996 FORD RANGER. Dependable 4X4. \$4,900 OBO. 731-9808.

2001 DODGE RAM 2500, with 9.5 ft. stainless snow plow, 200K miles. Asking \$9,500. (970)946-4067.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! www.NextHomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

LONG TERM RENTALS available. Call Sunetha, (970)459-4411 or sunethaproperties.com.

BEST VALUE IN PAGOSA. Newly remodeled 1/1, 2/2 apartment homes. Convenient location, walk to uptown grocery store. (970)946-4773.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! www.NextHomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

TPRENTALS.COM FOR LONG TERM rental needs. (970)731-8599.

COZY 1 BEDROOM FOR RENT in a 3 bedroom home. \$550/ month, No pets, no smoking. 264-0826.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

PREMIER RETAIL OPPORTUNITY. One of the best retail locations in historical Downtown Pagosa Springs. Prominent Main Street frontage offers Tenant excellent passing foot traffic and exposure to passing 160 traffic. 1,375 square feet, \$2 PSF includes utilities, taxes. Available Jan 1, 2021. Call Jacque at (970)264-4237.

SINGLE OFFICE SUITE AVAILABLE Dec 1, 2020. Located downtown. \$250 per month includes utilities, taxes. Call Jacque at (970)264-4237.

HOUSES FOR SALE



We do Long & Short Term Rentals!

"Thank you, Britney, for believing in me and helping me meet my goals! You are truly an amazing realtor!" —Teresa Anderson

#HumansOverHouses

Each office is independently owned and operated



COMMERCIAL RENTALS

1Gb Pagosa Innovation Center

1GB-ENABLED PRIVATE OFFICE TIMESHARES AVAILABLE BY THE MONTH

(970)946.0642

WWW.PAGOSAINNOVATIONCENTER.COM

2,100 SQ. FT. SHOP, WAREHOUSE, INDUSTRIAL. 2- 250 sq. ft. office spaces. Reception area, break room, Internet, utilities. Call (970)946-0874.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT downtown Pagosa. 280 SF. Available Dec 1, 2020. \$435 per month. Please call Jacque at (970)264-4237.

OFFICE SPACE DOWNTOWN on Main Street. 275 SF. \$430 per month. Utilities and taxes included. Call Jacque at (970)264-4237.

PRIME RETAIL AND OFFICE SPACE available next to City Market. 1,150 SF retail and 150 SF 2nd floor office studio space. Contact (970)731-4951.

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE. Locate your business in Pagosa's busiest shopping center. Country Center/ City Market Plaza. High traffic area with abundant parking. Common area maintenance included. For more information, please call Charlotte at (970)903-7690.

HIGH COUNTRY MINI STORAGE. Most sizes available. Paved, lighted, security. Behind The Outfitter. Call 264-9142.

DOUBLE OFFICE SUITE LOCATED downtown on Main Street. Available January 1, 2021. \$530 per month includes utilities, taxes. Call Jacque at (970)264-4237.

ON SITE RENTALS and portable storage containers available for delivery. Rodent proof, the best storage around at Let's Store It. 731-0007.

HOUSES FOR SALE



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

GREENBRIER PLAZA, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd, B7-8, 2,000 sq. ft. (714)402-8336. (Units only, not content). \$322,000.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS for sale. Oxygen bar and retail shop. For more information, call (405)274-3955.

\$35K. HIGH ALTITUDE CLOSET. Retail store established for 3 years and loved by the community! A turnkey business opportunity with established wholesalers and vendors, diverse inventory, fixed assets, and a lease on a prime downtown location. Contact Selena (310)944-0775.

HOUSES FOR SALE

MOBILE CABIN/ TINY HOUSE for sale, 8x18, professionally built, 2x10 floor framing, 2x6 roof, insulated and wired for electric. Perfect for guesthouse/ air bnb. Custom finished for buyer, or \$25K. Can also offer land/ tiny house package. (720)224.6898.

1,765 SQ. FT. MANUFACTURED HOME for sale by owner. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, purged. \$198,500. 87 Brook Dr. (970)398-9196.

SELLING OR BUYING? I am INDEPENDENT, I work for YOU! 18 years in Pagosa. Peggy Andrews, Independent Real Estate Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

HOUSES FOR SALE

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Looking to Buy or Sell in Southwest Colorado?

We support our US Vets, retired or active, with concessions at closing.
 Nationwide advertising on listings. • Reduced commissions.
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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying or Selling • MarcieLewis.com

Call Marcie Lewis (970) 759-8672

TEAM PAGOSA REALTY GROUP

HOUSES FOR SALE

THREE BEDROOM, BATH AND a half. 1.74 acres, no HOA, zoned multi use. Great fixer-upper or investment property. Possible owner carry in the heart of town. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

GREAT LAKE HOUSE. Four bedrooms, four baths, seven car garage, 1.6 acres, views of Navajo Lake, RV hook up. Plenty of room for year around home or for a couple of families to vacation at the lake. \$555,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

LITTLE FARM HOUSE. Four bedroom, one bath, 28 acres, 32 shares irrigation, fruit trees, berry bushes, 1,200 bales of hay a year. Quiet country living, \$525,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

RANCHES

MINUTES TO TOWN. 35 acres, full equestrian setup, barn, indoor arena, shop, open floor plan home and guest house, senior water rights, private setting, amazing views, ag tax status, all this and more. \$1,895,000. Call listing broker for details Jim Smith Realty, Carol Peterson (480)213-0511.

PROPERTY

LAKE FRONTAGE LOT in Pagosa Lakes. Awesome views, close to national forest, \$135,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

PROPERTY

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

TREE COVERED OFF THE GRID lot with a flat spot for your camp spot, 4.89 acres, \$52,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

WILDLIFE COVERED! 79.69 AGRICULTURAL acres with 80 shares of water, 2 ponds and a year-round creek, \$350,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN VIEW LOT, \$82,000. 1/2 acre. Lot 131, The Reserve, 721 Clint Circle. Call David Cammack (970)749-4597 or Jann Pitcher Real Estate (970)731-4065.

READY TO BUILD. APPROXIMATELY 1/4 acre flat mountain view lot on Morro Circle. Just 5 minutes from Hatcher Lake, with all utilities easily available. \$25,000. Call Wayne (970)946-3720.

TOP OF THE HILL. Lake and mountain views, utilities available. \$39,500, possible owner carry. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

5 ACRES IN ECHO LAKE Estates. Beautiful mountain views, 10 minutes to downtown Pagosa Springs, \$90,000. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

TREE COVERED BUILDABLE ACRE and a half with utilities available, five minutes from Navajo Lake. \$29,500, possible owner carry. Call Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

How Norman Rockwell changed Christmas

Special to The PREVIEW

Certain holiday images have been ingrained in the minds of the public. Coca-Cola's smiling bearded Santa Claus, in his now universally recognized red coat, helped create a model from which all other Santas evolved. And an early 20th century artist and illustrator helped to establish the feelings of the Christmas season for millions with portraits featured on the covers of The Saturday Evening Post.

Norman Rockwell was born in New York City in 1894 and dreamt of becoming an artist when he was young. Rockwell received his first commission at age 17 and illustrated for Boy's Life, the monthly magazine of the Boy Scouts of America. In 1916, Rockwell was hired by The Saturday Evening Post. When Rockwell began working for the Post, his humorous and dead-pan depictions of American life tugged at the heartstrings of the public — even if they weren't so adored by art critics.

Rockwell spent 47 years working for this iconic magazine. Rockwell produced paintings for the Post and other publications that depicted key images in American history, including Charles Lindbergh's crossing of the Atlantic, the moon landing and World War II. However, some of Rockwell's most beloved work pertains to his holiday scenes.

Rockwell used real people as his models, and every detail in his reproduction paintings of photographs was fastidiously planned, say biographers. Over time, Rockwell's paintings helped define an idealized vision of American life and Christmas celebrations. Even now people seek to emulate the merriment and magic exemplified in Rockwell's imagery — from tired toy store clerks to a boy discovering Santa kissing his mom to the great holiday dinner. Rockwell produced 29 Christmas covers as well as greeting cards and other holiday scenes.

The holiday season would not be the same without the work of artist Norman Rockwell. His influential images helped reflect a glorified version of American life and have helped to make the holiday season even more special for millions of people.

Pagosa Springs Town Council

Respectfully requests all residents and visitors of

PAGOSA SPRINGS

USE PROVEN HEALTH PROTOCOLS TO CURB THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



-  **Help Keep Us All Safe and Healthy**
-  **Support our Local Businesses and Avoid Further Closures**
-  **Respect One Another**

Please:

- Wear a Face Covering
- Stay home if you are sick and get tested
- Practice social distancing and stay six feet apart
- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid gatherings outside your household



Supported by Town Council Resolution 2020-18