



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 113 — NO. 15, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Outbreak identified among staff at long-term care center

No cases reported among residents

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

An outbreak has been reported at Pine Ridge Extended Care Center, with several staff members testing positive.

As of Wednesday, no residents had been reported as testing positive.

According to San Juan Basin Health's (SJBPH) Brian Devine, deputy incident commander for the organization's COVID-19 response, Pine Ridge alerted SJBPH to a positive employee on Dec. 21 and a second positive employee on Dec. 24.

■ See Outbreak A8

Library expansion plans presented

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

On Dec. 8, architects revealed their final master plan for the Ruby M. Sisson library expansion.

RATIO Interior Design Associate Ramona Burns explained that the project is to determine "how we could ... broaden the library's potential interaction with the community and outdoor space as well."

Library Development Officer Cindi Galabota relayed that, in July, "we hosted a handful of controlled focus groups that were a variety of staff, board, and public."

During these focus group meetings, feedback was generated about the library.

■ See Library A8



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

This week's winter weather led to fun and beauty throughout Pagosa Country, including sledding, tubing, snowmen and picture-perfect views.



Archuleta County eyes move to Level Orange

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County is continuing to move toward Level Orange: High Risk on the state's COVID dial, and could move to the less-restrictive level as early as next week.

The move, however, will require that an approved mitigation plan be submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

"The county has had success with its suppression efforts, yielding a sustained decline in cases without exceeding Orange metrics on percent testing positivity or hospitalizations," a Dec. 29 letter from CDPHE Executive Director Jill Husaker Ryan that was sent to the Archuleta County commissioners and San Juan

■ See COVID-19 A8

Members selected for new sheriff's advisory group

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) has announced the 12 members that were selected for the new Citizens Advisory Group.

The 12 members selected were Doug Hershey, Theresa Snyder, Charlie Egger, Richard Bolland, Dan Mayer, Brittany Bedtke, Natacha Meden, Lacy Capre, David Keller, Andrea Cox, Joanne Brion and Samantha Williams.

In an interview, Sheriff Rich Valdez explained how the ACSO went about selecting group members.

"We wanted people from all different areas of the community," he said. "There's business owners to stay-at-home moms, to the clergy, you name it. It kind of covers everything."

■ See Sheriff A8

Police recover three stolen vehicles

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Over the past two weeks, three stolen vehicles have been reported to the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD). On the night of Dec. 28, PSPD was able to recover the third vehicle.

According to PSPD Lt. Brooks Brown, the third vehicle to be recovered was initially reported stolen early on the morning of Dec. 27. PSPD officers spotted the vehicle downtown near Hot Springs Boulevard and U.S. 160 at approximately 8 p.m. on Dec. 28.

According to Brown, officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop near U.S. 160 and Pinion Causeway. The vehicle did not pull over and continued to elude officers and attempted to turn onto Talisman Drive.

Brown explained that the vehicle

■ See Vehicles A8



Photo courtesy Angela Wirth

Pagosa Springs Medical Center's (PSMC) newest, state-of-the-art ambulance was put into service mid-November, with the new ambulance having increased safety modifications and a power lift. Pictured with the ambulance, left to right, are: PSMC Foundation Manager Jodi Scarpa, Upper San Juan Health Service District board member Jason Cox, PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb, PSMC EMS Assistant Chief Connie Cook, PSMC Director of Clinic and EMS Jason Webb, PSMC Paramedic Summer Jackson, PSMC EMT-IV Thad McKain and board chair Greg Schulte. The ambulance was paid for thanks to the Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services, Next50 Initiative, El Pomar Foundation, LPEA Round-Up Foundation and community donors.



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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Readers share ideas for 2021

We thought we would never get here. The new year is upon us, and in the tradition of a fresh start with the fresh year, we asked readers and Facebook fans to share their ideas for the changes they wanted to see in Pagosa Springs during 2021.

Pennie de Clark was first to answer: "My same answer every year...please no changes, I love Pagosa for everything wonderful it already is."

Missy Losee is looking for some fun in 2021: "Continuous winter powder days, big water for rafting season, a full summer of camping, local music fests, and patio cocktails at our favorite local watering holes, spectacular fall colors, repeat."

Lisa Griffin Smith wants: "Peace and Love, from residents and tourist alike!"

Jackie Ramsey Cox wrote: "Kindness, grace, and compassionate tolerance for all."

Jenny Iguchi seeks: "Unity." Kathleen Wells Stevnton agreed with Iguchi: "Unity, AMEN TO THAT."

Sally Logee Neel wants: "Greater awareness and response to the needs of those around us."

George Parkey suggests: "How about taking care of the roads? It a novel idea catching on across America!!!"

Kellie Lewis hopes for: "Traffic light out by Parelli Ranch curves and no more

65 mph speed limit in that area."

Elly Heitkamp-Osmera wrote: "Yellow lines on the curves of the Riverwalk so that bikers don't run into each other. My stepson broke his arm because somebody ran into him with his bike on the wrong side of the Riverwalk."

Kyle Taylor wrote: "Stop wasting money on useless stuff like the chair lift that was bought for reservoir hill but never put up or the bike lane the bikers still don't use instead start fixing the roads and working towards affordable housing."

Ayriana Rackham hopes for: "More affordable housing and better public transportation! The public transportation would help so much if it ran later and was better advertised to help prevent drunk driving and a healthier night life."

Sarah Boyer Little added: "A meal delivery service of some kind! I know it's prohibitive for each restaurant to provide but Grub Hub or Dash would be awesome."

Laura 'Faith' Moore wants: "Ban of plastic shopping bags!"

Elly Heitkamp-Osmera agreed with Moore and wrote: "Laura 'Faith' Moore steamboat did it in a very cool way. They made it a fundraiser for their afterschool program any bag that was

used paper only was five cents to the program. The gal that did it is a friend of mine she said she'd help us if we want."

Lisa Is seeks: "Young open minded progressive caring people in our local government. The selfish 'good ole boys' need to go to pasture."

Megan Campbell wants a: "Rec center like Durango."

Les Faust suggests: "Large fines for littering."

Bryce Alexander added: "More full size utv trails."

Jim Iverson wrote: "I would like people to slow down and drive the SPEED LIMITS!!!"

Les Faust suggests: "Enforce running stop signs and not using turn signals."

Carmelita Solis wants: "Able to ride your UTV or golf cart in town."

Kayla Nicole Jelinek wrote: "A turn lane at the turn off to astraddle a saddle."

Charmayne LaBorde agreed: "AMEN.....I get anxious everytime I have to turn."

Space doesn't allow for us to print every idea that we received. We'll share more of the ideas submitted next week.

One thing's for certain, we have a lot to look forward to in 2021. Let's all do our part and resolve to get involved to make our community better.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 31, 1920

"Burning Daylight," Jack London's novel, has been turned into a motion picture and will be produced at the Liberty theatre Thursday, Jan. 6. "Burning Daylight" is the name by which Elam Harnish is known in the Yukon, where as a prospector, he discovers a gold field that makes him a millionaire.

The telephone office will be closed on New Year's day except from 9 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Harold Chapson is home for the holidays from Fort Lewis, where he is attending the agricultural school.

Miss Hattie Schneider is busy receiving the congratulations of all who were fortunate enough to hear her piano renditions at the Christmas program at the Baptist church last Friday evening. Hard work and determination have secured Miss Schneider an enviable place in the musical world, and Pagosa people are rightfully proud of the success of one of their number.

The new grange hall at Allison for the grangers has been completed to the foundations of cement.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 4, 1946

Mrs. Harry Speelman informs The Sun this week that on January 2, 1919 the thermometer at the electric light plant registered 57 below zero at 8:00 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Speelman was employed on a logging project at the time and says they were forced to stop work on that date as the horses would not stand still and were uncontrollable. We'd say 57 below was quite frosty.

It was 25 degrees below zero here January 2, 1946, at 8:00 a.m., officially recorded by the U.S. Forest Service, with Julian (Hooley) Martinez at the instrument.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Caldon went to Denver Friday evening, returning home Saturday night, and bringing with them the requisite 70 flues for the New Light & Power plant. A.W. Olson and his 24-hour men have been busy replacing the worn out flues, which have been causing them and the populace considerable trouble of late.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 31, 1970

Richard Chavez, Pagosa Springs High School star athlete, was notified Christmas Day that he had been selected as a defensive end on the Denver Post all-state class A football team. Richard has for the past two years been named to the San Juan Basin A league all-conference team. Richard has been an outstanding player for Pagosa at defensive end and full back. In addition Coach Shaw has said that Richard's ability as a punter and place kicker has been a big factor in many Pagosa victories. Active, too, in school civic affairs, Richard is serving as student council president this year. He has been active in scholastic and civic activities during his four years in high school here.

Snow course readings show that the snowpack for next year's runoff is shaping up nicely and ahead of the long time average. A large part of the snow season is still ahead. If this is normal, then the runoff, water level at Lake Navajo, and storage in other lakes will be in good shape.

Christmas decorations were outstanding this year and there are still many beautiful lighting displays to be seen around town.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 4, 1996

South Pagosa Park — Work on the playground in the South Pagosa Park continues with a new deck, slide and tic-tac-toe apparatus to be installed. The next neighborhood park meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the El Centro Senior Center.

Ice skating at the new River Center Park pond behind the River Center is now open and has been great. Hockey practices are being held each day at noon.

The Archuleta County Healthy Communities Coalition will host a community forum on youth and family issues. The forum is designed for area residents to join together and look at important issues facing youth and families, learn about available programs and services and to brainstorm solutions. The agenda includes education about pressing problems, a panel discussion and small break-out groups.

WHADDYA THINK?

What will the local economy do in 2021?

Poll results (111 votes)

- Improve — 56 percent
- Weaken — 26 percent
- Stay the same — 18 percent

Vote this week online:
How long will you keep your resolution in the new year?
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LOOKING BACK



From the Dec. 15, 1983, Pagosa Springs SUN.

PLEASE MAIL EARLY — Postmaster Dick De Vore (l) is hoping the posters created by art students Wendy Miller, Petra Bergenthal and Steve Schaffer (l-r) will get results. Schaffer won a 1983 Cox memorative Mint Set stamp collection in the 7th Annual Mail Early Poster contest. Instructor Paul Henry looks on at the award presentation Tuesday morning.



The following weather information is brought to you as a public service by



Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
12/22	44	16	-	-	-
12/23	33	4	-	-	-
12/24	29	-2	-	-	-
12/25	45	8	-	-	-
12/26	40	12	-	-	-
12/27	34	12	-	-	-
12/28	35	27	S	3.1"	.27"

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Letters



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

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

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

Choices

Dear Editor:
The related choices and problems have been w/us since the beginning of mankind's walking erect that is the choice between individualism and the group. Somewhere in time we gave the choices political names (right vs. left) and assigned either good or bad, right or wrong to these political/economic/social/religious/tribal positions.

We've never determined how

Town sanitation district approves fee schedule, amends 2020 budget

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The fee schedule was set for 2021 and a budget amendment for the 2020 budget was approved by the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) at a regular meeting on Dec. 17.

At a meeting on Dec. 1, the PSSGID board approved the sanitation district's budget, which anticipates revenues based on an increase in monthly service rates from \$43 to \$46.50 per equivalent unit, agenda documentation notes.

Connection fees also increased from \$4,550 to \$4,625, agenda documentation adds.

According to agenda documentation, state statute requires that the PSSGID approve a budget amendment when a fund spends more than the original budgeted amount.

In February, the PSSGID approved an additional \$81,086 for an odor-control program from district reserves.

Additionally, over-budget expenditures are anticipated for the maintenance of lift stations due to pump failures at two stations for a cost of \$115,000, engineering overages of \$9,000, changes in program to the odor system of \$14,414, and vehicle expenses of \$2,500.

This leads to a total in overages of \$140,914 and agenda documentation outlines that changes to the budgeted expenditure amounts for 2020 of \$81,086 will produce a year-end fund balance of \$847,821.
chris@pagosasun.com

one becomes either a conservative (old school definition) or liberal on general choices regarding political/social now cultural issues. We just know trying to discuss anything related can bring out incredible emotions, anger and abuse.

We'll guess what, scientists studying this issue have finally began to open-the-door to understanding why we wind up or choose one position or the other. The answer seems to lay in the growth in either one of two key parts of our brains, the 'Amygdala' vs. 'medial prefrontal cortex.' If one brain area is larger than the other then we find our choices tend to be respectively 'conservative or liberal...individualist or group?'

Matching the study group participant's life decisions with brain measurement has established a very real correlation. So...what does that mean...well, if proved out most everything. For instance, let's pick a recent example, voting, potentially your vote was controlled by your brain sorta like remote control without your 'conscious choice'...hmmmm, that should be upsetting. What else, lifestyle, morality, friends...'looking glass' issues like the Second Amendmt, stickers on your bumper..kidding on that one...but a lot. So where would you search next to prove/disprove such a finding, for me, it's what impacts this growth differential...DNA, age, life's experiences or food...is even democracy a representative form of gov't if the outcome is determined by the number of births by one group? Could it be that logic..fact..rea-

son..fairness..etc will always fall on some ears as noise when not self-benefiting; and that's why the 'fake-news neo-conservatives' listen mostly to FOX (or is it FOX's bright colours). Maybe a rough comparison but did you know most animals, trout included, won't expend energy for food unless the intake benefit is greater than the effort..exception..visual stimulators (it's the bright colours)...could it even be support of Trump. Maybe this is why humanity has had such a slog moving fwd..if so, maybe we don't stand a chance to be more civilized unless it's self-benefiting? Anyone ckout the \$ billions of 'hidden' tax perks for special interests in the pending stimulus bill?

This brain growth finding is truly a conundrum, particularly w/the advent of Artificial Intelligence/algorithm's and ever more intelligent servers. Throw in a little CRISPR experimentation and Orwell was on to something."

Dave Blake

Twenty years ago

Dear Editor:
Regarding "Living to Learn", I pray that our people have begun to "wake up" to the trauma suffered by our democracy over these past few years. Hopefully, this serious wake-up call is the beginning of a citizenry that seeks honesty and integrity, free of prejudice, in those we choose to lead our country.

I recently took a book off my shelf, published in 2001 that should have been a wake-up call for both political parties. Over the years, challenges continued to grow as

many voted for their tribe, without question. Authored by David Brock, a well-known, respected conservative writer, titled: "Blinded By the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative". I cite his own words from his Introduction: "This is terrible book. It is about lies told the reputations ruined. It is about what the conservative movement did, and what I did, as we plotted in the shadows, disregarded the law, and abused power to win even greater power. My story is about familiar corrupting influences of ambition, greed, and ego. It is about how human weakness, lack of confidence, and emotional discomposure can lead to a susceptibility to manipulation for bad ends. It is also about the dangers of zeal and extremism in a political cause, and about how one can be blinded to the ethics of one's own actions."

He went on to write: "The conservative culture I thrived in was characterized by corrosive partisanship, visceral hatreds and unfathomable hypocrisy ... where I fought on the wrong side of an ideological and cultural war that divided our country and poisoned our politics." Yes, 20 years ago. Sadly, his book failed to gain traction and the poisonous "political war" continued, resulting in a fractured government and threat to our democracy.

Let's grow our support for goodness, honesty and integrity, regardless of political party — no more tribalism. Let's get serious. Goodbye to 2020. Hello, 2021.

Spread love around.

Patty Tillerson

One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a new year of happiness and prosperity.



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Happy Holidays

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
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e-mail:
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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.

Obituaries

Jimmy Dale Morris

With heartfelt sorrow, we are announcing the passing of Jimmy Dale Morris, born Aug. 11, 1948, born in Dinuba, Calif., but resided in Farmington, N.M.



Jimmy was called to serve as one of the Lord's soldiers on Dec. 23.

Jimmy served in Vietnam in 1969/70 with the 11th Armored Cavalry, where he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

While he's away, he wants us to

protect and keep safe his wife, Gina, his children, Jimmy Jr., Serena and husband Shawn T, Tyler, Shawn and Ireland, his four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother, Holly Keeling, brother Frank Morris and brothers Curtis and Leo Henington. He has one surviving brother, Greg Morris, and wife Pam.

He left this world too soon, but left everlasting memories and friends who dearly loved him. In these difficult times, the family is unable to provide a ceremony to properly honor Jimmy. When we are able to gather together, a date will be set for his celebration of life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pat Tillman Foundation.

Terrell Lee Smith (Terry)

Terrell Lee Smith (Terry) passed away at his home in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on Saturday, Dec. 19, with his wife, Charlene, at his side. Terry had been diagnosed with adenocarcinoma in September 2020. He was 69.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Anna May (Taylor) Smith, of Kramer, Ind., and sister, Marlena (Smith) Thomas, of Oxford, Ind.

Terry earned his associate degree from Sams Technical Institute (ITI) in 1971. He began an illustrious career in telecommunications working for Western Electric (which became Lucent and later Alcatel-Lucent). His work spanned the areas of quality control, system testing, customer field support and network testing. Terry won multiple awards and honors with the pinnacle being his appointment to Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, the highest attain-

able rank for a technical employee. He was an acknowledged expert in the telecommunications field and a beloved colleague to many.

Terry retired in 2011, and he and Charlene moved from the Midwest to Pagosa Springs, where he truly loved the canyon view from the back of their home.

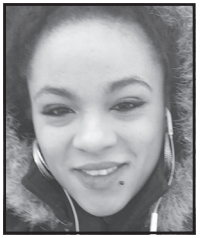
He is survived by his wife, Charlene (Turnpaugh) Smith, of 49 years; son Kenneth and his wife, Amanda (Callison), of Boulder, Colo.; son Michael, his wife Erin (Robinson), and grandson Austin, of Montgomery, Ill.; sister Janice (Smith) Larson and her husband Herb, of Attica, Ind.; and brother-in-law, Ed Thomas, of Oxford, Ind.

No funeral service is planned at this time, but his family hopes to reunite friends and family for a celebration of life service when it is once again safe to gather.

Jessie Allaya Tuller

Jessie Allaya Tuller — Jan. 24, 1996-Dec. 17, 2020

Jessie loved both the mountains and the ocean, and such a person could not be contained by this earth. She left us all too soon, and she had so much more to live for.



Jessie was the second youngest of our big bunch of siblings and our brother Bobby's twin. When she was young, she was a Houdini extraordinaire: she'd challenge all of us to tie her up as best we could, and whatever knot we made or box we stuffed her into, she would manage to get out in seconds.

She loved to dance and sing, and

most of all, her prime hobby was doing wild and crazy things with her hair. Every day was new to her; perhaps she viewed the world through a different set of glasses than we. Her contagious smile and never-ceasing enthusiasm will be missed by all who were lucky enough to have met her.

Jessie was preceded in death by her fathers, Claude Tuller, Bobby Randle Sr. (biological); her brother, Jon Tuller; and her sister, Keyshia Sanders. She is survived by her mothers, Kathleen (Toni) Tuller, Brenda Randle (biological); and siblings Kevin, Keith, Jason, Paul, Shane, Charlene, Christian, Quanisha, Bobby and Dwayne. She also leaves behind three beautiful children: Jasmine, Theo and Rosemary.

A private service will be held for family and close friends. In lieu of flowers, please hug someone you love.

Rotary provides clean water for African village

By David Smith
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, working with Rotary Clubs in Vienna, Austria and Niamey, Niger, has completed a project that provides both drinking and irrigation water for a village located in the sub-Saharan desert of Africa.

Drilling of a 350-foot-deep well and management of distribution of the water was organized by the Catholic organization Fraternité des Servantes du Christ à Maradi.

This region, like most of Niger, is primarily Muslim.

This organization seeks to educate and generally improve the lives of the 7,500 residents living in the village of Saé Saboua. Because most of the water in this region comes from the July/August rainy season, water is scarce throughout much of the year. Most residents use contaminated surface water for drinking and bathing.

The new well is now providing more than 1,000 gallons a day of water that is used for both drinking and irri-

County certifies mill levies and revenues, budgetary transfers approved

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

At a special budget hearing on Dec. 22, the Archuleta County Board of County commissioners (BoCC) approved resolution 2020-245, certifying the county's mill levies and revenues for the 2021 budget.

Archuleta County Finance Director LeeAnn Martin presented the resolution.

The resolution states, "The BoCC shall certify all such levies to the Assessor, on the 'Certification of Levies and Revenues' form and a copy of the certification will be sent to the Property Tax Administrator, Division of Local Government of Education, no later than December 22nd."

According to the resolution, there are 21 governmental entities included in the Certification of Levies and Revenues. The 21 entities include one county, one town, three school districts and 16 special districts.

The resolution goes on to state, "Archuleta County's 18.233 mills are divided as follows:

- 17.321 (95%) to General
- 0.000 (0%) to Road & Bridge
- 0.912 (5%) to Public Welfare (DHS)."

The BoCC offered no comments or questions in regard to the resolution. There was also no public comment made either for or against the approval resolution 2020-245. The BoCC voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Martin also presented resolution 2020-246, which approved "already budgeted and appropriated monies from line items within a fund, to a different line item within the same fund," according to the resolution.

Budgetary transfers outlined in the resolution show that \$50,000 from the county administrator, \$27,000 from the Building and Grounds Department, \$15,000 from detention and \$36,000 from patrol were transferred into other departments.

Of the \$128,000 in total sums being transferred, \$11,000 is going to the county clerk's department, \$20,000 is going to the county treasurer's department, \$20,000 is going to the IT/GIS Department, \$11,000 is going to sheriff's administration, \$4,000 is going to the sheriff's animal control, \$8,000 is going to the sheriff's emergency management, \$14,000 is going to Mountain Express Transit and \$40,000 is going to lodging tax distributions.

Again, there was no public comment made either for or against the approval of the resolution. The BoCC also offered no comments or questions before unanimously approving the resolution.

Lastly, Martin presented resolution 2020-247, which the BoCC voted unanimously to approve.

The resolution acknowledges the extra funding Archuleta County received over 2020 that was not included at the time of the 2020 budget adoption.

The resolution states, "This resolution will appropriate additional sums of money to defray expenses in excess of amounts budgeted during 2020 by the amounts of additional revenue received."

According to the resolution, the total general revenues were increased by \$1,324,042. The total Human Services revenues were increased by \$1,410,000 and the total Justice System Capital Fund revenues were increased by \$1,291,043.

The resolution states, "The 2020 appropriation for the General Fund is hereby increased from \$14,308,913 to \$15,632,955."

There was no public comment made either for or against the approval of the resolution and the BoCC did not offer any comments or questions in regard to the resolution before voting unanimously to approve it.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Births

The following are the October births with parents from Pagosa Springs as reported by Mercy Regional Medical Center:

Ally Lee, Sevena Maez, 6 pounds, 11 ounces, 8:48 a.m., Oct. 8. Mylah A'Maree, Brayla Garcia and Matthew Archuleta Jr., 7 pounds, 11 ounces, 12:04 a.m., Oct. 11.

Parents are invited to submit photos of their baby and an official announcement to editor@pagosasun.com to be printed in the newspaper.

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Business

New Small Business Relief program applications available for local businesses

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has applied for the state's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) new Small Business Relief Program. Applications for local businesses to receive funds from the grant have also been made available online on the county's and Chamber of Commerce's websites.

Although the county has yet to be approved for the funds, applications have already been made available due to the short turnaround period the county would have to distribute the funds.

According to Mary Helminski, paralegal for Archuleta County, the BoCC would have a minimum of 21 days to review applications and distribute awards to local businesses.

In an email to The SUN, Helminski noted that the BoCC may not hear back from DOLA until as late as Jan. 15, 2021. If approved for the funds, the BoCC will have until Feb. 12, 2021, to distribute funds to local businesses.

Helminski noted that packets with information about the program and applications have been sent out to all of the county liquor license holders.

The information packet states, "This program was created to allocate money to eligible local governments to provide relief payments to capacity impacted small businesses operating within the geographical boundaries of those eligible local governments."

In a previous work session held by the BoCC on Dec. 15, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Executive Director Laura Lewis Marchino explained that the funds would only be available for local businesses operating in counties that are in Level Red of the state's COVID-19 dial.

At a special meeting held on Dec. 23 by the BoCC, Commissioner Ronnie Maez responded to a public question on whether the county had to be in Level Red in order to be eligible for the funding. Maez stated that there were no restrictions on who is eligible for the funds.

In an interview, Marchino confirmed that funding from the program will only be available for businesses in counties that were in Level Red or Level Purple as of Dec. 10.

According to the information packet sent out by Archuleta County, businesses that are eligible for the funds include restaurants, bars,

caterers, movie theaters and fitness or recreational centers.

The packet also notes certain criteria that businesses must meet in order to be eligible for the funds.

This criteria includes that businesses must have at least one full-time employee, except for a sole proprietorship, and provide annual receipts of less than \$2.5 million for the 2019 calendar year, or the business first opened between Jan. 1 and March 26.

In order to be approved for funds from the BoCC, a business must also be able to provide a Colorado income tax number, provide a receipt from the most recent payment of unemployment insurance payroll taxes, can demonstrate it is operating under severe capacity restrictions and provide intent to operate for at least the next six months.

Other requirements for businesses to receive funding also include being able to provide evidence of at least 20 percent revenue loss since March 26 (except for businesses that opened between

Jan. 1 and March 26), have a valid business license and must be in good standing with the agency that issued the business license.

Additionally, businesses are not eligible if they have applied for relief funds from the Arts Relief Program or the Minority Owned Business Relief Program.

The packet also notes the amount the amount of funds a business can receive based off its sales and revenues from 2019. The award amounts are as follows:

- Receipts less than \$500,000 equal a \$3,500 maximum payment.
- Receipts greater than \$500,000 but less than \$1 million equal a \$5,000 maximum payment.
- Receipts greater than \$1 million but less than \$2.5 million equal a \$7,000 maximum payment.

The submission deadline for local businesses to apply for funds is Feb. 1, 2021. Applications must be submitted to Helminski at 398 Lewis St., PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO or via email to mhelminski@archuletacounty.org.

clayton@pagosahun.com

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No decision made on pursuing 5-Star program for Archuleta County

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area
Chamber of Commerce

As this paper comes out on the very last day of 2020, we have much to look back at as a community, within our families and as individuals. What a year.

As I don't want to make this article an editorial, but informational, there is much that we need to assess. Businesses have had to change the way they operate; however, not all that change has been bad. We've implemented new practices, streamlined our processes and have been introduced to new technologies and techniques. Now we take lessons learned and move into 2021.

There is much talk about the new 5-Star program that communities throughout Colorado are looking at. As of the writing of this article, it has not been determined if Archuleta County will pursue that avenue yet. We will certainly engage our business community should that happen. We are hopeful that with continued community vigilance, COVID cases will continue to decrease and the whole community can benefit from the reduction of restrictions.

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Crunching the numbers: Town council approves new auditor hiring

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Clifton Larson Allen LLP will be the Town of Pagosa Springs' new auditor for the next four years following a decision made at a meeting on Dec. 17.

A contract that was executed with the town's former auditor HintonBurdick was done in 2015 and ran through 2019, Town Clerk April Hessman explained. The town ultimately sent out a request for proposal (RFP) to fill the auditor position and received five responses to the RFP, Hessman explained further. Town staff recommended Clifton Larson Allen LLP to be the town's next auditor.

Council member Shari Pierce raised a question on whether or not it was standard practice to have an auditor contract last four years.

"Is that the safest for our community to just have the same company do it? Or is it better to have a different set of eyes after a couple of years and not have such a long contract?" Pierce asked.

Hessman explained that when the contract was negotiated with HintonBurdick that the town asked for a five-year contract.

"They actually have told us that the hours were a lot more than they had originally anticipated and their price went up quite a bit," she said. "I think the standard is between three to five years that you stay with the same auditor, or at least the

same auditing firm."

According to agenda documentation, the town's 2021 budget anticipates \$15,000 in auditing costs between the town and the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District. The proposed cost for the 2020 audit through Clifton Larson Allen is \$15,305.

"Because we did the partnership with Pagosa Peak Open School and accepted a \$600,000 grant to pass on to them and we accepted coronavirus relief funds, that is going to cause us to have what they call a single audit," Phillips said. "We might want to consider splitting the cost with them."

The town has an agreement with Pagosa Peak Open School which indicates that, in exchange for the town accepting a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant to help the charter school purchase its building, that the school will pay for any audit that is required of that grant, Phillips described.

According to Phillips, that proposed single audit cost is \$6,500, and the town is considering splitting those costs with the school.

"That seems fair. If it was just the acceptance of those funds for them, I would say that they should reimburse us for the cost of that single audit, but because there's other things that have been added on top of that, I think splitting that \$6,500 right down the middle would be fair," council member Mat deGraaf said. chris@pagosasun.com

Town planning commission discusses tiny homes

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

A discussion on tiny homes was held by the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission at a regular meeting on Dec. 22.

Planning Director James Dickhoff explained during the meeting that this conversation was preliminary in nature, but was one that would examine how the commission could explore tiny home park development.

"We've been doing some research for quite a while," Dickhoff said, adding that the Escalante Village in Durango has had some success.

The town has recently looked at the planned unit development provisions in its code, and through more research, has discovered that the town can use its planned unit development process to consider site-specific design criteria for a proposed development of tiny homes, Dickhoff explained.

Tiny homes fit between an RV park model and a mobile home park model, Dickhoff noted, adding that tiny homes on trailers are still built under the RV code, not the building code.

"The land use development code planned development district supports an increased choice of living and housing environments," he said.

There is also supporting language for tiny homes within various legislative documents, including Colorado Revised Statutes, he added later.

"We believe this might be the appropriate way to look at considering a tiny house park situation. This would not be considered for those single placement of tiny homes, for example on a residential lot downtown or used as an accessory dwelling unit that can attach or detach from a single-family residence in town," Dickhoff said.

Because tiny homes are built under the RV code and not the building code, there could be some "difficulties" in legally defending that a tiny home RV is OK and a typical recreational vehicle is not OK, he added.

If tiny home parks are to be considered, the town could also look to implement a planned development agreement that sets forth design criteria for any specific development, Dickhoff added further. Additionally, the town could look at limiting the number of vehicles per unit, he explained.

Enhanced buffering requirements from neighboring properties are also additional things that could be considered for tiny home developments, he added.

Tiny homes could also be subject to the town's building design criteria, Dickhoff noted.

The 2018 building code includes a provision that addresses specific considerations for tiny homes, Dickhoff explained; however, the town is currently under the 2015 building code and would need to adopt the 2018 code in whole to use those provisions.

"Since most, if not all, tiny homes on a trailer or chassis are built under the RV code, a certificate of occupancy is typically not issued because it doesn't meet the building code," he said. "Instead, a tiny house permit could be considered to be issued."

This would allow the tiny homes to be used as a long-term housing option, he added later.

Single-unit placement has some issues as many communities have not figured out a system that works, Dickhoff noted, adding that scars are left on properties from the units themselves and utility lines could be left behind.

"We have probably talked to 10 parties over the last two years since this is kind of a new fad, if you will," Dickhoff said, adding that develop-

ers have shown interest in developing a tiny home park.

The town's development standards would still need to be complied with, which includes things like: pavement, landscaping and buffering, he explained.

"The developers that are serious about this and are aware of the required development standards for the site, they're pretty much looking at a \$500 site rent per month," he said. "These units start pretty low, but the trend is they're going to be between the \$80,000 and \$125,000 range for these tiny homes."

Once a process is recognized and approved, Dickhoff noted that the town believes it will see an application in a month for a concept plan and rezoning for a development.

"The little bit that I know about developers, that's not enough margin in order to build something for \$120,000. It just isn't," planning commission member Mark Weiler said. "That's the downside of this tiny home stuff: By the time you have all of the stuff that the town requires, it's not financially feasible."

If someone wanted to do a tiny

park home development but started the process of an RV park development, it would not work because RV park developments are designed for temporary housing for vacations, Dickhoff clarified.

"Tiny homes kind of fit between that mobile home park model, which are meant for long-term housing, and the RV park, which are meant for temporary housing," he said. "Either park model, the mobile home or the RV park, would really require the same development standards and site improvements."

Planning commission member Jeff Posey noted that it did not seem like tiny homes would be an affordable housing solution for the community given the financial implications.

"Tiny homes will realistically end up being a very small portion of our housing portfolio. It's certainly not the answer for workforce housing by any means," Dickhoff said. "The market for those will be fairly small. When you look at those numbers, you're looking at the same cost for a \$300,000, 1,500-square-foot house."

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Water conservancy district approves 2021 budget

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) approved its 2021 budget during a meeting on Dec. 10.

The final budget outlines that the district will have revenue of \$92,722. This is a slight decrease from the 2020 adopted budget total of \$93,351, but a slight increase from the 2020 anticipated total of \$91,374.

The SJWCD's available resources are projected to be \$323,656. This is an increase from the 2020

adopted budget total of \$269,703 and the 2020 anticipated total of \$310,940.

Expenditures for the district are projected to total \$143,723, which is \$50,372 more than the 2020 adopted budget and \$63,657 more than the 2020 anticipated budget totals.

Within the expenses, engineering, studies and surveys is projected to cost \$40,000 in 2021. The 2020 adopted budget had \$10,000 budgeted for engineering, studies and surveys, while the 2020 anticipated budget has \$19,050 budgeted.

In a follow-up interview, SJWCD

Chair Al Pfister explained that this increase within the 2021 budget relates to the district hiring Wilson Water Group to complete a water use and water demand analysis for the district, and to complete a water availability analysis for the West Fork reservoir and canal water rights.

"That's projecting on the high end of things based on estimates we have been able to obtain," he said, adding that the district wanted to make sure it had enough funds projected just in case there is a need.

Due diligence and application

are projected to be \$24,000 for 2021. This is an increase of the 2020 adopted budget total of \$1,000 and the 2020 anticipated totals of \$3,000.

This increase also pertains to the Wilson Water Group's efforts, Pfister noted.

Support services are projected to go down from the 2020 anticipated totals of \$18,000 to \$12,000 in 2021.

According to Pfister, this decrease relates to the SJWCD projecting a decreased workload for board consultant Renee Lewis.

chris@pagosasun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 31

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners special meeting. Noon. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

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.

tion.

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 Direc-

tors 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=N2lmVWpXcG8yVHZqeWZsSjJlSk1QT09>.

Thursday, Jan. 14

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

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

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Town attorney to take on prosecutor role, too

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Clayton Buchner will now serve as the Town of Pagosa Springs' municipal court prosecutor following a decision made by the Pagosa Springs Town Council at a meeting on Dec. 17.

Before discussion on the item, Buchner recused himself from the meeting.

The decision, approved under Resolution 2020-30, includes an independent contractor agreement with Buchner, who also serves as the town attorney.

The town council, under chapter 10 of the town's municipal code, appoints a municipal court prosecutor to provide services in the town's municipal court, Town Manager Andrea Phillips explained during the meeting.

Current Town Prosecutor Gayle Dixon indicated to the town that she

did not intend to renew her contract with the town to "pursue other opportunities," Phillips noted.

Dixon's contract runs through the end of the year, according to Phillips.

A request for proposal (RFP) was put out by the town to replace Dixon and included some changes to the scope of work by town council, Phillips explained.

These changes in the scope of work were suggested by Court Administrator Candace Dzielak and Municipal Judge Justin Fay, Phillips added later.

These changes were meant to clarify the scope and duties of the prosecutor and would also allow for a better separation of duties of the court staff from the prosecutor, agenda documentation notes.

The town received two applications for the vacancy, one from Buchner and another from Matthew

Krob, Phillips explained, adding that Krob's office is based on the Front Range, but described him as a "traveling attorney."

"At this time, our committee of staff interviewed both and does recommend that Mr. Buchner be appointed as the next municipal prosecutor subject to the terms of the independent contractor agreement," Phillips said.

According to agenda documentation, \$32,000 was budgeted in 2020 for the town prosecutor position, which is paid on an hourly rate.

As of September's billing, the town has spent \$22,079 toward the position, with the hourly rate being \$125 per hour.

In a follow-up interview on Tuesday, Buchner explained that the role of prosecutor comes with special legal counsel.

"The reason that previously the special legal counsel was given to

the local prosecutor was to kind of bridge the gap of having an attorney on the Front Range trying to represent a rural town in southwest Colorado," he said. "Once I became the town attorney, a lot of those roles in special legal counsel kind of fell under my responsibility. Taking over the rest of that position and prosecuting traffic and misdemeanor cases within the town limits made a lot of sense."

This would allow for the town to have a more streamlined process in regard to legal cases, he added.

"I take the role of prosecutor very seriously because it's what helps keep our community safe and our local economy up and running. We have a great police force and being able to enforce traffic and misdemeanor laws within the town is something I don't take lightly," Buchner said.

chris@pagosasun.com



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Town council declines funding from state for paving projects

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Funding from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for two paving projects in Pagosa Springs were declined by the Pagosa Springs Town Council at a meeting on Dec. 17.

During discussions for the 2021 budget, town council had indicated that it was not interested in moving forward with two projects that CMAQ funding had been awarded, Public Works Director Martin Schmidt explained during the meeting.

CMAQ funding had been awarded to the town in 2018, Schmidt

noted.

The two projects awarded funding are the Crestview paving project and the Hermosa and Pagosa alley paving project, agenda documentation notes.

The CMAQ funds were awarded for the paving of some alleyways, with both the Hermosa and Pagosa street alleys being identified as qualified for the grant program, agenda documentation notes.

CMAQ eventually awarded a total project cost of \$435,000, but further engineering work found that the project would cost \$656,100.

"Staff thinks that redesigning the project without CDOT involvement can bring the cost down and make the project attainable in the

future if Council and the public see alley paving as a priority," agenda documentation reads.

The Crestview paving project would pave and improve about a half mile gravel section of Crestview Drive, according to agenda documentation. This project came with a 2015 cost estimate of about \$805,475.05 in 2020 dollars.

Only \$449,988.21 of the total would be eligible for CMAQ reimbursement due to restrictions on the funding, agenda documentation describes.

"The scope of the project grew beyond just adding a pavement mat because of the requirements from CDOT and drainage best practices. Costs go up with these additional requirements, for ex-

ample, design only costs of the CDOT scale project from Davis Engineering are \$72,707.64, versus a Town scale project that would cost \$54,710.00; this is a 28.2% cost difference at the design phase," agenda documentation notes.

Schmidt explained later that CMAQ funding is only for pavement and the products associated with the pavement.

"This funding has been available, but both projects have not moved forward very far. Both projects, the town has expended around \$4,000 for geotechnical studies or for initial engineering studies," Schmidt explained.

The town declining the CMAQ funds means the funds go back into the "pool" and other communities would have a chance to earn those funds, Schmidt noted.

"We can do these alley projects and the Crestview project in the future, but we can look at different funding streams that allow more flexibility. Or, when we have less large projects for the town, potentially the town could pay for these projects out of pocket on their own if it becomes a priority for council or the public," he said.

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Missed specs lead to contract amendment for Eagle Drive project

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At its meeting on Dec. 17, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved an amendment to the Eagle Drive extension project contract.

Public Works Director Martin Schmidt explained that the contract amendment was suggested due to the project on Eagle Drive "having an issue with the asphalt."

"The project went well, we were on project closeout, but the asphalt missed a specification where it had too many fines in the asphalt, so too many small pieces of gravel, which results in having a little bit higher level of oils in the asphalt," Schmidt described.

The specifications for the asphalt were set by Davis Engineering and when specifications are missed on a project you take how much you missed the specification by and you apply that to a pay factor reduction and then it reduces the amount that the contractor gets paid, Schmidt described further.

The contractor for the project, UCAL, hired a local firm to work as the asphalt subcontractor, Schmidt explained.

"The pay reduction factor ends up being pretty large where the asphalt pavement amount for the

project is just shy of \$50,000 at \$49,956 and they would see a pay reduction of \$21,429.16 per the pay factor in the contract," Schmidt said.

According to Schmidt, when it was discovered that a specification was missed, Davis Engineering sent a letter to UCAL notifying them of the missed specification and the pay reduction factor; however, Davis Engineering also offered UCAL an opportunity to suggest a fix for the problem.

That kind of dialogue is typical for this type of contract, Schmidt explained.

The local firm responded by stating it could not "financially withstand" the lower pay factor on the project, but offered a four-year warranty on the project in exchange for getting paid in full for the asphalt project, Schmidt explained.

The previous warranty had only been for two years, Schmidt noted.

"The reason why that's a reasonable request is that a softer asphalt with higher fine content is typically going to be a short time period failure. It's not going to fail in 12 years because it has a higher oil content or higher fines, we're going to see the failures occurring in two to three years," he said.

Schmidt then presented town

council with two options: going forward with the initial contract and moving forward with the pay reduction and the original two-year warranty or the second option that includes the four-year warranty on the project.

According to Schmidt, four years should be enough time to see failure in the project.

"It's a softer asphalt. It's going to move more, it's going to crack more. We're going to see shoving or rutting, ripples in the asphalt," Schmidt said.

Mike Davis of Davis Engineering explained that the asphalt is less likely to crack, but those failures tend to show up at a quicker rate due to the soft nature of the surface.

"Especially with the tight curves that we have there, I think again that those types of failures are going to show relatively quickly," Davis said. "I don't know how you track your warranties, but I would most certainly keep it on your calendar so the four years, or however many years you ask for, doesn't go by and we shortly thereafter noticed that there are problems showing up."

The motion to approve the extension of the warranty period was approved unanimously by town council.

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Flu activity remains lower than normal across state, nation

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The number of influenza cases remains lower than normal, according to federal, state and local health agencies.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report, seasonal influenza activity remained lower than usual through the week ending Dec. 19.

"The number of influenza positives reported by public health labs remains much lower than normal despite a higher than normal number of tests performed," the report

website states.

Colorado, too, is seeing little flu activity.

"Flu activity in Colorado is very low," Brian Devine, San Juan Basin Health's environmental health director, wrote in an email to The SUN.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment's flu data states that there has been sporadic geographic spread in Colorado, with 14 hospitalizations reported to the CDPHE through the week ending Dec. 26 and no new hospitalizations in the last week.

For SJBPH, which covers Archuleta and La Plata counties, influenza surveillance for the sea-

son officially began on Sept. 27 and will run through May 22, Devine explained.

"This includes 6 medical facilities who submit the number of flu tests performed and how many are positive," he wrote.

For Sept. 27 through Dec. 26, 203 flu tests were reported, Devine noted, with three tests being positive.

All three positives, he indicated, were for influenza B.

The CDC and CDPHE have not identified a predominant strain this season.

No La Plata County or Archuleta County residents have been hospitalized with the flu, Devine wrote.

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Library

■ Continued from front

Upon reviewing the feedback, RATIO Principal Dennis Humphries and Burns decided on “a singular direction to take the master plan decision,” Burns said.

In August, the architects presented three conceptual plans to the public for feedback.

During the final presentation, Burns outlined the community feedback that contributed to hers and Humphries’ final master plan.

Indoor plan

The new plan reimagines the current library space and also contains areas of expansion, including expanding the footprint to the south and west.

A lot of those who participated in the focus group sessions expressed that “the staff is the greatest aspect of the library,” Burns said, which “was so great to hear,” so the circulation and staff areas remain close to the entrance and central to the library.

“Making sure that they’re front and center as you arrive was really important,” Burns said.

The entrance, however, has been moved in the final master plan to the west side of the building.

“We wanted some emphasis on the entry ... a wow moment,” Burns continued.

The openness of the west side of the building has potential to emphasize the entryway with a plaza space.

The formerly south entrance area would be part of an exploration garden space to be accessed from the

children’s area.

The children’s section would be moved to the east side of the building.

The community expressed that they wanted an “access from the children’s space to the outdoors, and acoustic separation,” Burns said.

The master plan includes both of those requests.

Burns stated that “potentially a larger or separate teen space ... that’s separate from the children and gives them an identity and ... encourages their engagement would be desirable.”

She reiterated the need for the teens to have a space to identify themselves in, and not just be blended into the kids’ section.

This separate teen room is included in the master plan.

It connects to a makers’/collaboration room that would have potential to open into the computer area. “We wanted to make sure we had good access to public computers,” Burns emphasized.

The master plan also includes two smaller study areas adjacent to the children’s and teen’s spaces.

A new community room is included in the master plan.

This community space is dividable into two large spaces to host separate events simultaneously.

The entrance to the community room is within the library entryway and would be able to be accessed after library hours.

Restrooms are also accessed in

the entranceway and available to those using the community room after hours.

Burns mentioned there should be included “some connection to the outdoors in the community room and drop-off, loading/unloading for ease.”

The community expressed that there were several things that would be important to keep the same.

Of these things, they wanted to maintain the Turner reading room.

The main collection and the reading room remain at the northeast end of the library virtually the same as before.

In the master plan, there is attention on making room for main collection growth however.

Outdoor plan

The library received a portion of the property to the west of its building along U.S. 160 extending to 10th Street, just east of the elementary school, as a gift.

This gifted land lends itself to several garden spaces designed into the master plan.

Garden spaces in the master plan include a covered terrace, an event lawn, a reading garden geared toward adults, a children’s garden, a native garden with children’s arbors, a community garden with a container shed to be repurposed and an entry plaza.

More paved space would be set in the northwest end of the gifted land where development is challenging due to the area being in a floodplain.

The question of building a new structure on the floodplain arose during the library board meeting.

Humphries responded, “We can work with modifying some of that floodplain way, but it’s an extensive process ... I think potentially there could be something built on it, but it would have to be raised up and the floodplain would have to be changed.”

This projected paved area is referred to as the library square.

Instead of being used for parking, it would be used as a community space to hold book drives, outside vendor activities and community engagement events.

Of the total gift area, Burns said it is “to be used for more than just landscaping: event space, playground, play area/inspiration for the outdoors was desirable.”

Finally, a potential access to U.S. 160 from the library square is included in the plans. This idea would depend upon coordination with Colorado Department of Transportation requirements.

Outbreak

■ Continued from front

That, he noted in an email to The SUN Tuesday, identifies Pine Ridge as an outbreak (two or more residents or staff) according to new Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidance.

Devine explained that “Pine Ridge administration is working closely with SJBPH to share information and assure proper infection prevention.”

As of Dec. 29, Devine reported, the outbreak had been contained to staff only, with six total positive staff members reported.

Joyce Humiston, president at C & G Health Care, a management group that oversees Pine Ridge and six other care centers, told The SUN Wednesday the situation would not have been deemed an outbreak three weeks ago and that, as of Wednesday, there were three active cases among kitchen staff, with those cases nearby through their active phases.

She added that the positive staff members were sent home immediately and the kitchen was closed, with food from local restaurants

“This is all just to get us to the point of ‘what would it cost’ and ‘what are the big ideas and the big vision for what Ruby M. Sisson could be,’” Burns said.

Cost involved

The project costs analysis has been broken into three phases.

Phase one includes development on the library building and adding a western parking lot. The total cost for phase one is estimated at \$2,997,442.

Phase two includes the western-most part of the gifted land, including the library square. The cost for this development would be \$1,751,138.

Phase three would cover the northern garden and event space, and would amount to \$543,354 to develop.

Humphries explained that “some things may cost less, some things may cost more.”

He added, “It’s really hard for us to put an exact price on it today ... we know that in 2022 it will be more expensive to build than in 2020 just

being ordered for residents.

In a Tuesday email, Humiston wrote, “... our residents remain healthy and happy and the couple of staff we have are at home, asymptomatic and doing well ...”

“Testing on all residents and staff is occurring twice weekly,” Devine explained, with Humiston explaining that decision was made around Thanksgiving in order to be extra cautious.

Devine explained that SJBPH also arranged for a consult between Pine Ridge administration and the CDPHE’s infection prevention team on Dec. 29.

“Pine Ridge will decide if they would like the CDPHE Residential Care Strike Team to assist them. This team can stabilize staffing levels, support testing, provide personal protective equipment, and provide infection control procedures,” Devine wrote Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Humiston, whose background is as an infection control nurse, explained that the meeting determined that what Pine Ridge is doing is appropriate and no additional help is needed.

because of normal inflation.”

The projected total cost given by Humphries and Burns for the library expansion is \$5,291,914.

Galabota relayed in an email to The SUN, “I am pleased that we have designed the new Library with consideration to all ages; we have created dedicated space for children and tweens and teens. We also have incorporated small private rooms to help meet our community’s current and future needs. I am thrilled with our new community room that will be able to be used for Library programming and community events, such as conferences, receptions, classroom learning and more.”

“There’s a big vision here,” Humphries concluded. “We don’t want to throw away the history and the important aspects that people have told us, but there’s still this great new vision and this great new opportunity for the building to really be something spectacular, for the library to be more important to the community than ever.”

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Devine also indicated that the staff and residents of the facility will now receive vaccination doses earlier than originally planned.

“SJBPH and Pagosa Springs Medical Center have arranged for Pine Ridge staff and residents to receive their first vaccination doses this week,” he wrote. “Pine Ridge had previously been scheduled through a federal public-private partnership program to receive their first doses January 5th/6th. This is a two-dose vaccine, and does not provide immediate protection of course, but we are hopeful that even the first dose, combined with infection prevention support from CDPHE, will minimize the risk to the facility residents.”

Humiston told The SUN that the residents of the center and their families are doing great.

She also indicated that, throughout the pandemic, compassionate, in-person family visits with appropriate personal protective equipment have been allowed when deemed necessary for the health and well-being of residents.

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COVID-19

■ Continued from front

Basin Public Health (SJBPH) states.

“Due to SJBPH and the community’s success in keeping case incidence rates declining in Archuleta County, CDPHE will allow the county to move into Level Orange on the state’s COVID-19 Dial as early as Monday, January 4,” SJBPH’s Brian Devine wrote in an email to The SUN. “Because Archuleta County has not met all Level Orange metrics for at least 14 days, opening businesses at Orange capacity levels requires CDPHE approval of a mitigation plan.”

Devine is serving as SJBPH’s deputy incident commander for the organization’s COVID-19 response.

A mitigation plan, he explained, “is essentially a compensation for not fully qualifying for Level Orange on the dial metrics. Because Archuleta County is very close to remaining below the Level Orange threshold in case incidence, because the other metrics for Level Orange have been met for some time, and because an extra case here or there makes a big difference in counties with small population, it is appropriate to allow the community to operate at Level Orange once a locally-determined mitigation plan is approved to compensate for that extra risk, rather than simply wait for all metrics to be met for fourteen straight days.”

Archuleta County moved into Level Red: Severe Risk on the state’s dial on Dec. 6 when the county’s two-week cumulative incidence rate was 1,085.6 per 100,000 population, according to the state’s letter.

Shortly after moving into Level Red, the county’s incidence rate peaked at more than 1,300 cases per 100,000 residents.

By Monday, that had dropped to 378.5 per 100,000 population and, by Wednesday, had dropped into the Level Orange range (175 to 350 cases per 100,000 population) with a two-week cumulative incidence rate of 342.8.

“All this hard work does not need to go to waste,” said Archuleta County Commissioner Ronnie Maez. “This is a huge accomplishment for Archuleta County citizens to get to this level considering the level and numbers we had two weeks ago.”

“SJBPH is currently working on a mitigation plan that includes enhanced testing opportunities for the community, continued case and outbreak investigation, a self-certification requirement for Archuleta County businesses that are reopening (this has been an effective measure in La Plata County to improve infection control at low cost to the business), and enhanced documentation of investigation, education, and compliance actions around public health order violations,” Devine explained.

That plan, Devine noted, will need to be approved by Archuleta County leaders and the CDPHE before businesses can operate at Level Orange capacities, which he wrote will “give the community more flexibility to operate economic and social activities while ensuring that the tools are in place to prevent re-

surge of infection in cooperation with our partners.”

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners is holding a special meeting at noon today, Dec. 31, to consider the mitigation plan, which, if approved, will then be sent to the CDPHE for approval.

“I want to encourage the people of Archuleta County to still be vigilant, still be respectful, still be aware that there still is a problem out there, even though there is a vaccine,” Maez said, adding that the community needs to continue to do its best to stay in the orange and move toward yellow on the dial.

On Tuesday, Devine noted the need for continued testing.

“It continues to be critical that people get tested when they experience any symptoms of COVID-19 or are notified of an exposure (through official or unofficial channels) and that our partners who are eligible for weekly or biweekly testing because their job puts them in high contact with the community continue to take advantage of this testing,” he wrote.

While no additional community testing events have been announced for the Archuleta County Fairgrounds, testing continues to be available at a number of local health care facilities:

- Archuleta Integrated Health-care: 264-2104.
- Pagosa Medical Group (including rapid testing if deemed appropriate by a provider): 372-0456.
- Pagosa Springs Medical Center: 731-3700. The facility offers testing for 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. The drive-thru testing is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day but Sunday and will be closed on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

Devine noted that SJBPH is finalizing an arrangement with a long-term partner to be able to continue community and serial testing three days per week at the Fairgrounds.

Steps to slow the spread

Devine noted, “In order for this to work, cases to continue falling, and schools and businesses to reopen safely in the new year, people need to celebrate the new year safely, and then continue to practice good public health precautions:

- Staying at home as much as possible, especially when feeling unwell for any reason.
- Avoiding social gatherings with more than one household, especially indoors.
- Encouraging employees to work from home whenever possible.
- Practicing physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from another person).
- Wearing face coverings when in public, as required.
- Practicing good hygiene (washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.).
- Getting tested if you have symptoms or believe you’ve been exposed through a known contact or community interaction.

Vaccine distribution

On Wednesday, Gov. Jared Polis announced changes to the first phases of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Many of the changes are to Phase 1B, which will take place this winter as vaccine doses are available.

Per the state, Phase 1A includes the highest-risk health care workers and individuals, such as people who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period and long-term care facility staff and residents.

Phase 1B includes Coloradans age 70 and older, moderate-risk health care workers, first responders, frontline essential workers and continuity of state government.

Frontline essential workers included in Phase 1B include those in education, food and agriculture, manufacturing, the U.S. Postal Service, public transit and specialized transportation staff, grocery, public health and direct care providers for Coloradans experiencing homelessness.

It also includes “Essential officials from executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government” and “Essential frontline journalists.”

New COVID variant found in Colorado

On Tuesday, Polis and state health officials announced Colorado’s first case of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, which was first discovered in the UK.

According to a Tuesday press release, the Colorado State Laboratory confirmed and notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the case. The individual is a male in his 20s who is currently in isolation in Elbert County and has no travel history.

“There is a lot we don’t know about this new COVID-19 variant, but scientists in the United Kingdom are warning the world that it is significantly more contagious. The health and safety of Coloradans is our top priority and we will closely monitor this case, as well as all COVID-19 indicators, very closely. We are working to prevent spread and contain the virus at all levels,” Polis said Tuesday.

According to the press release, the Colorado state lab was the first in the country to identify the variant.

On Wednesday, Polis noted that it is not yet known how prevalent the newly identified strain is.

Dr. Rachel Herlihy, the state’s top epidemiologist, explained Wednesday that the state’s confirmed case and another possible case were both National Guard personnel who were deployed to support a nursing home in Elbert County with an ongoing outbreak.

She added that additional testing of specimens from people related to the facility was underway on Wednesday.

Dr. Eric France, chief medical officer at the CDPHE, noted Wednesday it is believed the vaccine will be effective against the new variant, which he indicated is more contagious, but not more severe.

Vehicles

■ Continued from front

lost traction and slid off the roadway into the McDonald’s parking lot, striking another vehicle.

At this point, the driver exited the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot, he noted.

According to Brown, officers were able to find the suspect hiding under a tree in the Country Center.

The suspect turned out to be a Pagosa Springs juvenile who had been linked to two other vehicle thefts.

On Dec. 28, the PSPD issued a press release stating that it “has seen an increase in vehicle break-ins and thefts.”

According to the statement, the PSPD was able to obtain surveillance videos from hotels downtown that show two suspects “going through multiple vehicles” during overnight hours between midnight and 5 a.m.

According to Brown, along with the juvenile that was apprehended on Dec. 28, there were two more suspects believed to be involved with the same car thefts.

The two other suspects are Pagosa Springs residents as well, including one adult and one juvenile. The adult is being charged with tampering of evidence, while the charges for the

juveniles have not been released.

None of the names of the suspects have been released by the PSPD.

As of 9 a.m. on Dec. 30, the PSPD was able to identify, contact and begin charging all three suspects involved with the recent car thefts.

Brown explained that none of the suspects are being held in custody at this time due to COVID restrictions and the severity of the crimes. However, court dates are currently being determined.

All three vehicles have been recovered, along with multiple reported stolen items.

Items recovered included four stolen firearms, with Brown noting that only one of the firearms had been reported as stolen as of Dec. 29.

According to Brown, during interviews with the suspects, they indicated that the firearms were stolen out of other vehicles.

Brown explained that he believes there were multiple vehicle trespassing incidents that were not reported.

He noted there are “a lot of miscellaneous items” that were found in the vehicles.

He explained that if anyone has had any property stolen out of their vehicles over the past two weeks, that PSPD may have recovered it.

Sheriff

■ Continued from front

Valdez explained that the primary motivation for creating the advisory group is to promote transparency between the ACSO and the community.

“I want know what we’re doing good, what we’re doing bad and what we could do to improve and provide a better service to the citizens of Archuleta County,” he said.

Valdez went on to explain that he is hoping the group will be able to provide ACSO with feedback about policies and procedures.

“Part of the organization is to have the opportunity for them to give us feedback on what we can do better. We can always do better,” the sheriff said.

Valdez also noted that he is hoping that the group will be able to assist in finding better ways to get the ACSO’s messages out to the public and communicate more efficiently with the community.

Valdez continued to highlight how the biggest role for the group members will be to provide feedback to the ACSO.

“Their primary role is give us feedback as to what the specific needs are to the community. They’re representing the citizens of Archuleta County and basically holding us responsible,” he said.

Valdez explained he is hoping the group will be able to provide feedback about any policies or procedures it feels need to be improved.

He noted that anything the group members have questions about, he hopes to be able to address and hopefully improve upon in order to provide the best service possible for citizens of Archuleta County.

Valdez also noted how the needs of the community can vary depending on what part of the county the citizens are in, noting that the needs of citizens in Chromo or Ar-

boles could differ from the needs of citizens around the main hub of the county in Pagosa Springs. He added this was a factor in choosing the group members, in order to make sure all parts of the county would be well represented.

According to Valdez, meeting times and locations have not yet been determined.

Valdez explained that they are waiting until after the new year to set up meetings, in hopes that the number of COVID-19 cases in the county will drop after the holidays.

Valdez indicated that the meetings will be open to the public. He went on to explain how ACSO is still reviewing options with the county attorney as to how the meetings will be conducted.

For more information about meeting times and locations, continue to check The SUN or contact the ACSO at 264-8430.

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Charter school authorizes director to make school closure decisions

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

On Dec. 23, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors held a special meeting to discuss and vote on potential resolutions regarding who has the authority to determine any future school closures.

PPOS board President Ursala Hudson said, "Last week, board member Mark Weiler requested that we have this board meeting prior to the new year to discuss who should be in charge of the opening and closing of the school in situations such as these related to pandemic emergencies... There are two potential resolutions that were included in the agenda packet..."

The first possible resolution states that the board would receive presentations by the school director prior to any substantial changes in in-person versus remote learning during a health emergency and the board would then be responsible for making the decision.

The second possible resolution states the board of directors understands prompt changes in school operations may be needed during a health emergency and for that reason grants the school director complete authority to make decisions concerning in-person versus remote learning during a health emergency so long as said decisions are made in consultation with PPOS staff, parents and its authorizing district.

Weiler opened the board discussion.

"I believe that we as the board of directors have the responsibility to serve the students and therefore the parents, and I think that the system going forward for massive changes in our school's operations should be by recommendation from the director supported by research, facts and data, to ask then to get a supporting resolution from

the board of directors," he said.

A thorough discussion then began regarding PPOS Director Angela Reali Crossland's decision to close the school following its Thanksgiving break.

First-grade Lead Advisor Kelle Bruno said, "The staff was very concerned about COVID, catching it in the community, but also we were concerned when students were traveling for Thanksgiving break."

She added later, "I know most of

PPOS Director Angela Reali Crossland stated, "I will be honest with you, I will always lead this school with compassion in my heart. That is who I am, and I have that compassion for both the students, the families, and as well as my staff."

the staff wasn't included in the conversation with Angela when the decision to close was made, but I think we all felt a really nice sigh of relief to know that our safety was considered... I appreciate the decision and how it was made."

Board member Gary Hedgecock said, "Obviously all we're trying to do here today is put procedures in place going forward and not necessarily do an autopsy of what happened... So a notification of a situation which is going to have to close the school... if that could be put in the procedure for next time, I'm all for being on the same page

as the school director."

He added, "This one situation, which was stressful at the time, is one that I think we can consider to just hopefully create a new procedure going forward."

Ashley Wilson, PPOS parent, then said, "Ultimately, this three-week period of time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, if we were going to do it, was the best probably possible time to do that, and realign and figure out how to move forward in January. And so as a parent as well as a community member out there seeing the effects of the school closures, both in the adult and in the youth population firsthand, I'm not sure we could have made a better decision given where the community was at... I think with the roadmap and the current data that we have now, decisions can be made going forward that might alleviate some of those other negative consequences of kids not being in school."

She added, "But, at this point, I'm in full support of Angela knowing the population that we serve, and the parents, and the community and not just taking lightly the factor of just the public health status, Level Red or Level Orange or whatever, but that there's a lot of other things at play when it comes to a decision about not having kids in school."

Reali Crossland responded to the discussion on the prior situation.

"I apologize that the board found out about the same time as the families and that was a short sight of mine; the process happened very quickly," she said.

Reali Crossland continued, "The original guidance from the Schools of Choice office was that we were supposed to follow our school district, and I don't think that guidance has gone away."

Hudson summarized the major-

ity of the board's opinion in the following: "We were all in agreement that Angela knew the staff, the students, and the status of our community better than any of us did, and she's been in open conversations with staff and spoke with more parents than any of us did."

"We can always change our board member agreement and our bylaws but... we don't make operational decisions as a board. We trust that Angela takes our plan, our work plans, our strategic plans and she implements them."

"With Angela's knowledge, and her experience, and how capable she has proven to be in all aspects of carrying out our expectations and our work plan, she is far more capable than any of us in making this decision. I am in full support of giving her the authority to make decisions on emergency opening and closing in the future."

Reali Crossland stated, "I will be honest with you, I will always lead this school with compassion in my heart. That is who I am, and I have that compassion for both the students, the families, and as well as my staff."

Weiler withdrew his motion to vote on the first resolution.

The second resolution was amended to include that all board members would be notified at the same time as the parents of any school closures. The resolution was then approved unanimously.

Archuleta School District is scheduled to meet today, Dec. 31, to discuss reopening schools following the winter break, according to Reali Crossland.

She said, "I do think it is important to hear what other educational entities in the community are making on that decision. Right now, I don't see any reason why we can't open on Jan. 5, but that is almost two weeks from now."

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TOWING & EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Town council selects communications manager

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Town Council approved entering into negotiations for a professional services contract with Slate Communications as communications manager for the Town of Pagosa Springs during a meeting on Dec. 17.

One of town council's goals has been to do a better job at communicating with the public by doing public outreach and giving the community information on what the town is doing, Town Manager Andrea Phillips said.

"We don't have the staff capacity to, frankly, do a more robust job in messaging to the community," she said, adding that the town put out a request for proposal (RFP) in the fall and received seven proposals from firms both local and out of the area.

Along with Tourism Director Jennie Green, Phillips conducted interviews with the firms and narrowed the list down to three finalists: Supergirl Marketing, a local firm; Slate

Communications; and Buehler Communications.

Phillips noted that Supergirl Marketing would be the cheapest of the three options along with that prospect being local.

"The two other finalists were not in the area, but have a lot of experience with local government communication," Phillips said.

Slate Communications is a full-service communication firm located in Fort Collins and would be the most expensive of the three options, Phillips explained.

Slate's proposal outlines 20 hours a month for \$25,000 a year, she added, noting that it doesn't account for a website upgrade.

Buehler Communications is a sole proprietorship out of Crested Butte with experience in small mountain communities, Phillips explained.

Phillips noted that there are advantages to hiring a local firm.

"We have a whole host of things we want to task this firm or individual with. Everything from managing our social media to engaging more with

our local media sources to doing more public engagement," Phillips said. "Really, just trying to help ensure that people have more knowledge about the actions that the town is taking beyond what our current staff can provide."

Council member Mat deGraaf explained that he would prefer the town hire the local firm if it has the qualifications.

"I think it would be beneficial to go with a firm that has direct experience with this line of work so that we can really identify what our needs are and what works with us and at which point we can transition to a local firm and just have a little bit better of an idea of how an entity can serve us and the people," council member Madeline Bergon said.

The town is not necessarily after marketing but communications, and a firm that has experience with municipalities would be beneficial, council member Rory Burnett explained, adding that a limited contract could be enacted with one firm and engage with the local firm to see

if it can accomplish the same tasks if that partnership is not working.

"I believe that the experience trumps local, especially as this is our first endeavor into going in this direction."

■ See Communications A11

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Outdoors

BLM approves new transportation and access plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has approved a new transportation and access plan (TAP).

On Dec. 8, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) held a work session in which it heard from the TRFO Manager Connie Clementson in regard to the new TAP plan.

She briefed the board on the part of the project pertaining to Archuleta County.

Clementson explained that the TRFO has been working on the plan for a few years, during which it took an extensive inventory of resources across southern Archuleta County and parts of La Plata County and Montezuma County.

According to an email to The SUN from Clementson, "In 2015, the Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) initiated a two-year effort to inventory linear features across TRFO."

Clementson indicated there was a nine-month public comment period on the inventory.

The TRFO then took the public comments into consideration and developed a proposed action. An additional 30-day public comment period was held on the proposed action.

Clementson noted that the main area of focus for Archuleta County was the Vigil Mesa area, located in the southern part of the county near Chromo, and what the public wanted to see improved in regard to transportation and access to the area.

"We recognize the values up there are hunting and recreation," she added.

Clementson also mentioned that the TRFO did not receive much comment from Archuleta County community members in regard to the proposed action.

After the TRFO gathered additional comment on the proposed action, an environmental assessment of the area was released for another 30-day public comment period, to which the TRFO did not receive any public comment from Archuleta County community members, according to Clementson.

The BoCC offered no comments or questions in regard to the new TAP plan.

On Dec. 18, the TRFO signed the decision to approve the proposed action for the new TAP plan.

According to documents attached to Clementson's email, "This decision becomes effective following the 30-day appeal period. The Decision Record includes the appropriate appeal guidance if you wish to file an appeal to this decision."

Clementson noted that she is hoping the project will be underway by sometime next month.

Plan details

According to documents attached to Clementson's email, the new TAP plan "provides an opportunity to increase access to, and improve user experience on public lands."

The new plan covers parts of Archuleta, La Plata and Montezuma counties.

According to the documents, the new TAP plan designates:

- 4.6 miles of roads (2WD).
- 14.2 miles of primitive roads (two-track).
- 3.1 miles of motorized trails (OHV/rock crawler).
- 2 miles of mechanized-only trails.
- 1.2 miles of non-mechanized

trails. The plan also considers 52.9 miles of hiking trails across the entire area.

In an interview, Clementson, also spoke about winter wildlife closures that will be put into place with the approval of the new TAP plan.

She explained that the closures of designated areas will last from Dec. 1 through April 30.

According to Clementson, biologists with the TRFO recognized the need for winter closures to be considered for immediate action.

Maps and more details about the new TAP plan can be found online on the BLM's website at go.usa.gov/xE6ZU. Additionally, more information can also be received by contacting the TRFO at (970) 403-4250.

clayton@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Sam Bricker/Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area reports receiving 29 inches of snow from this week's storm, with an all-natural snow depth of 80 inches at the midway. The ski area's season-to-date snowfall is 164 inches.

Snow water equivalent steadily rising

By Simone Mounsamy
Staff Writer

The snow water equivalent at the Wolf Creek summit (11,000 feet) has been on the rise all month.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Water and Climate Center's snow pack report, as of 9 a.m. Wednesday morning, the snow water equivalent at this site was measured at 15.7 inches.

This amount is up 2.6 inches from last week (Dec. 24), when it was recorded at 13.1 inches, and up 3 inches from the week before (Dec. 17) when it was recorded at 12.7 inches. The two weeks prior to that (Dec. 10 and 3) were recorded at 11 inches and 10.8 inches, respectively.

The median snow water equivalent amount for Dec. 30 is 14.1 inches.

The snow water equivalent percentages of the Dec. 30 median for Wolf Creek summit and the entire basin, which includes San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins, were both up about 10 percent in terms of snowpack from last week.

The Wolf Creek summit was at 111 percent of its Dec. 30 median and the total for the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins was at 81 percent of its Dec. 30 median in terms of snowpack.

Last week, these percentages were 101 and 72, respectively.

Lake levels

A Dec. 28 press release from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation

District Manager Justin Ramsey shows that, for the week of Dec. 18 to Dec. 24, water production was back up at a total of 11.16 million gallons.

This figure is just over what the total water production was three weeks prior to that, when the total water production was 11.10 million gallons the week of Nov. 27 to Dec. 3.

Water production dropped after that week, and has steadily been on the rise since then.

The Snowball water treatment plant added 3.30 million gallons to the total given for Dec. 18 to Dec. 24, while the Hatcher water treatment plant added 7.86 million gallons.

Last year in that same time frame, water production was listed at 10.54 million gallons.

For another week, total diversion flows remain untouched at 5 cubic feet per second (cfs). This figure has remained the same since

Nov. 30.

The West Fork diversion is contributing 3 cfs, the Four Mile diversion is contributing 2 cfs and the San Juan diversion has been adding nothing.

Since last week, four out of five lakes have seen rises by an inch or two. Lake Forest remained the same at 3 inches from full.

This week, Hatcher Lake is 45 inches from full. Last week, it was 47 inches from full.

Stevens Lake is currently 62 inches from full. Last week, Stevens Lake was 63 inches from full.

Lake Pagosa rose to 14 inches from full since last week, when it was listed at 16 inches from full.

Village Lake has also risen from being 10 inches from full to being 9 inches from full.

River report

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the San Juan River was flowing below the average rate at 44.4 cfs as of Wednesday at 9 a.m.

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on edge

First, COVID took his friends, then it took his health

By Tina Griego
Colorado News Collaborative

Eddie Kemm found the pool table early in the pandemic. It was the second one he had scouted after the governor's order shut down the bars — including Kemm's favorite pool hall — in late March. When the halls went dark, so, too, did a significant part of the social life of an 81-year-old man who lives alone. It was like an amputation. He was, he said, miserable.

In ordinary circumstances, Kemm would not have committed himself to a purchase impractical for a man living on \$1,200 a month in Social Security. But then the stimulus check arrived and, even if it hadn't, the difference between luxury and necessity lies in the eye of the beholder during the long, isolated days of the pandemic.

What he knew after just a couple weeks away from his social circle, unable to play the game he practiced in his mind while lying in bed, was that he was "going crazy."

Kemm had been living alone in the same house in Denver's Westwood neighborhood for almost 40 years. Overall, he's never minded it. He and his ex-wife had two sons and both died — one years ago and one not so long ago. When loneliness strikes it comes in the shape of their absence, a knee-buckling aloneness. "It comes and goes and it will until I die," he said.

He keeps himself busy because the skills of a former maintenance man and groundskeeper are never out of demand and Kemm is generous with his time and his tools. When he's not busy, well, that's why God invented popcorn, TV trays and Westerns.

So, when the pandemic hit in March, it wasn't the "being alone" part that got to him. It was the denial of the choice to be alone. It was the disruption to his routine, the inability to head into BC's bar in Lakewood for Monday night tournaments. It was missing that first swallow of an O'Doul's and Clamato, listening to the banter

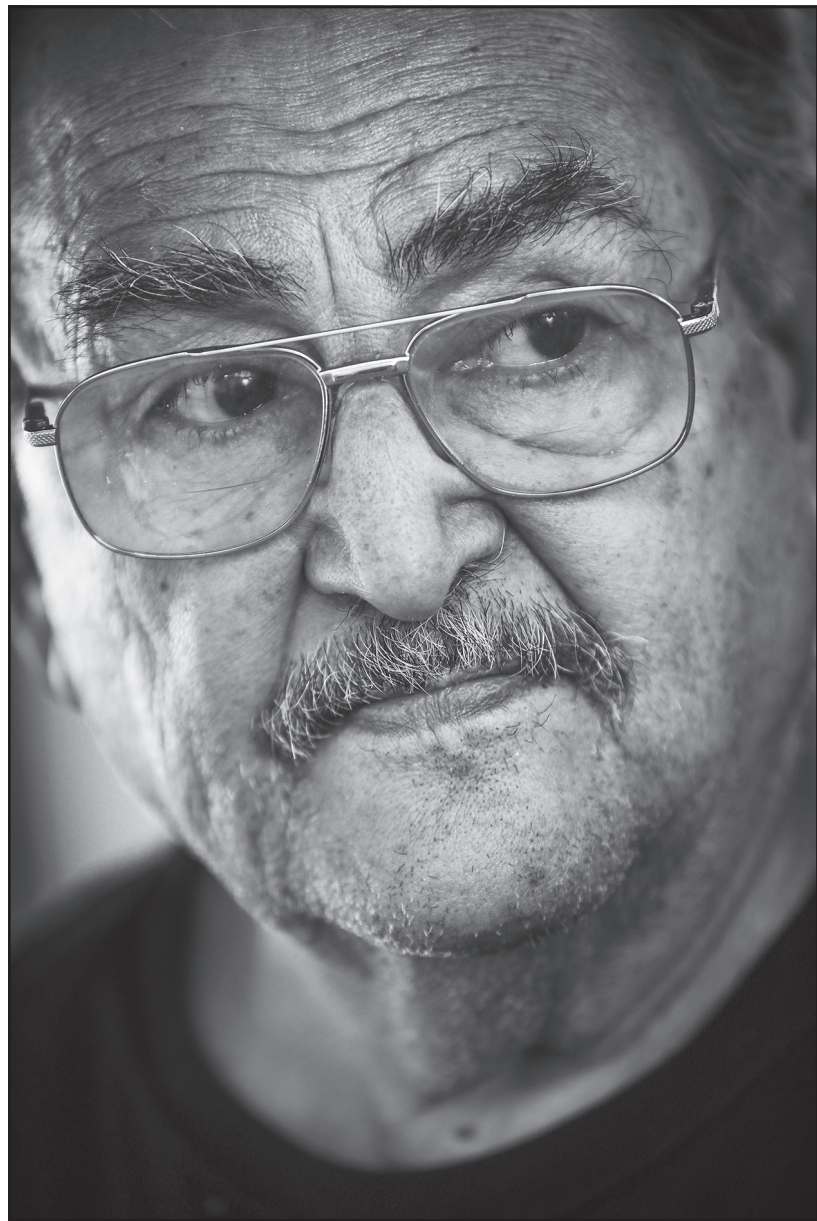


Photo by Marc Piscotty

Eighty-one-year-old Eddie Kemm has lived in the Westwood neighborhood of Denver for more than 40 years after leaving New Mexico to study to be an auto mechanic here in Denver. COVID has derailed his hobby of shooting pool with buddies as bars were forced to close for some time. He purchased a used pool table and set it up in his backyard to continue to play. He tries to maintain a positive attitude despite these troubled times, saying, "I just take it a day at a time and try to find something to laugh about."

and the bull while observing his opponents work their angles.

"What makes me special is my ability to study people and see how they shoot," he said. "That's a gift that God gave me."

Kemm is not a man to consider mental health counseling, having been raised firmly in the "you have a problem, you figure it out," tradition. When isolation descended, his solution was getting a pool table of his own. It was never going to fit in his 876-square-foot house. "It would have looked stupid," he said. So, in preparation, he added more pavers to his backyard patio,

making sure everything was level, and added some crossbeams to an existing frame so it would support a roof of plywood.

The table he bought from a pool hall and has a couple of beer stains, but he plans to replace the gold felt with the best he can afford. The quarter slot is still attached. It was \$400, plus the \$40 each he paid the guys who drove to Montbello to load and then unload it again at his place.

When the bars were still closed in the spring, about four or five guys from BC's would come over and practice and that was a tiny

beachhead of normalcy. When the bars at least partially reopened, Kemm returned to his Monday night games, but a couple guys still come over from time to time.

His world is small by design. He knows himself. He knows that when he finds himself eating while standing that he is nervous. He knows that if he allows too much of the bigger world through the front door right now, it will swamp him. He does not worry about the pandemic. He knows that he needs to prioritize his concerns to what is right in front of him, like whether the Department of Human Services will mess around with his food stamps again.

The world is a cacophony. The game is governed by rules. The world throws curve balls. The game is geometry. Clean, precise, predictable if you know what you're doing. The world narrows to his backyard, to the surface of the table, the clack of ball striking ball, and the drop, solid, satisfying, into the pocket.

In early November, Kemm contracted the virus and ended up at St. Anthony's Hospital. Even from his bed, talking on the phone, he insisted that he was not going to worry, that he has had a good life and "this is part of my life now." He just wanted to know where his breakfast was.

But he took a turn for the worse and had to be placed on a ventilator for more than a week. As of early December, he had been transferred to the VA hospital, teetering between stable and critical condition. His granddaughter has had to step into the role of decision-maker. His long-time neighbor collects his mail and gets updates through Kemm's sister in New Mexico — all of them forced to work angles even he never saw coming.

The pool table remains covered. *If you're struggling, help is available on Colorado's crisis hotline. Call (844) 493-TALK (8255).*

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

You can reach Tina Griego at tina@colabnews.co.

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Communications

Continued from A9
tion with communications," council member Shari Pierce said. "I just feel like if we get into some sort of situation where we need this service that having that understanding of how a public entity needs to communicate and how to say those things is invaluable."

Phillips explained that, following the interview process, Slate Communications is staff's top recommendation.

"We looked at everything from the personnel who would be working

on the project, the capabilities of the firm, the different services that they provide and the relevancy of their work as it relates to other local governments in Colorado," Phillips said.

According to Phillips, a contract that lasts a year would be a good "trial period" for the town and the prospective firm.

"We've had those conversations with them about eventually training us in what we need to be doing locally so we can start to take it over from a staff perspective or from a local contract perspective," she said.

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Sports

High school winter sports set to begin in January

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Another sports season is just around the corner for Colorado high school athletes, following recent variance approvals by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) announced the approvals shortly before Christmas, with practices for Season B slated to begin Jan. 18, 2021 — earlier than the Feb. 1, 2021, date CHSAA recently proposed.

In early December, CHSAA announced that Season B, which was originally set to begin on Jan. 4, 2021, had been delayed due to rising COVID-19 cases across the state, with that delay also affecting the remainder of the school year's sports seasons.

At that time, the CDPHE indicated in a letter that it did not have enough information "about what disease incidence and hospitalization capacity will look like in January" to make any determinations about indoor high school athletics in Season B.

For Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS), Season B will include girls' swimming, wrestling, basketball and competitive spirit.

According to CHSAA, the approved calendar will be revised to begin competition on Jan. 25.

"Originally, Season B was proposed to begin on Feb. 1," a CHSAA press release states. "Through collaborative negotiations, the Jan. 18 start date aligns with Gov. Jared Polis' announcement to prioritize in-person or hybrid learning models."

"For months, our office has been laser-focused on students and the safe resumption of high school sports and activities in 2021," said CHSAA commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green. "The conversa-

tions with CDPHE and the Governor's COVID Response Team to resume Season B sports have been intentional and assertive. Though it has taken many late nights and weekends, we are thrilled that our student-athletes, member schools and local school communities have a resolution. Educationally based athletics are a vital extension of the classroom."

CHSAA announced that its administrative staff has planned a series of virtual meetings for athletic directors and coaches to provide details on the implementation of each sport, with those meetings set to begin on Jan. 4, 2021.

CHSAA explained that, under the current dial levels, CHSAA-sponsored events could not be conducted due to public health restrictions at the state level that limited the number of athletes to practice or compete in a facility. For example, the current guidelines only allow basketball to have 10 total individuals (including coaches, athletes, trainers, etc.) in a gym.

Therefore, variance approval from CDPHE and state officials was critical to begin any sport or activity. For example, the basketball variance will permit teams to have 24 players total, as well as coaches and trainers.

Approval of these variances allows for statewide consistency and sustainability of competition when diverse local health interpretations could restrict member participation regionally.

PSHS Athletic Director Marcie Ham previously reported to The SUN that athletic directors across the state are taking lessons learned from the fall sports seasons and applying them to the upcoming seasons, but warned that spectators may not be allowed when the season begins.

randi@pagosahun.com

Daryl Templeton
Cindy L Templeton
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and answer to 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 service 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 and 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 December 31, 2020
Pagosa Springs Sun
First Publication: December 31, 2020
Last Publication: December 31, 2020
/s/ Christopher B. Conley
Christopher B. Conley
Hayes, Johnson & Conley, PLLC
700 South 21st Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901
Atty. Reg. No.: 51651
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
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Tel. 970.264.2400
Village Pointe Property Owner's Association, Inc., Plaintiff
v.
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 No. 2020-10

This is to advise you that a Sheriff's sale proceeding has been conducted through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order recorded on January 6, 1989, and C.R.S. § 38-38-103.1. 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):
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KATHRYN M ODELL
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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 and Rights to Cure and Redeem. A COPY OF 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, Rich Valdez, Sheriff, Archuleta County, Colorado
By: /s/ Lorena Medina
Lorena Medina, Office Manager
Exhibit A
Village Pointe Condominiums PHASE I
Matter Amount
Property Owner: PAGOSA TIMESHARE LLC
Unit Number: 7507
Building Number: 2
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: PHILLIP A THOMPSON
Unit Number: 7502
Building Number: 1
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: JOHN H ODELL and KATHRYN M ODELL
Unit Number: 7503
Building Number: 1
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. 0169495, 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 plan 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
Unpaid Asmts: \$2,129.68
Interest: \$198.18
Late Fees: \$50.00
Costs: \$307.09
Attorney's Fee: \$1,000.00
Total: \$3,684.95
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 280, 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 contains 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
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
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: 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: 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
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
v.
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 real 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 Rousenber Jr.
Walter Edward Randolph Scott
Latoya Miete 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.
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, 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: Karl Stauffer And Fabiana Stauffer
Building Number: 1
Lot (Unit) Number: 1
Unpaid Assessments: \$4,245.69
Interest: \$1,557.10
Late Fees: \$100.00
Attorney's Fees: \$456.78
Costs: \$456.78
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$4,447.56
Property Owner: Kenneth Sallee And Mary E Sallee
Building Number: 1
Lot (Unit) Number: 1
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,567.42
Interest: \$398.36
Late Fees: \$25.00
Attorney's Fees: \$25.00
Costs: \$456.78
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$4,447.56
Phase I of Eagle's Loft as recorded in Reception No. 117699 in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado and as further described in that Declaration of Individual and/or Interval Ownership of Eagle's Loft recorded on July 29, 1983, in Book 200, page 834, Reception No. 117700, 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 II of Eagle's Loft
Matter Amount
Property Owner: Charles E Rousenber Jr
Building Number: 10
Lot (Unit) Number: 10
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,499.15
Interest: \$376.89
Late Fees: \$25.00
Costs: \$456.78
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$4,537.49
Phase III of Eagle's Loft
Matter Amount
Property Owner: Walter Edward Randolph Scott And Latoya Miete Buffman
Building Number: 28
Lot (Unit) Number: 28
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,499.15
Interest: \$376.89
Late Fees: \$25.00
Costs: \$456.78
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$4,537.49
Phase IV of Eagle's Loft
Matter Amount
Property Owner: MARGARET E JAMES, TRUSTEE OF THE JAMES LIVING TRUST under TRUST Agreement dated April 14, 1994
Building Number: 46
Lot (Unit) Week(s) Number: 16
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,635.69
Interest: \$420.02
Late Fees: \$25.00
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,706.25
in that property which is described as Parcel "E", Ptarmigan 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 Ptarmigan 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 Ptarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.
Ptarmigan Townhouses – PHASE II
Matter Amount
Property Owners: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
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: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
Unit Number: 7212
Building Number: 6
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 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, 2001
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 Ptarmigan 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: Ptarmigan 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: Ptarmigan 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 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
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THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
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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
Ptarmigan 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: 52
Unpaid Asmts: \$2,063.53
Late Fees: \$50.00
Costs: \$350.77
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$4,026.07
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", Ptarmigan 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 Ptarmigan 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 Ptarmigan Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described real estate.
Ptarmigan Townhouses – PHASE II
Matter Amount
Property Owners: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
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: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
Unit Number: 7212
Building Number: 6
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: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
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: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
Unit Number: 7212
Building Number: 6
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: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
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: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
Unit Number: 7212
Building Number: 6
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: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
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: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
Unit Number: 7212
Building Number: 6
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: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
Unpaid Asmts: \$1,125.00
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Property Owners: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
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Building Number: 6
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Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,706.25

Property Owners: Ross G Durbin
Unit Number: 7214
Building Number: 007B
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Property Owners: Donald E Jett and Donna Kassel Jett
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Late Fees: \$25.00
Costs: \$350.77
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,706.25

See Public Notices A13

Six Pirates make all-state football team

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Dec. 16, the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) announced rosters for its all-state football teams. Six players from the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team were named as part of the state's 2A division all-state teams.

Senior Evan Raymond was named to the first team as an offensive guard and defensive tackle.

Seniors Mitch Lewis and Dylan Tressler were named to the second team. Lewis was named as a wide receiver and strong safety, while Tressler was named as a running back and a

corner back.

Senior Grant Aucoin received an honorable mention as a quarterback and middle line backer.

Junior Wil Aucoin also received an honorable mention as a defensive end and running back.

Senior Aidan O'Donnell earned an honorable mention as a free safety and a wide receiver.

According to CHSAA, "These teams were created following a lengthy



Photo courtesy Shawn Prochazka

Wednesday morning's Cold Moon, the first full moon of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, as viewed from the Wildflower subdivision neighborhood, just north of Turkey Springs.

Jackknifed semi shuts down U.S. 160

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

This week's winter weather led to some poor road conditions and a jackknifed semi that shut down U.S. 160 for multiple hours on Dec. 28.

According to Colorado State Patrol (CSP) Trooper Josh Lewis with the CSP's Public Affairs Office, the CSP received a call for the jackknifed semi blocking all traffic near mile marker 117 on U.S. 160 at approximately 7:16 a.m.

Initially it was reported that there were two vehicles involved in the incident.

However, Lewis confirmed that the CSP only responded to the semi and that no other vehicles were involved.

He also noted that the Colorado Department of Transportation was called out to bring sand to the area.

A wrecker was also called out to the scene to move the semi from blocking lanes in both directions.

The CSP was able to begin alternating traffic at approximately 8:42 a.m. The road was fully reopened at approximately 9:53 a.m.

No injuries were reported from the incident.
clayton@pagosasun.com

PFPD extinguishes 2020 dumpster fire

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Monday, Dec. 29, the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) dealt with the literal version of how many view 2020: a dumpster fire.

According to PFPD Deputy Chief Karn Macht, a call for the dumpster fire at the Wyndham Pagosa Eagle's Lofts was received at approximately 2:47 p.m.

He explained that the first crew to arrive at the scene was a volunteer crew of four on PFPD's Engine 1 truck.

The volunteer crew arrived on scene at approximately 3:02 p.m. and was able to control the flames by 3:06 p.m.

The crew was able to hook a water line up to a pump on the truck.

Macht noted that every PFPD truck carries 1,000 gallons of water and that is what was used by the

volunteer crew to extinguish the fire.

Another crew of paid firefighters arrived after the flames had already been controlled and the scene was cleared at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Macht noted that PFPD was responding to multiple calls throughout the day and at the time the call came in for the dumpster fire, all the paid PFPD crews were out responding to a call near Treasure Falls.

He mentioned how important it was for the volunteer crew to respond to the call as it would've taken extra time for paid crews to arrive on scene.

"As always, they step up and do a tremendous job when they are needed. Every time there is a serious call, we can always depend on them to step up and drop whatever they're doing and come help out their community," Macht said.
clayton@pagosasun.com

Semi rolls on Wolf Creek Pass

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On the morning of Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at approximately 8:15 a.m., the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) responded to a call for a semi that rolled over while traveling down Wolf Creek Pass.

According to the CSP Trooper Josh Lewis with the agency's Public Affairs Office, the semi was a 2010 Freightliner with a trailer full of cargo attached. The semi was traveling westbound on U.S. 160 and began to lose control due to brake failure near mile marker 160.

The semi went on to the shoulder of the roadway, then crossed traffic lanes and rolled one-quarter time onto the driver's side before striking a concrete barrier, according to Lewis.

No injuries were reported by the CSP.

PFPD Deputy Chief Karn Macht explained that the driver was able to exit the semi through the front windshield and was uninjured from the crash.

Macht explained that the PFPD crew mitigated a few small oil and gas leaks from the semi before clearing the scene and turning it back over to the CSP.

He noted that his crew cleared the scene in approximately 30 minutes.

Macht confirmed that the semi was hauling primarily White Claw Hard Seltzers. The beverages were scattered across the roadway and on the other side of the concrete barrier.

Macht also mentioned that there was about 80,000 pounds of material and debris that the towing company had to clean up.
clayton@pagosasun.com

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 week: 121.

Dec. 21 — Death investigation, Ute Drive.

Dec. 21 — All other thefts, County Road 600.

Dec. 21 — First-degree criminal trespass-theft from vehicle, all other thefts, Fairway Place.

Dec. 22 — Domestic violence, false reporting to authorities, Toms Place.

Dec. 23 — Death investigation, Catchpole Drive.

Dec. 23 — Failed to give information and/or aid in accident-hit and run, Capitan Circle.

Dec. 25 — First-degree criminal trespass-theft from vehicle, theft from vehicle, County Road 917.

Dec. 25 — Domestic violence, Paradise Drive.

Pagosa Springs Police Department
Calls for service over two weeks: 227.

Dec. 13 — Theft, Aspen Village Drive.

Dec. 15 — Parked vehicle on wrong side of road, drove vehicle when license canceled, South 5th Street.

Dec. 16 — Littering, Country Center Drive.

Dec. 17 — Expired license plates, warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Dec. 17 — Identity theft, Lewis Street.

Dec. 17 — Criminal possession of forged instrument, possession of drug paraphernalia, Pagosa Street.

Dec. 18 — Criminal trespass, Country Center Drive.

Dec. 18 — Drove vehicle when license suspended, Pagosa Street.

Dec. 18 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

Dec. 22 — Harbored vicious animal, animal at large, Hermosa Street.

Dec. 22 — Criminal mischief, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 22 — Motor vehicle theft, South 9th Street.

Dec. 23 — Improper registration, operated vehicle without insurance, Hot Springs Boulevard.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
No report.

Dec. 21 — Ryan Lovato, menacing, four years probation, total fines and costs — \$2,731.50.

Dec. 21 — Ryan Lovato, violation of bail bond conditions-felony, four years probation, total fines and costs — \$2,873.50.

Dec. 21 — Ryan Lovato, menacing, four years probation, total fines and costs — \$2,761.50.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.

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Issue of Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021
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you believe in Him and are baptized for the forgiveness of your sins you can rise from the watery grave of baptism to walk in newness of life and receive the gift of His Spirit.

As we begin a new year, contact us for more information if you would like a new life.

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ARTS & LIFE



I will see you again

It was one of those phone calls where I'd hoped I was still in deep sleep. After sitting up in bed and collecting my thoughts, I heard what I knew I wouldn't have dreamed. The voice on the other end of the phone was my nephew in Seattle.

"Your brother died sometime in the night. Do you think you can get to Las Cruces?"

That morning was a blur as I rushed around in preparation for my long drive and my quest to find answers.

That day and the one to follow were not too dissimilar to one several years before.

I was living in Las Cruces in 1972. A friend in Albuquerque called. She was watching the news on the television. A man had been shot and was lying on the sidewalk. The women inside the house had also been shot by a crazed gunman.

After a brief pause, the voice on the phone said, "It is your brother and your mother; you need to get here as soon as possible."

I barely remember leaving my four young children with a sitter or the quick drive to Albuquerque. One thing that was clear in my mind: I had more questions than answers.

My brother was in the ICU. A

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



bullet had grazed his ear while five others were lodged throughout his abdomen. My mother was in the same hospital with six gunshot wounds of her own. I spent much of the next few days riding up and down the elevator between floors, living a nightmare that just wouldn't end.

The prognosis for my brother was grim, but I refused to let go of him until I heard him profess the name of Jesus. At one point, he gathered the words to say, "Betty, I'm dying, please let me die in peace."

"Absolutely not, not until I hear you confess the Lord's name as your Lord and Savior."

Fortunately, both my brother and my mother survived their ordeal. We even learned to find humor in the moment. I would have grabbed the paddles myself and shocked my brother back to life had there been any reservation as to where he would spend eternity.

It has been almost 50 years

since that horrific phone call and here I am again. Unfortunately, the recent call brought a conclusion to the years of fullness that was my older brother's life.

As I sat and consoled my brother's widow and son, it was difficult for all of us to wrap our heads around how he died, or even why. While planning for his memorial, I didn't even know if my brother had a favorite song or passage of scripture.

There is, however, one thing for certain. My brother lived what he believed in a very personal way. Such a beautiful thing to know about a man who once before survived the grip of death, became born again and now lives in the kingdom of God.

God gives us many chances to live in the hope of another day.

Final brushstroke: In those nightmare hours when nothing makes sense, I am thankful for that night in 1972 when death pursued my brother. Pressing him about his faith then allowed me to have a peace that surpasses understanding. Goodbye for now, but I will see you again.

Readers' comments

Send your comments to betty@bettyslade.com.

Support hotlines and new pricing rule for hospitals

By Kay Kaylor
PREVIEW Columnist

I advocate for residents in extended care and assisted living residences as the regional long-term care ombudsman. I also am a Senior Medicare Patrol and State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselor, all as an employee of San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA). The many aging and care concerns will be addressed here.

This year could be characterized as The Year of Stress for many reasons, and one way to relieve built-up stress is to talk about why you

Area Agency on Aging

are anxious, worried, depressed or experiencing a feeling of impending doom. The Colorado Spirit Crisis Counseling and Training Program, particularly created for help with pandemic stress, promotes the following two hotlines with free and anonymous support from trained counselors:

1. Through the University of

Colorado for health care workers and educators: (303) 724-2500.

2. For everyone else, in this region via Axis Health Services: (970) 828-6004.

Hospital price transparency

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, every hospital in the United States must publish "clear, accessible pricing information online about the items and services they provide," according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The federal Department of Health and Human Services rule states that

■ See Agency on page 4

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The life of Lady: part 1

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

My head pressed against the cold concrete floor. Confused and scared, I listened to the constant commotion of those around me. I thought to myself, if I could just rattle my necklace loud enough, maybe someone would take notice and see that I don't belong here.

In the cell next to mine, Ragamuffin looked over and said, "I'm sorry, honey. It's been five days. You know what that means?"

"Are you talking to me?" I stut-tered.

"Yes dear, I am."

"What do you mean, it's been five days? I don't even know where I am, let alone what happens on the fifth day."

"Just rest your little head," my new friend said. "It will soon be over."

"Over? What is almost over?" A few minutes later, a man in a uniform walked by. With a somber look on his face, he reached in and grabbed hold of my friend.

"Wait, where are you going? Where is that man taking you?"

Ragamuffin looked back but didn't say a word. As the two disappeared down the long dark corridor, I heard a distinct cry from the back of the room that I will never forget.

What was happening? Where did they take my friend? I suddenly felt a darkness come over me and stood paralyzed with fear.

A few minutes later, I heard a set of keys jingle, then the sound of a rusty door open. On no! Its that man in the uniform that took my friend away. I thought to myself, if I curl up in a ball and pretend to be asleep, he will leave me alone. My heart was about to jump right out of my chest.

Just then, a man stepped out from behind the man in the uniform. The jovial voice said, "Hey, brown eyes."

The kind-faced man knelt down beside me. With his big strong

The Writers' Circle

I suddenly felt a darkness come over me and stood paralyzed with fear.

hands, he caressed the freckles on my nose.

"You're a Springer, aren't you? You sure are pretty."

I certainly didn't feel pretty. My curly liver and white hair was matted and filthy. But in that moment, it didn't matter. There was something very gentle about the stranger that knelt beside me. The cold, scary darkness that surrounded me suddenly lifted.

"How much?" The man yelled over his shoulder.

"Fifteen dollars is the standard fee."

"I'll take her." And with that, the nice man put a new necklace on me and said, "Let's go."

I didn't know where we were going, but I was ready to get out of that place. Once outside, we walked over to the driver's side of a big red truck. The nice man opened the door and said, "You're a lady, you sit up here next to me."

I jumped up on the seat and laid my head on his lap. There was something very comforting as the man's rough chubby fingers patted my dirty, flea-bitten head.

"Your tag says you are from

Denver, but you have no name or address. How did a pretty thing like you end up in the Durango jail?"

I must have been exhausted. I don't remember anything else the nice man said. The next thing I knew, we were parked in front of a big house and there were four faces pressed up against the door window shouting, "Hi Daddy! What did you bring us?"

The nice man said, "I brought you a very special gift, but I better talk to your mother first. Come on. Let's go inside."

In the near distance, I heard the madam of the house say, "Al, what have you done?"

"Isn't she beautiful? Come on kids, let's give her a bath and brush her hair."

"You're not answering me." The women asserted. "What are you doing with that dog? We don't need a dog."

Her aggravation didn't seem to bother him as he continued to talk. "She's my new hunting dog. Besides, the kids need someone to play with. I better put another log in the stove. I don't want her to get cold."

That night was like a dream come true. There was so much laughter as each child rolled on the floor and played with me. One of them called me Popcorn. Another called me Freckles.

The youngest child sheepishly said, "Why don't we call her Lady."

"Lady! Why yes. Such a pretty name for such a pretty little lady".

And just like that, I had a new family, a new name, and a new life.

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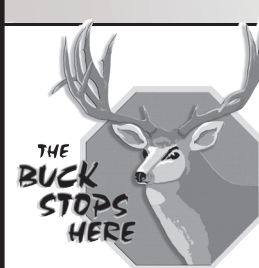
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■ continued from page 2

the information has two requirements. A computer must be able to process the online file data, known as "machine readable."

Second, the information must be presented in a consumer-friendly manner. An Internet price-estimator tool is allowed as an alternative, with further information encouraged. If the hospital is large, it must show the standard charge for a minimum of 300 "shoppable" services individuals can schedule in advance. Examples include hours spent in the operating room, laboratory services, physical therapy,

flu shots and medication infusions. Five types of standard charges are defined, such as third-party negotiated charges and cash discounts.

The items and services information must be posted on a public website, must be available free of charge and must not request personal information, registration, an account or a password. An annual update is required.

SJBAAA offers resources for people age 60 and older or on Medicare; see sjbaaa.org. For further information, please call or text 403-2165 or send an email to kaylor@sjbaaa.org.



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Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha'i Faith

By Paulette Heber
Baha'i Community of Archuleta County

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

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

A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Jan. 3, our theme is "Obedience to God."

"If it be Thy pleasure, make me to grow as a tender herb in the meadows of Thy grace, that the gentle winds of Thy will may stir me up and bend me into conformity with Thy pleasure, in such wise that my movement and my stillness may be wholly directed by Thee." — Baha'u'llah.

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

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

Community news.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
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Local educator to offer seminar series on environmental stewardship

By Sarah Riehm
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Community in Conversation announces its next seminar series beginning in January 2021. Herb Grover will lead a discussion on environmental stewardship for six Tuesdays, Jan. 16 through Feb. 23, 2021.

Grover has taught environmental science for over two decades, served as a research professor at the University of New Mexico, and has been a beloved and respected workshop leader and resident environmental expert for local community and church groups.

Community in Conversation was established in the fall of 2020 to stimulate dialogue, build bridges across our social and political divides, and tackle issues of importance to our community. The classes are offered via Zoom, a free Internet-based discussion platform. Sessions begin at 6 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. Classes are free, but you need to register to receive a Zoom invitation to each session. If interested, please send an email to the Community in Conversation administrator at sarah.riehm@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend.

No matter where you are on the political spectrum, everyone in Pagosa Springs has a deep love of nature and is committed to its nurturing and protection. Grover has selected an outstanding book written by a friend, the Rev. Edward Brown: "Our Father's World."

Brown is the founding director of Care of Creation and has worked in the field of Christian environmental stewardship for 20 years. Brown plans to join us for one of the sessions in February. Find out more about Brown, his work and his books at www.careofcreation.net.

The book and discussion will include practical tips on how you can help maintain and preserve the natural beauty of Pagosa Springs and surrounding wilderness areas. If you would like to order the book, the delivery time is a bit longer than most book titles, so you might want to get a jump on ordering.

More about Grover

Grover is a semi-retired professor of biology, ecology and environmental science who has lived in Pagosa Springs for a little over five years. He spent the last 25 years in teaching and administrative positions at faith-based universities in Texas and continues to teach environmental science online for Wayland Baptist University.

Prior to returning to academia in the mid-1990s, Grover was a research professor at the University of New Mexico, worked for the New Mexico Environment Department

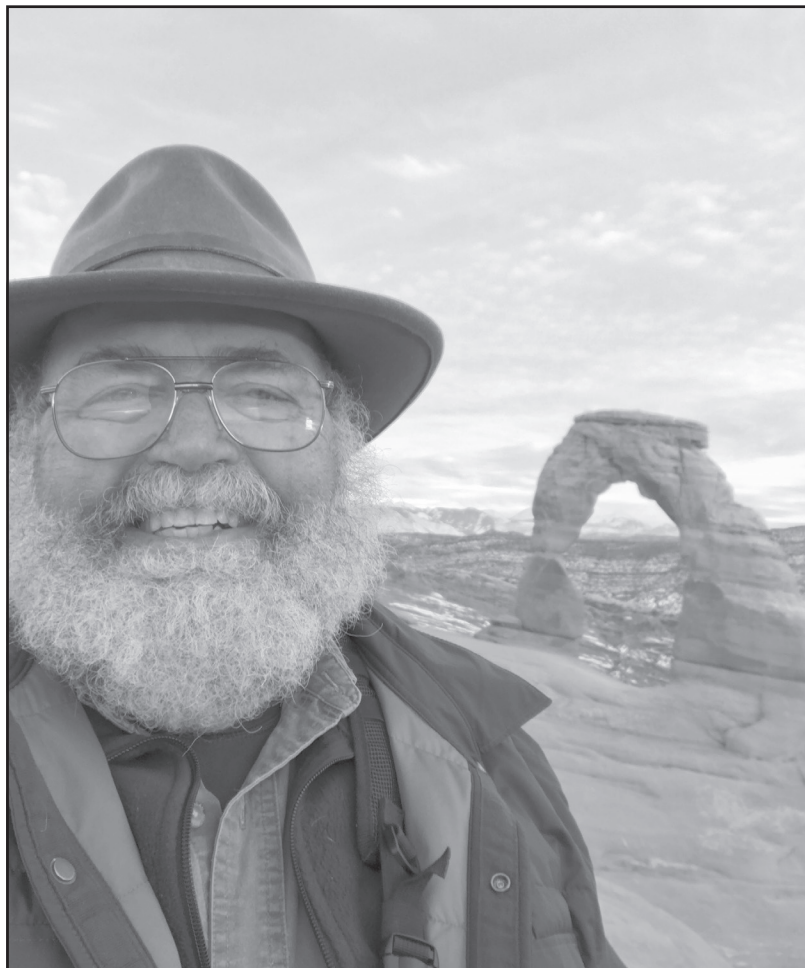


Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Herb Grover, who has taught environmental science for over two decades, will lead a discussion on environmental stewardship for the next Community in Conversation seminar series.

and was a project manager for a sub-contractor to Los Alamos National Laboratory. He is currently a member of the Community United Methodist Church here in Pagosa

and is active in several local organizations, including the Weminuche Audubon Society, San Juan Forest Health Partnership and the Pagosa Springs Photography Club.

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New Thought topic: Create your healthiest expression for 2021

By Lisa Burnson
New Thought Center
for Inspirational Living

“Life is a series of beginnings, not endings. Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease.” — Dr. Bernie Siegel.

All are welcome to join Pagosa New Thought Center for Inspirational Living this Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. for our presentation, “Create Your Healthiest Expression of Body, Mind and Spirit in 2021.”

Our sanctuary is sanitized and set up for social distancing.

We will have spirited live music.

Upcoming events

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

Band practice is every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join our band. Please text Bruce at 507-0739 to join or for band information.

Thursday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m.: New Year Burning Bowl ceremony. Release the old and welcome in the new. Followed by potluck and drumming circle. For information, call (907) 309-6067.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, 1 p.m.: “I Am Mapping” playshop.

Jan. 16, 2021, “Meditation and

Movement” workshop with Dean Sanna, D.C. and Amanda Beasley, LMT. Call (971) 221-4797 for information.

Jan. 23, 2021, “Natural Healing of Body, Mind and Spirit” with Shayla White Eagle McClure.

Science of Mind class: dates to be determined.

Library

The New Thought Center has a large library of inspirational and spiritual books. To borrow or donate a book, please come to the New Thought Center prior to Sunday service or Meditation Circle.

About us

The New Thought Center promotes living a spiritually centered life, and promotes the philosophies of Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. New Thought honors all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

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

Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mail-

ing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling 309-6067. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought) or YouTube (Pagosa New Thought Channel).

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Unique New Year's traditions from around the world

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

As we say goodbye to 2020 (adios, au revoir, sla'n, agur) and all the challenges we faced globally, a glimpse of how the world uniquely celebrates the new year may be a great way to welcome a fresh start for all of us.

New Year's traditions are unique to their country of origin, drawing upon specific objects, cuisines and celebrations that are inherent to their culture. The earliest recorded New Year's festivities date back to ancient Babylon, where the first new moon following the vernal equinox marked the start of the new year. Babylonians celebrated with a religious festival called Akuti, a multiday festival that honored the rebirth of the natural world.

Over the years, calendars fell out of sync with the sun, prompting the start of the year to fall on different days, until Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar in 45 B.C. Caesar instituted Jan. 1 as the first day of the year and the calendar closely resembled that of the modern Gregorian calendar. Today, most festivities begin on Dec. 31 — the last day of the Gregorian calendar — and continue into the early hours of Jan. 1.

Whether it's sharing a meal with family and friends or throwing old furniture out the window, each of these customary, luck-filled New Year's traditions derives from a unique origin. Below are some of the most fascinating celebrations and traditional foods from around the world.

Brazil — Brazilians dress in all white garb to signify luck, prosperity and ward off evil spirits.

Colombia — Colombians carry empty suitcases around the block at midnight in hopes of having a travel-filled year.

Denmark — Danish revelers save unused plates and affectionately shatter them against doors of their

Extension Viewpoints

family and friends to ward off bad spirits.

Ecuador — Ecuadorians create large effigies of politicians, pop culture figures and other icons and set them on fire to burn the año viejo or "old year."

Spain — Spaniards eat one grape for every toll of the clock at midnight to represent good luck for each month of the coming year.

Switzerland — Residents in Switzerland drop a dollop of ice cream on the floor at midnight to bring about good luck, wealth and abundance.

Food, glorious food

Kransekage (Denmark) — A wreath cake made using marzipan rings stacked on top of each other, decorated with ornaments and flags.

Vasilopita (Greece) — Sain Basil's cake baked with a silver or gold coin inside brings luck to whoever finds it in their slice.

Soba noodles (Japan) — Buckwheat noodles eaten at midnight which symbolize longevity and prosperity.

Oliebollen (The Netherlands) — Fried, donut-like dumplings dusted with powdered sugar.

Cotechino con Lentichie (Italy) — A sausage and lentil stew that is believed to bring good luck, money and fortune.

Black-eyed-peas (United States) — Medium-sized, edible beans that symbolize coins are believed to bring good luck.

Whatever you do to ring in the new year, I hope you have a very joyous and prosperous year. Be kind to one another and be safe. ¡Feliz año nuevo!

UUs to celebrate the new year

By Pauline Benetti
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

The service of Jan. 3, 2021, will be lead by lay leader Joan Ward on the topic of "New Year's Traditions and Resolutions." We will celebrate the new year on a lighthearted note with a service presenting New Year's traditions around the world, from eating 12 grapes in the 12 seconds before midnight in Spain to carrying an empty bag around the block in Columbia and then ask participants

to add a favorite tradition to the mix. For resolutions, we will look to see if 2020 has inspired any new commitments or changes in 2021. And for everyone — here is to a happy and healthy new year.

Please join us through Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88284380641?pwd=ZnAycGppOUdZTVlJMlRYVGV6OVdQdz09>, telephone: 1 (346) 248-7799, meeting ID: 882 8438 0641, password: 059944.

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

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

Donate to the Archuleta County 4-H Program

The Archuleta County 4-H program boasts a membership of more than 150 members annually. Often, these programs rely on fundraisers to help offset the costs of the program, such as awards, supplies and, most importantly, leadership opportunities. Members can attend various leadership camps and conferences statewide and even nationally.

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

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

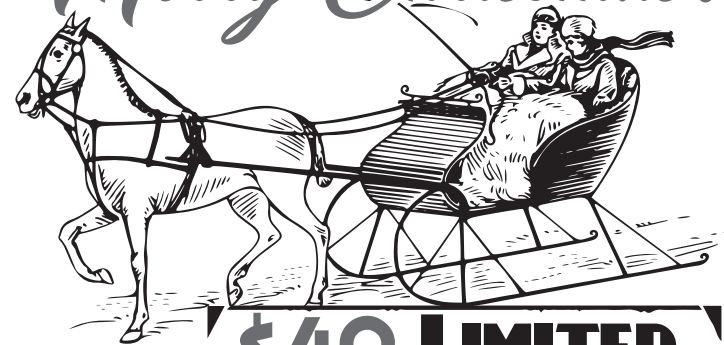
CPR and first aid classes

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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The interesting world of Zoom

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

The world of Zoom is interesting. Being in education, I have had a fair amount of training on Zoom. Some of that training has centered around what happens if someone hacks or bombs your Zoom session. I was grateful a couple of weeks ago for that training.

It's hard to believe that someone, or a group of people, can find great joy in creating havoc. I had heard of Zoom bombing, but it was hard to envision it. But my cousin asked me to be the technical person for an online book group meeting. We were only about a half hour into the discussion when we were bombed.

It was not just one person. It was a coordinated attack by many people. As soon as I removed someone, they would come back in with a different account. I locked down the session and removed people as fast as I could. It was probably only a couple of minutes, but it seemed like it was 20. All the training in the world doesn't quite compare to the real thing when your session is under attack. I guess it's kind of like the difference between boot camp and actual battle in a minimal way.

But on the lighter side of Zoom sessions, I have had some funny things happen that others might have experienced as well. I thought I'd share some of them.

The standard protocol for students is to keep their microphone off unless they are speaking. Most of the time, a student will hold the space bar as they talk. When they release it, their microphone goes back to mute. If a student wants to speak for quite a while, they will hit the unmute button. But then they must remember to mute their mic when they finish.

One day, I had a student who was asking about a problem from the homework. Since he and I were discussing it back and forth, he had unmuted his microphone. When we finished with his question, he forgot to hit mute again. At that point, he turned, and though you

couldn't see anyone else, you could tell he was speaking to a child. He said, "I'm sorry. Daddy is really busy right now. You will have to wipe your own bummy."

In one class session, one young lady talked on her phone the whole time. That class was small enough so she showed on everyone's screen. A person can shut off their video, but apparently she didn't think to do that.

In Zoom, a teacher can have breakout rooms for the students to go into. There the students can discuss the assigned topic. After a given amount of time, the teacher can close the rooms, bringing everyone back together to go over what they discussed. I will often do this, then join each room briefly to see how it was going. When the students or the teacher go into a breakout room, their microphones automatically unmute. In joining one room just after opening them, one girl turned to a roommate and said, "I can't go with you right now. I have to work with these dumb people in this stupid class." After she turned back to her computer, another girl said, "So, us dumb people are ready to start the discussion, are you?"

One person was munching chips and slurping pop in one class, apparently unaware her mic was on. A few people asked her to mute her mic, but she couldn't hear them. Luckily, I was able to do it reasonably fast.

I have had students fall asleep and snore, probably with their hand on the space bar so they pressed down on it as they fell asleep. The problem was I could mute them, but the space bar immediately unmuted them. We eventually got them awake. I have also had roommates of my students walk in the background less than fully clothed.

One of my favorites was a girl who was fishing out on a lake. She had set her computer or phone up on a rock where she could watch

and listen to the class discussion while she fished. She even pulled in a fish or two during the class period, not realizing her video was on. I think the class was more interested in her activities than in my class. That was probably because the rest of us wished we could be fishing, too.

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Preview Calendar

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

Saturday, Jan. 2

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. 4

Writing Challenge. Facebook. For all ages. Calling all writers: Challenge your creativity. Challenge details will be posted on the library's Facebook page. New challenges posted. Call 264-2209 for more information.

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.

LENA Program. 5:30 p.m., Facebook Live. Learn how to use talking to build your child's brain. Get personalized information and ideas to help your child. The program is available in English and Spanish. Contact Michelle Salmeron-Ramirez to sign up, 585-4293 or michellesr@unitedway-swco.org. Call 264-2209 for more information.

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 COVID-19 threat, Loaves and Fishes will continue to offer meals to the community as takeout only. There will be no sit-down service. Guests

should come to the front doors of the Parish Hall, where they can pick up meals to go. This practice will continue until further notice.

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

PALS by Appointment. 2-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Adult education in person. Pagosa Adult Learning Services can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.org for more information or to make an appointment.

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

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When we can't go out, we can go in

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

It feels like a lull has come over us. We're in between times — between holidays, between events, between times when we can go out and be with friends and family — weather, the pandemic, economic constraints and so many other factors seem to be conspiring to keep us closer to home, often without much to do that is new and interesting.

So, this week, we'd like to remind you that you can go to our website to learn about access to free online and phone lectures, seminars, topical discussions, interfaith news, world class performances — just for example, Yo-Yo Ma, Natalie Cole, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and jazz at Lincoln Center — and so much more. These resources are available because of the remarkable blend of two major players in the field of aging well — nonprofit senior living industry leader Mather, and an esteemed arts and education organization, the Chautauqua Institution.

Mather graciously provides this support to ASI to link our community to its "Aging Well" resources. You can look through those offerings on our site and sign up for free through Mather's site (the link to that site is listed on our Home and Program pages).

There is no need to register in advance. And you can try out the Chautauqua programming for free for 90 days, without needing to provide any credit card information. You search through viewing and discussion options just like you would any other streaming provider, except these are concerts, sermons and in-person talks that you won't see anywhere else.

A caregiver or family member can sign up a loved one for access from any reasonably accessible — senior living, library, home — computer, mobile device or smart TV. If you are

Senior News

accessing through a library or other institutional setting, please check on guidelines for system use.

You can learn more at: <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

Take-out meals continue

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 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. 31 — Closed for New Year's Eve.

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 — Closed for New Year's Day.

Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 — Turkey sandwich with chipotle aioli, broccoli cheese soup, tomato and white bean salad and red velvet cookies.

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 — Breaded cod with white bean cassoulet,

creamy lemon dill salad and chocolate chess pie.

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 — Mongolian beef stir-fry with steamed white rice, Thai cucumber salad and layered spice cake.

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 — Mushroom cream soup, asparagus, naan bread, lemon herb egg salad and French apple tart.

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Happy New Year

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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II Timothy 1:10

The birth of Jesus is an event in which we marvel and rejoice. But it was only the beginning of a life that would end in crucifixion. Three days later the grave could not hold Him and Jesus arose. In so doing He brought forgiveness of sin and eternal life to a sinful, condemned humanity.

Without the resurrection, the birth of Jesus is just the birth of another baby. But with it comes blessings from on high. If

you believe in Him and are baptized for the forgiveness of your sins you can rise from the watery grave of baptism to walk in newness of life and receive the gift of His Spirit.

As we begin a new year, contact us for more information if you would like a new life.

Happy New Year.

Join us ... Sunday

AM Worship

10:30 a.m.

Pagosa Springs Church of Christ

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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. 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 Inspira-

tional 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.

Friday, 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.

Simple ways to prolong the life of poinsettias

Special to The PREVIEW

Poinsettias and their rich red, white or variegated color schemes are the ideal backdrop for Christmas celebrations. In fact, poinsettias are among the most popular decorative flowers during the holiday season.

While millions of poinsettias will be purchased for the holiday season, many mistakenly think their utility ends once New Year's Day has come and gone. But with proper care, poinsettia plants can continue to thrive and bring warmth and beauty to a home long after the holiday decorations have been tucked away.

- Choose a hearty plant. Experts with the University of Vermont Extension Department of Plant and Soil Science say that many people mistake the plant's leaves for its flowers. The red, white or pink bracts are actually modified leaves. The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the center called "cyathia." Choose poinsettia plants that have buds which are, ideally, not yet open.

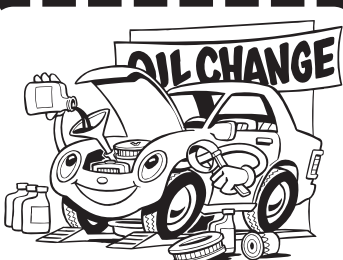
- Keep the temperature consistent. Poinsettias prefer a room temperature between 60 and 68 degrees F during the day and 10 degrees cooler at night. Humidity levels between 20 and 50 percent are ideal. Group plants on water-filled trays full of pebbles to help increase humidity levels.

- Place near sunlight. The United Kingdom-based Perrywood floral company advises placing poinsettia plants near a bright windowsill, but not in direct sunlight. Do not let a poinsettia touch cold window panes.

- Avoid drafts. The plants are sensitive to drafts and changes in temperature. So, it's best to keep poinsettias away from drafty doors, windows, radiators or fireplaces.

- Don't drown the roots. Wait until the surface of the compost dries out before watering the plant anew. Also, the decorative foil wrapper that covers pots can trap water and lead to root rot. Remove it or poke holes in the bottom to allow for drainage.
- Cut back plants. Come mid-

March, cut back the plant by half to encourage new shoots, suggests the University of Illinois Extension. The plants also can be placed outside in the spring after the risk of frost has passed. Bring poinsettias back in around mid-September to early October to force them to bloom again.



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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

A brief history of the Jicarilla homeland

We continue writing about the first Hispanic explorers/settlers in Pagosa Country and their relationship with the Jicarilla Apache Indians they found living in this area.

Spaniards found Jicarillas north of Taos with agricultural tendencies living on rancherias. Still, hunting was their main way of



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

A sort of uneasy peace prevailed for the Jicarilla until the Mexican government, between 1821 and 1846, awarded eight private land grants and five town grants on Jicarilla land.

putting food on the table.

Two events took place which greatly affected the Jicarillas. Beginning in the late 1600s, Comanche Indians began moving from the Great Basin into the Jicarilla homelands in northeastern New Mexico.

At the same time, French traders from the upper Mississippi River established contact with the Plains Indians. The Comanches acquired guns from the French, while the Spanish prohibited the Apaches from having guns. As a result, the better-armed Comanches drove the Jicarillas close to the foothills and mountains of eastern New Mexico by the middle 1700s. At this time, the Southern Utes joined the Comanches in their raids against the Jicarilla.

The Faraon Apaches living in south central New Mexico raided Spanish and Pueblo Indian settlements of northeastern New Mexico and hit the Jicarilla hard. In order to defend themselves better, the Hispanics struck a pact with the Jicarillas, who from time to time after this were used as auxiliaries by the Spanish forces.

The Jicarillas took a fearful beating from the Comanches and were quite willing to serve as a buffer between the Spanish settlements to the west and the French and Comanches on the north and east in exchange for armed assistance from the Spanish. The Jicarilla way

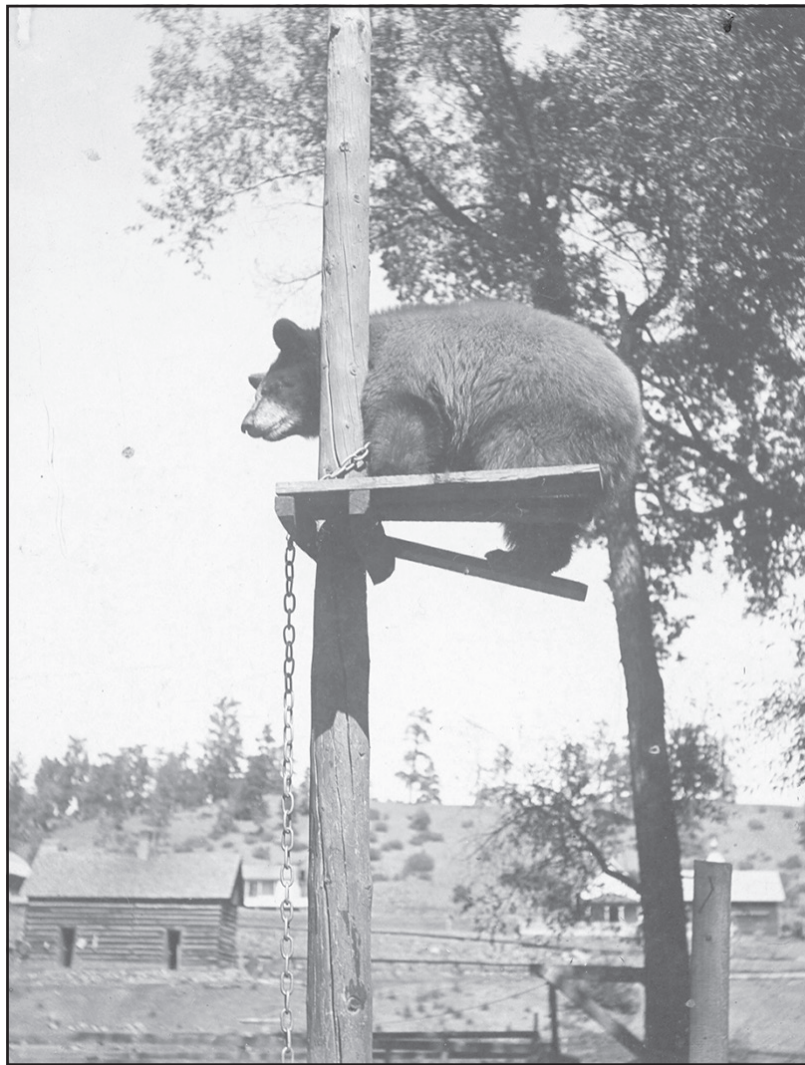


Photo courtesy John M. Motter

Dr. Mary Fisher was obviously an animal lover as evidenced by this photo of her bear, Pickles. Can you guess what her pet's favorite snack was?

of life was little affected by this arrangement. They did accept Christianity into their native religion and Spanish words were added to the Jicarilla vocabulary.

A sort of uneasy peace prevailed for the Jicarilla until the Mexican government, between 1821 and

1846, awarded eight private land grants and five town grants on Jicarilla land. For the Jicarilla, this meant the beginning of losing sacred lands. Dispossessed, they began to raid more frequently and ultimately clashed with the U.S. Army.

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How to avoid foggy eyeglasses

Special to The PREVIEW

Billions of people across the globe need eyeglasses to drive a car, read a book, watch television and perform a host of other tasks of daily life.

Although glasses are highly effective, people who wear them understand they may have to make a few concessions while doing so. Unlike contact lenses, which sit directly on the eye, glasses rest on the bridge of the nose. They may slightly impede peripheral vision or even slip down if not properly fitted. Those accustomed to wearing glasses in the cold weather understand fogging of the lenses is a nuisance they may be forced to confront. That nuisance became even more profound when masks became a must-have accessory to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Glasses may fog due to the formation of condensation on the lens surface, which happens when moving from a cold outdoor environment into a warm indoor one. This is a problem that has affected eyeglass wearers for some time, including health professionals who often wear masks. The issue has become even more widely known due to the sheer number of people who have been wearing face masks as a public health safety measure.

So how does one counteract the condensation and fogging that occurs from both winter weather and increased mask usage? There are a few different methods, but eyeglass wearers should always consult with an optometrist to verify the safety and efficacy of any method before trying it.

Use soapy water

A 2011 study published in the Annals of The Royal College of Surgeons of England found that washing

eyeglasses in soapy water and shaking off the excess can help reduce fogginess. Afterward, let the spectacles air dry before putting them back on. The soapy water leaves behind a thin surfactant film that reduces surface tension and causes the water molecules to spread out evenly into a transparent layer. This can help prevent fogging.

Use a commercial product

Antifogging products are widely used to prevent fogging of scuba masks or ski goggles.

Get a mask that fits tightly

Make sure the mask fits securely over the nose, advises The Cleveland Clinic. Also, a mask with a nose bridge will help keep warm exhaled breath from exiting up to the glasses. Use your glasses to help seal the mask on your face by pulling the mask up higher on the nose.

Block breath with a tissue

The AARP suggests placing a folded tissue between your mouth and the mask. The tissue will absorb the warm, moist air, preventing it from rising up to reach the glasses.

Adjust the fit of glasses

Choosing glasses that sit further away from the face can improve air circulation and reduce the formation of condensation.

Consider other options

If these tricks seem like a lot of work, you also can speak to an eye doctor about contact lenses or eye surgery.

Hobbies promote personal growth

Special to The PREVIEW

Hobbies can help people escape the daily grind. Though it's easy to view hobbies as enjoyable ways to pass the time, they also can be vehicles that enrich your life.

Hobbies are especially good at helping people learn new skills. They also may help boost professional and personal development.

Hobbies play a vital role for a variety of reasons, and some hobbyists may be surprised to learn just how much their favorite form of escapism is benefiting their lives.

• Hobbies may help to relieve stress by keeping you engaged with something you enjoy. Reducing stress may help you remain calm and be more productive at home, at work and in school. Reduced stress also translates into improved mental and physical health.

• People who engage in hobbies experience new things and may interact with different people through their interests. This can give you various topics to discuss in conversation and make you more interesting to others. Learning skills through hobbies also means you will obtain specialized knowledge that you can impart on people with similar interests.

• Hobbies can be creative outlets that take your mind off of other things. For people who have trouble with meditation and other mindful ways to shut off their brains, hobbies can be a form of

escapism that leaves you alone with your thoughts. According to the self-improvement resource Personal Growth, most hobbies actually have a meditative effect on your thoughts because, no matter what you are doing, your awareness becomes completely focused

on the hobby.

• Hobbies can improve your social life and foster creative bonds with others, providing great ways to meet and get closer to people who share your interests.

• Hobbies can help stave off
■ See Hobbies on page 16

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

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

Differences in appearance which distinguish lesser from greater scaup are subtle, and it takes a well-trained eye to tell one from the other when they are not seen together. Winter range separates the two species, with greater scaup more common in saltwater habitats, and it is the lesser that we find here.

Lesser scaup are the most abundant diving duck in North America. Wintering farther south than other diving ducks, they can be found on lakes, ponds, reservoirs and wetland areas across coastal and central areas of the United States to as far south as South America.

The breeding range of lesser scaup extends across the prairie pothole regions of the United States and Canada, through the boreal forests and into the arctic tundra.

They are reluctant migrants, staying north until water bodies freeze over and force them to leave in fall, and are also one of the last to head north in spring. Lesser scaup are one of the Oreo ducks, with males glossy black on the head, front and rear and white in the middle. Although the male's back is gray-lined, it is the white sides that stand out when viewing a group of ducks on the water. Females are a rich brown color and have a white patch at the base of the bill. Both sexes have tall, peaked heads, a trait which sets them apart from the more round-headed greater scaup.

The lesser scaup is one of the colorful duck species identified during the recent Christmas Bird Count here. Duck watching is a great antidote to winter cabin fever.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheadubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/.

Hobbies

■ continued from page 14

boredom, providing productive outlets when there is nothing else available to fill the time. Hobbies can be more beneficial ways to spend your time than playing games on a phone or watching television.

• Hobbies also may be educational and enrich knowledge through skill building. People who start with one hobby may find connections to other ones, further developing their knowledge and skill sets.

If embracing new hobbies is on your list of resolutions for the upcoming year, individuals can rest assured that engaging in hobbies promotes personal growth in various ways.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

Holiday Hours & Early Deadline

Issue of Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021
Legal advertising deadline
noon, Thursday, Dec. 31

We will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1
Have a safe and happy New Year!

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New free early literacy program comes to our county

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

An exciting new Colorado-based literacy program that helps families and caregivers build their babies' vocabulary starts in Archuleta County on Jan. 11, thanks to a partnership involving your library, AmeriCorps and the San Juan BOCES.

Called LENA, the free sessions start the week of Jan. 11. Half-hour Q-and-A discussions to provide more information for interested parents and caregivers will take place Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, at 10 a.m. on Zoom, with the link available on the library website.

You need to sign up for this special program in order to be enrolled in the workshops that will provide you with personalized information and ideas to help your child. Please contact Michelle Salmeron-Ramirez at 585-4293 or michelle@unitedway-swco.org. The program is available in English and Spanish. It was created for babies from newborn to age 3 and will help you use talking to build your child's brain.

Holiday closures

Your library will be closed today, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1, 2021, in celebration of New Year's, but curbside service 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 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 populations. Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays: closed.

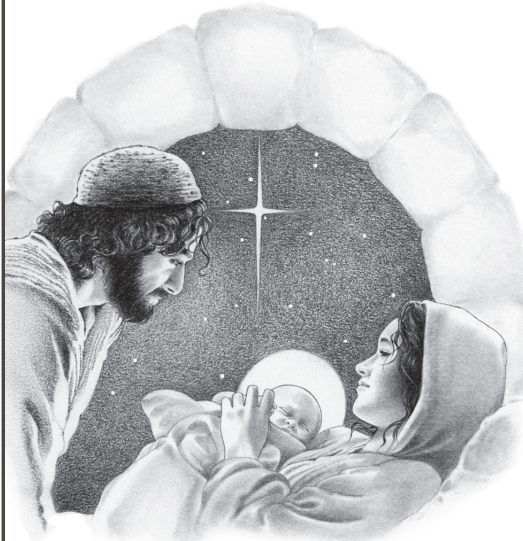
- We are accepting meeting room reservations only for individuals or members of the same household, with library programs having first dibs on the rooms. You can schedule only so far out, usually two weeks to a month, depending on where we are in the month.

- 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.

■ See Library on next page

*And you will have
joy and gladness,
and many will
rejoice at his birth.*

Luke 1:14



Rejoice

*May all your hopes
and prayers be
fulfilled during this
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*Our thoughts
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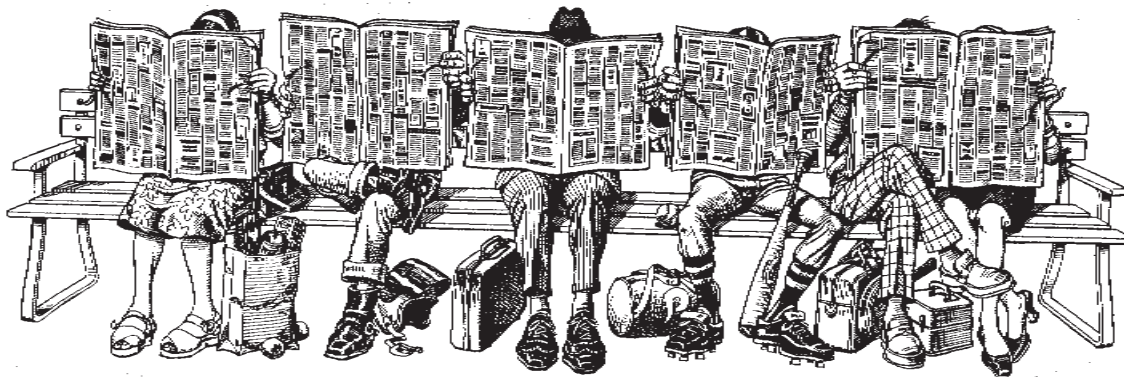
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Library

■ **continued from previous page**

• 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 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.

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."

New writing challenge

On Jan. 4 and 25, 2021, we will post new writing challenges on the

library's Facebook page. We hope you will challenge your creativity by participating. This is a free all-ages activity.

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.

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 during open hours. Pick up a packet outside the library.

In-person gaming

Free in-person gaming is suspended due to COVID safety concerns.

Storywalk for kids

Weather permitting, 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 Jan. 2-13, 2021, theme is playing in the snow. After you finish the walk, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library.

Tech Time

Make a 15- to 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 to resolve issues with your computer,

smartphone, tablet and other electronic devices.

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

■ **See Library on next page**

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We've been living with too much rudeness

By Crista Worthy
PREVIEW Columnist

There's a lot of disgruntlement if not downright hate these days in America. On Facebook, strangers snipe at each other. Old friends "un-friend" each other based on political preference. Talking heads trade insults on cable "news." The angry acting out isn't new: Four years ago, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo told an interviewer on public radio "... hate has become the currency of this nation. We hate, therefore we are." The facts bore him out: The FBI had just documented a 16-year peak in all types of hate crimes.

Which brings me to some of the ways people use prejudice and personal attack as forms of identity here in the west. In Idaho, where I've lived for over nine years, big diesel pickup trucks are a way of life — even for folks who live in Boise and probably don't need them for hauling.

Before the 2016 election, I began noticing more and more big pickups with full-sized American flags mounted in the rear cab. Soon after, many of those trucks had a full-sized Confederate flag mounted on the opposite side. I asked a man who works on diesel engines why he thought so many guys in big pickups were flying the Confederate flag here in Idaho. After all, this was the west, not the south.

"They're just giving the finger to this [expletive] politically correct government," he said.

If that were true, then American flags as protest to Obama should have stopped once Trump was elected. Instead, there were more flags than ever before the 2020 election. I've come to see the flag flying as a form of personal identity.

Writers on the Range

I asked an African-American friend how the flags made him feel. "Intimidated and unwelcome," was his reply. But they intimidate me, too, and I'm white.

Others use their trucks as weapons of aggression. I drive a 15-year-old little red sporty Japanese car. Back when I lived in southern California, the sunroof was open almost every day. In Idaho, I still like to open my sunroof on nice days. Funny thing is, even though the air here is theoretically much cleaner than it is in Los Angeles, I nearly always end up having to close it. Perhaps because my little red car is definitely not an "Idaho car."

When somebody in a big diesel pickup equipped with "rolling coal" sees me, he inevitably speeds up, passes me and then steps on the brakes. As I near his tail, a giant cloud of toxic black diesel exhaust blows out and if I haven't already shut my sunroof, I'm going to be inhaling it. What drives his aggression and gives him pleasure about harming me?

In 2017, Idaho State Sen. Michelle Stennett, D-Ketchum, introduced a bill to prohibit the practice of modifying diesel engines to increase the amount of soot and smoke belching from tailpipes. The bill failed to pass, but thanks to the Clean Air Act, rolling coal is already illegal. In Idaho, however, don't expect much enforcement.

Unless there's a state law, most Idaho police won't issue tickets for rolling-coal pollution violations. The bill would have made

it a misdemeanor, but the state senate decided that public health was less important than the right of angry drivers in diesel trucks to blow smoke into our faces.

I've also heard from bicycle riders who say they're sitting ducks when trucks pass by while belching out black smoke, and that this is a particular problem on rural roads. It seems to me there was a time — not that long ago — when this would have been considered rude, if not downright dangerous.

The people who spew hate on the Internet or peddle conspiracy theories on Facebook, who wave flags all over town, or who blow smoke in our faces, all say they are expressing the freedom to be themselves. They are proud to be "politically incorrect."

Last week at my local gym, a man strode angrily up to the front desk to complain about the rap music playing that day. "Turn off that [expletive] music and put on some rock 'n roll!" he insisted. The staffer at the front desk was Black. After a moment of deer-in-the-headlights shock, he quickly complied.

You know what politically correct means? It means nothing more than good manners and manners are sorely lacking these days.

Crista Worthy is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the west. She writes about travel, aviation and wildlife from her home in Idaho.

One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a new year of happiness and prosperity.



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Library

continued from previous page
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For her generous material donation, we thank Christine Bemish.

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

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." — Vern McLellan, author of books including "Proverbs for People."

Website

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Do you know my Jesus?

By Allyn Schuyler
Special to The PREVIEW

I always thought I was a reasonably “watchful” person concerning people in need. I strive to put others before myself. I try to be obedient to the Holy Spirit when He prompts me to be of service to someone. I keep a prayer journal where I regularly intercede for the needs of others. I’m watchful ... aren’t I?

Then I met Bert. My son and I joined a group of others from our church on a short-term mission trip to Mexico. We raised money to build a small house for a needy family who lived next to the city dump in a cardboard box. It was to be a quick trip — two days to drive, one day to build the simple structure, one day to pass out food in the nearby poverty-stricken area, and two days home. Not a lot of time for anything other than our tightly scheduled activities.

I couldn’t wait to meet our team leader, Bert, who signed every one of his advance preparation emails with “Isn’t God Good?!”

A financial planner, he spent at least one weekend a month in Mexico giving his time and energy to coordinate building projects and food deliveries. Everyone of those weekends was just as hard — a long, hot drive followed by grueling physical work, then a push past exhaustion to give some more. And Bert was not a young man. In fact, he was recuperating from pneumonia the week of our mission.

Upon our arrival in Mexico, I saw an example of a Christian

A Matter of Faith

being truly “watchful.” While we packed up food boxes, Bert made time for the people who had gathered around us, waiting.

“Are you hungry?” he’d ask, “Do you have a place to sleep?”

He didn’t just look upon these people with pity, he got right to the heart of the matter. After he made sure their basic needs were met, he would always ask, “Conoces a mi Jesus?” Do you know my Jesus?

During the course of those few short days, Bert ministered to everyone he came in contact with. He invited the vendors on the beach to join us for dinner and sat on the porch with them to talk about Christ. He witnessed to the security guards on strike that wouldn’t let us past the guard gate. If we had a few minutes to eat or shop, it was not unusual to find Bert carrying on a conversation with a local — taking every opportunity to pass out some of “his Jesus’ love.”

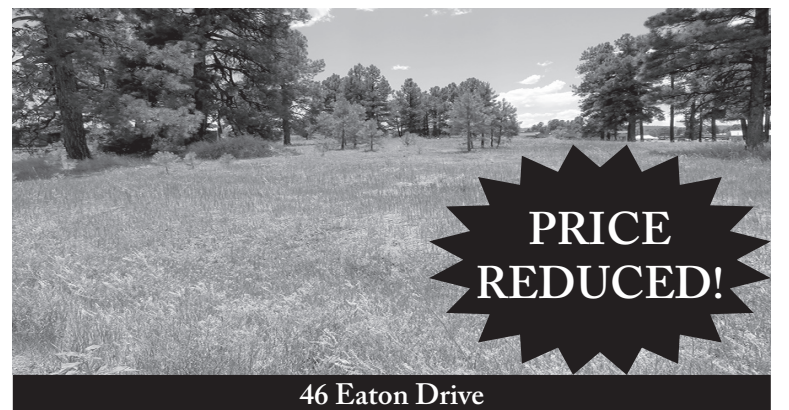
While we were watching our purses, Bert was watching out for people. The Holy Spirit seemed to give him discernment on who to talk to and who to be wary of. Bert carried an endless supply of bills in his wallet to give away — and when they ran out, he gave up his jacket and sleeping bag.

When we ran out of food to distribute from the back of his truck, he passed out the water coolers, blankets, tools and other useful items he kept stored there. Bert gave away everything not nailed down. On the return trip, we stopped at a gas station and he drove away with two travelers in his truck. Later, we found out that he had shared the gospel with them but “didn’t think they had accepted Christ yet.” Who knows, though, what happened with those seeds he planted.

That week, Bert showed me how to be truly watchful for people in need. Back in my small, safe village in Colorado, families don’t live in cardboard boxes. Our children aren’t starving and we may not have any homeless people at all. But I can always be alert for ways to reach out — need and pain come in so many different forms.

I wonder how many opportunities that God puts in my path every day.

2 Thessalonians 3:13: “But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary of doing good.”



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Facts about Three Kings Day

Special to The PREVIEW

Jan. 6 marks the close of the Christmas celebration for many Christians. On this day, known as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day, people celebrate the visit of the magi to the Christ child. While some people are very familiar with this feast day and the customs surrounding it, others are less so.

Here are some facts about Three

Kings Day:

- Three Kings Day also goes by the names Little Christmas, Denha, Theophany, Día de los Reyes and the Baptism of Jesus.

- The Epiphany marks the 12th day of Christmas, falling 12 days after Dec. 25.

- It is customary for some celebrants to bake ring-shaped cakes and hide a plastic baby figurine

■ See Kings on next page

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The origins of New Year's Eve traditions

Special to The PREVIEW

Traditions are the glue that hold many celebrations together. Individuals and families embrace many customs that serve as the script for commemorating year-end holidays.

Some celebrants may adhere to traditions without really knowing how they began or why they continue. Here is a closer look at some of the most popular traditions tied to New Year's Eve, both domestically and around the world.

Drinking champagne

The use of champagne for celebrations is rooted in the Christian ritual of consuming wine during the Eucharist. In the year 496, a wine from the Champagne region of France was offered during the baptism of the Frankish warrior Clovis, according to the Champagne Committee of France. It then became customary for champagne to be used at religious events like consecrations and at coronations or soirees. Eventually the tradition became associated with secular rituals, such as celebrating the new year.

Food

People of Japanese heritage might eat soba noodles on New Year's Eve. The Toshikoshi Soba,

which means "year crossing buckwheat noodle," denotes the crossing from one year to the next. Nibbling the noodles represent traveling from one year to the next, as well as letting go of the previous year's regrets.

In Spain, people gobble grapes to bring good luck in the coming year. The goal is to eat 12 green grapes during the 12 remaining seconds until the new year. Those able to do so will have 12 months of good fortune.

Dropping the ball

Revelers have long watched the giant ball drop in New York City's Times Square in person and on television. This tradition may be rooted in the custom of sailors using "time balls" to set their own timepieces while at sea. These chronometers were employed by using a spyglass to scan the harbor looking for balls that were dropped into the water at certain times, PBS reports. The first ball was installed in 1829 in Portsmouth, England. The Times Square ball was first used in 1907, according to the Times Square Alliance.

Making resolutions

Historians trace the making of resolutions to the Ancient Baby-

lonians. Citizens made spoken resolutions during their new year festival known as Akitu. This ritual required making an oath to the sitting or new king. Romans also swore oaths of loyalty to the emperor when the new year started.

Fireworks and noisemakers

Fireworks are a big part of celebrations and are not to be outdone on New Year's Eve. Fireworks were invented in the seventh century in China. According to Anthony Aveni, an astronomer and anthropologist at Colgate University, the fireworks were designed to ward off evil spirits. In cultures around the world, fireworks, banging drums and other efforts were used to chase away spooky creatures, especially during the transitional period that is the passing of the new year. Today fireworks and noisemakers are employed not for scaring away spirits, but rather to add to the revelry.

New Year's Eve traditions abound, and many of these annual customs have interesting origin stories.

Kings

■ continued from previous page representing the baby Jesus inside. In Latin cultures, the cake is known as Rosca de Reyes, or "The King's Ring."

• The Bible does not specifically mention the number or names of the magi who visited Jesus. However, oral tradition has it that there were three and their names were Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior.

• The gifts given to Christ were gold, frankincense oil and the resin myrrh. The gifts are symbolic of Jesus' importance. The gold represents his royal standing, frankincense his divine birth and myrrh his mortality.

• Children may leave their shoes out on the Epiphany for presents, similar to they way stockings are hung. The shoes are filled with hay or treats for the Three Wise Men's camels. In exchange, candies and

toys are left for the children.

• Three Kings Day is one of the most significant religious holidays in Latin America, where the magi are more prominent figures than Santa Claus.

• In Britain and elsewhere, Twelfth Night is the evening that precedes the Epiphany, and Christmas decorations should remain up until then. Also, until as recently as the 1950s, Twelfth Night was a time for wassailing. Wassailers went house to house singing and wishing neighbors good health.

• Until the 19th century, the Epiphany was more important than Christmas Day.

• Roast lamb was traditionally served on the Epiphany.

Three Kings Day is an important holiday in the Christian faith, and one that brings the holiday season to a close.

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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).

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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, hotspringhealers.com. Home visits. Durango hours on Wednesday.

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.

KIP'S GRILL AND CANTINA is looking for hard working, responsible and fun people to join our kitchen staff. Experience preferred. Apply in person.

RISE ABOVE VIOLENCE is seeking a Director of Advocacy to lead a team of advocates who provide 24-hour support and advocacy services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office; have excellent public speaking, teaching and leadership skills; and, be a highly organized, independent worker. Position is FT with benefits. BA in human services or related field preferred. Equitable experience will be considered. Rise is an equal opportunity employer where we celebrate diversity and are committed to inclusion. Visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for complete job description. Email resume to carmen@riseaboveviolence.org.

HELP WANTED

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.

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HILLSIDE INN IS LOOKING for a team player to join our housekeeping staff. Housekeeper responsibilities include (but not limited to): performing a variety of cleaning activities (bathrooms, rooms, hallways), make beds, ensure all rooms are cared for and inspected according to standards, etc. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays. Please send your resume to hillsideinnpagosa@gmail.com or stop by the hotel to pick up an application.

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.

THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Probation Department is accepting applications for a **Full-time Probation Officer** at the Pagosa Springs location. Application period ends on 1/15/2021. For job description and application submission, please go to the state's website at www.courts.state.co.us.

SNOW REMOVAL FOR THE LIBRARY. Pick up RFP at Library or visit pagosalibrary.org. Due by January 5, 2021. (970)264-2209.

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MECHANIC NEEDED. Archuleta County Public Works is accepting applications for a full-time Mechanic. These are full-time positions with excellent benefits. For job description and wage details, visit www.archuletacounty.org, submit application and resume to HR, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or fax (970)264-1879 or email rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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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.

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.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

LIVE IN CARETAKERS. Looking for two energetic live-in people to maintain large home in Pagosa Springs. Must have maintenance, handyman, cleaning and cooking skills with attention to detail and a positive, can-do-attitude. Email resume to jenny@keyhagrande.com.

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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.

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COMMERCIAL RENTALS

DOUBLE OFFICE SUITE LOCATED downtown on Main Street. Available January 1, 2021. \$530 per month includes utilities, taxes. Call Jacque at (970)264-4237.

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