



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 112 — NO. 13, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019



Breakfast with Santa

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Youngsters meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus to explain what they want for Christmas at the Dec. 14 Breakfast with Santa. The annual event featured a full breakfast, crafts, games, face painting for the kids, Christmas songs from high school musicians and a picture with Santa. The Pagosa Springs High School music department hosted the event with all proceeds going toward the music department's events in the spring, including the Music in the Parks competition.



Pagosa Springs Medical Center on track to meet bond requirement

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) looks to be on track to have the required number of days of cash on hand by the end of 2019.

PSMC is required to have 60 days of cash on hand by the end of the year, but its stated goal is to have 70.

Per bond covenants for a 2006/2007 bond, the Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD)

must have at least 60 days cash on hand at the end of the year.

A report on days cash on hand at the end of each year since 2008 shows that PSMC ended 2018 with 52.48 days cash on hand.

Because of that, PSMC was required to engage a financial consultant to create a plan to increase the organization's cash on hand by the end of 2019.

■ See Bond A8

Metro district seeks court judgment regarding Bristlecone Drive dispute

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The Timber Ridge Metro District will ask a judge to determine whether a disputed 1,400-foot section of Bristlecone Drive should be open to the public or not.

County Attorney Todd Weaver explained in June why he thought Bristlecone Drive should be open to the public.

Weaver stated that the developer of Timber Ridge completed a record-

ed easement that "basically said" they are dedicating an easement on all of Bristlecone Drive to the general public until a plat has been recorded.

"A plat has never been done," Weaver said. "So under the law, in my viewpoint, that easement is still in effect and therefore the public has the right of ingress and egress over that section of Bristlecone Drive."

Timber Ridge Homeowners Association (HOA) president Bob

■ See Bristlecone A8

Commissioners oppose wolf reintroduction

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

At its meeting on Dec. 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution publicly opposing the reintroduction of wolves to Colorado.

"The Board supports the Colorado Wildlife Commission's January 1982, September 1989, and January 13, 2016 resolutions opposing wolf reintroductions," the county's resolution reads.

"As we grow as a society and our human populations get bigger,

wolves generally really don't have a place in a lot of our metropolitan areas or in our rural areas where farming and ranching happen," said Commissioner Ron Maez. "I think we have enough wolves where they're at and I think we'll do fine the way we're standing right now."

"It's not fair to the wolves, it's not fair to the wildlife that's already here," said Commissioner Alvin SchAAF. "They haven't had to put up with this kind of predation in 90

■ See Wolf A8

Local basins' snowpack over 120 percent of median

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

This week, a slight drop was reported in local basin's collective snowpack total, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

As of Dec. 18, the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins sat at 124 percent of median; last week those basins were 125 percent of median.

Last week, the Upper San Juan site did not have a snowpack total

due to missing data, but this week that site's snowpack total is 124 percent of median.

The Wolf Creek summit is 97 percent of median this week, according to the NRCS; last week it was 88 percent of median.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the forecast is partially cloudy and sunny through Sunday for Pagosa Springs.

For Wolf Creek Pass, the NWS indicates mostly sunny skies as

■ See Snowpack A8

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Opinion

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12/12	38	8	-	-	-
12/13	42	20	S	4"	0.2"
12/14	37	24	S	1.9"	.15"
12/15	34	22	S	1.0"	.12"
12/16	25	8	S	3.7"	.44"

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EDITORIAL

Christmas wishes from our community leaders

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

No matter what your religious beliefs are, this is a time for family and friends, giving, fellowship and kindness toward your fellow man.

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

Greg Schulte, board chair for the Upper San Juan Health Service District, the body that oversees and stewards Pagosa Springs Medical Center, shared his wish: "On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of Pagosa Springs Medical Center, we wish our community good health as well as peace and joy in spirit! Have a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to serving you in 2020!"

"Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2020" is Pagosa Fire Protection District Board President John Thompson's short and simple Christmas wish for our community.

Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger shared: "My wish and my prayer, is that the hearts of those in our community

be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, self-control, and an abundance of hope. As 'Tiny Tim' said, God bless us everyone."

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners Chair Ron Maez added, "Wishing all the people of Archuleta County a very blessed Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year."

County Commissioner Steve Wadley wrote, "I want to wish everyone in our community nothing but the best in 2020. I hope Santa will bring the commissioners a new Court house."

County Commissioner Alvin SchAAF added, "I would like to wish the citizens of Archuleta County a Very Merry Christmas, and may your New Year be filled with countless blessings."

Jim Smith, board chair of Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), shared his wish: "As chair of the PAWSD, I want to wish our customers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Some of our employees will be working throughout the holidays to make sure your water and sanitation needs are met. Our Board works hard

to keep customer rates at the lowest possible level. In fact, in other communities, rates are twice or more than [PAWSD]. Yes, Santa is alive and well."

Archuleta School District Board of Education President Brooks Lindner shared, "My positive Christmas wish is that all of our educators and students have a restful and fun Christmas break filled with peace and love."

Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Board Chair Connie Cook wrote, "My Christmas wish for Pagosa Country is that everyone has a safe, healthy, fun holiday season and that we all spread as much kindness around as possible. The holiday season can be difficult, and small acts of kindness and caring can have tremendous positive impacts."

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

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

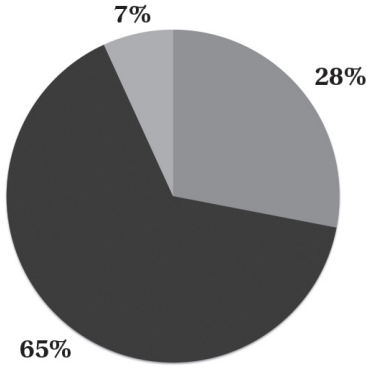
Terri Lynn Oldham House

WHADDYA THINK?

Are area roads in good shape for the winter?

Poll results (108 votes)

As long as they are plowed, I am happy — 28 percent
No, they are in poor shape. — 65 percent
Yes, they have been well prepared. — 7 percent



Vote this week online:
What will the local economy do in 2020?

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Archuleta County Commissioners
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LOOKING BACK



From the Dec. 11, 1980, Pagosa Springs SUN. **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS —** REA lineman Tacket and Street Commissioner Mencor Valdez were busy last week during a snow storm putting up Christmas decorations and lights on the light poles in Pagosa Springs. All lights are now up and add to the holiday appearance of the town.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 20, 1929

On Monday, Dec. 16th, a count was made of the cars traveling over Wolf Creek Pass highway, the number being 24. Unless the snow storm, which set in this evening, amounts to heavy proportions, there is no reason to believe that there will be any appreciable decrease in the traffic over the pass for some days to come. An effort will be made to remove all early snows by means of a Wisconsin snow plow.

It is possible that convicts of the state penitentiary at Canon City will next season be utilized in the construction work to be done on Wolf Creek pass, according to Governor Wm. H. Adams.

Manuel Sandoval has moved for a time to the Junction, where he is employed at railroad blasting. His family did not move.

Elmeron Potter and Clarence McCoy are loading tires at Juanita station and maintaining "bachelor" headquarters in a car on the track.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 22, 1944

Homer Kingsley, who operates the New Light and Power coal truck, between Pagosa Springs and Durango, had the misfortune to hit and kill a 3-point buck deer on the Devil Mountain hill near Chimney Rock Wednesday morning, while enroute to Durango. The carcass was turned over to the State Game Dept., and Mr. Kingsley is still meatless.

Proceeds from last Saturday night's dance for the benefit of the new Catholic Church totalled more than \$150 at Tuesday's count.

Naomi Belarde, Margaret Archuleta and Liliosa Gomez, St. Scholastica Academy students, are expected home Friday from Canyon City, for the Christmas holidays. Naomi's brother, Lionel, will meet her and Margaret in Monte Vista. Liliosa planned to go on to Gato on the train to holiday with her parents, Mrs. and Mrs. J. Felix Gomez.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 18, 1969

Light snow at Wolf Creek Pass ski area last weekend made for excellent skiing and this is expected to continue. The ski area will be open daily, starting this Saturday, December 20. Skiing at Wolf Creek Pass this year has consistently been the best possible. There is a base of 51 inches and new snow, although light, each week has kept the area in good skiing condition.

A visit from Santa Claus, a sack of candy, a free movie, and a good time is in store for the children of the community this Saturday, December 20. The occasion is a free Christmas party for all young people. The event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The party will be held in the high school gym and starts promptly at 2 p.m. Pagosa Springs merchants will have special bargains for that day. Local merchants have what is probably the largest stock of Christmas merchandise ever to be available in Pagosa Springs. Parents can have this opportunity to shop while children are at the movie and party.

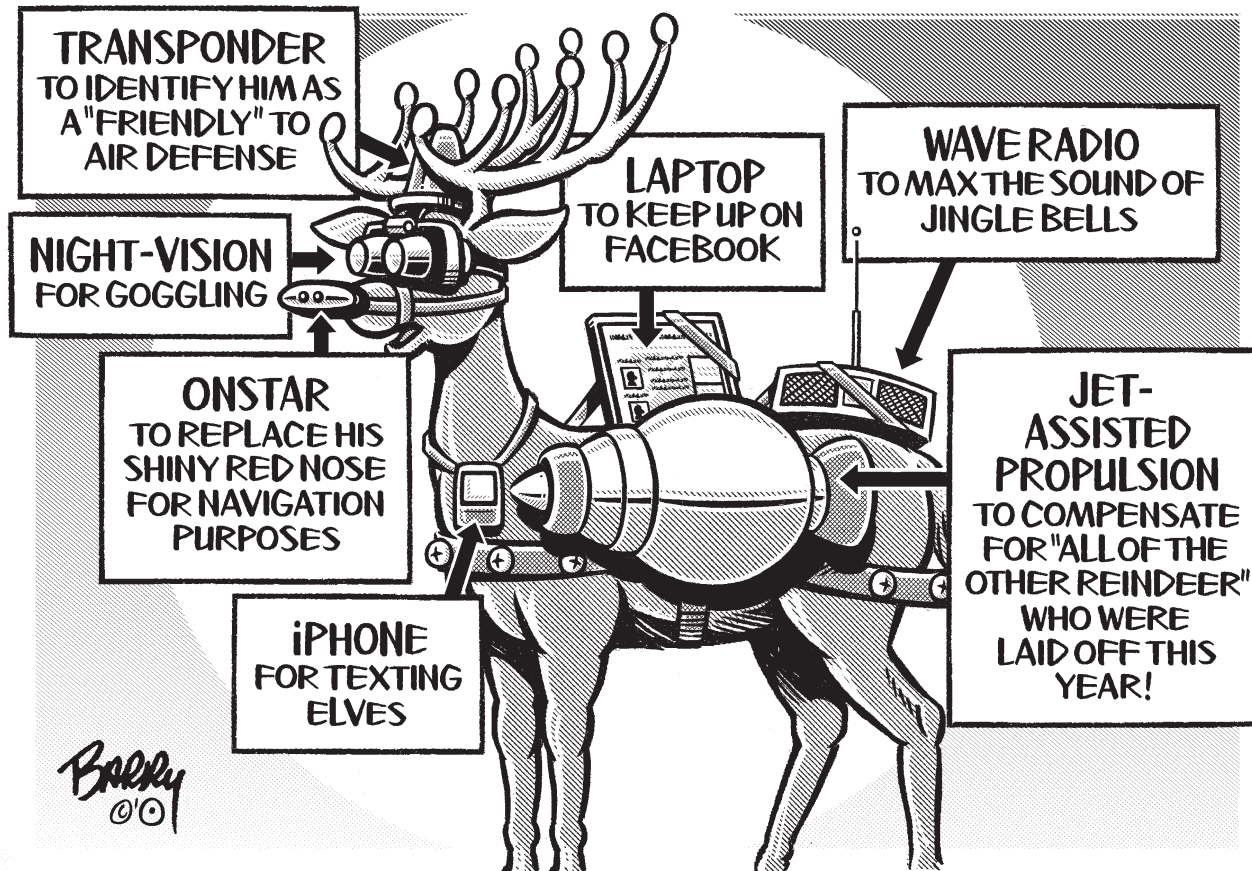
25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 22, 1994

Commissioners Roger Candelaria, Bob Formwalt and Bill Tallon adopted a \$6 million budget for Archuleta county for 1995. The 1995 budget is the third in as many years that reflects the county's efforts at creating an annual balanced budget that is free from spending reserve funds. Planned budgeting of reserve funds was intentionally introduced in 1993 to reduce the county's then large capital reserves and lower the county mill levy. The 1995 budget, which uses \$245,000 of reserves as a revenue source, will be the last to willingly draw from the capital reserve fund. It leaves the county with an estimated \$2.33 million of capital reserves at the end of 1995. The 1995 budget includes \$533,500 that will be used to complete debt service obligations on construction of the commissioners administrative offices, courtrooms, county jail and sheriff department offices at the courthouse.

The spirit of Christmas is very much alive in Pagosa. Over the last month, there has been much giving, sharing and caring. Churches, businesses, special groups and individual volunteers have donated and/or collected massive amounts of food and a variety of Christmas gifts for the needy in our community. This exemplifies the spirit of Christmas.

UPGRADES FOR RUDOLPH THIS CHRISTMAS:



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.

'Of Wolves and Men'

Dear Editor:
Stare at a wolf and he will stare right back at you or run for his life. There's something about these animals that unnerves us. There has been a tumultuous relationship between us for a long time. Read Barry Lopez's book which is the title of this letter and let go of the Red Riding Hood myths. Wolves represent everything that is wild. Their intelligence, love of family, grit and just plain ferocity cause us to worship them as a spirit or demonize them based on our backgrounds. Having studied wolves in Yellowstone and as a biologist I find it interesting to look at the reintroduction of this mammal into the Colorado wilderness and to read our county commissioners and district wildlife managers discussion about such.
Wolves don't go after humans. For that matter they don't want to be anywhere near humans. The South San Juan and Weminuche Wilderness area are the best location to reintroduce them in our state because of the size and the remote location from major population areas. I would estimate this

area could only support 2 packs or families of wolves. City folks want to see this initiative happen because they idealize the wild of the wolf and miss that in many of their own lives. Local ranchers and wildlife managers really don't want to see wolves in our area because managing the wolf makes their jobs harder. Wolves are an apex predator that feeds mostly on elk and other large mammals. In the process they help to rebalance our forest. The elk populations will drop and the elk will be harder to hunt. Elk are the bread and butter industry of many folks who live here so no wonder hunters don't want them. One thing to mention, wolves don't go after livestock as a preference. They have been known to take down multiple sheep in a kill but very few of them will kill just to kill. I can see why our district manager doesn't want to take a stand. It is like being between a rock and a hard place. Some of the other comments the commissioners made I simply don't understand. Especially the one about moose populations. Another thing, I do believe there is still a wolf population in Minnesota especially in the northern section of the state.

There is one wildcard here our commissioners would want to consider. It called Chronic Wasting Disease CWD and its taking out many deer and elk in the present and spreading. There also is the possibly it could morph and jump the species barrier and get into humans. Biologist believe the most effective way to control it is to restore native predators who will eliminate the sick animals. Our hunting system now will do little to control the disease since the focus is not sick animals but trophy or healthy animals. My hope is that our commissioners will take a more careful look at the reintroduction of wolves and weight the decision as to what to do based on good science. If the management of the animals is not adequate I cannot support the idea. However, if there is good management it might worthy of support because it will help both the hunters and an animal that symbolizes true wildness. A win win proposition. Thank you

Bob LeCour

Give radically

Dear Editor:
As we are now in the season of giving, I am hoping that we Give Radically to the poor, radically and as never before.

Let's do it because we are rich, Radically Rich. The richest culture in all of history.
Rich? Are we rich? Anyone making \$32,400 a year or more is richer than 99% of the rest of the planet. (investopedia.com) By that standard, America is Radically Rich. It would be nice to believe that as Radically Rich folks we, naturally, Give Radically to the poor, more than ever. The statistics do not

agree.

In the Great Recession, when needs increased all around us, those making more than \$200,000 per year gave less; those making \$100,000 or less gave more. (theatlantic.com) It almost always happens. As we get richer we give less percentage of our incomes. And less of what we do give is to the poor. (foxbusiness.com) I'm guilty. Somehow as I got rich — by global standards — I was giving less. In my best year only 1.5%.

"Jeffrey Sachs, as one of the world's leading experts on economic development and the fight against poverty, stated that the cost to end poverty is \$175 billion per year for 20 years. This yearly amount is less than 1% of the combined income of the richest countries in the world, ..." (borgen.org)

In 2018, Americans spent a combined \$345.9 billion dollars on golf (forbes.com), sporting events, athletic equipment, gym memberships (cnbc.com), and alcohol sales. (americancraftbeer.com) I'm guilty, I spent plenty on all those things.

Henrietta H. Fore UNICEF Executive Director reminds us, "... whenever we fail to seize an opportunity ... to invest in the well-being and fundamental rights of children and young people in need and at

risk, the opportunity cost is too high to bear. It is tallied ... in promising lives tragically cut short. In vibrant bodies and minds diminished. In families, communities and nations undermined." (unicef.org)

Are we going to disband our military, quit golf, quit sports, quit the gym, quit drinking? Probably not. But we could all do all of it less (especially the war part) and give more. Give Radically.

One of the most famous of the Radically Rich was advised: "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." He had done every other good he could think of. The story tells us he didn't sell all, but I'd like to think he went and gave more than he had ever given before.

Note that he was not commanded to solve poverty. Or pretend that it was solvable. He was told to simply give. To help.

My hope is that all of us — church/synagogue/temple goers or not — pray on the 'opportunity costs,' and then let's just do it. Let's give to the poor. A lot. Give Radically, this year and next year and the next.

Selah,
Wayne Shel Drake
South Fork

County planning commission tweaks bylaws

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Planning Commission revised its bylaws at its regular meeting on Dec. 11.

Development Services Director Brad Callender noted some "technical changes" he recommended the planning commission adopt at the meeting.

"I'm kind of anal about this," Callender said. "I've taken all the Colorado Revised Statute references, they were two ways, they were backwards and forwards, so I made it all exactly the same just to be consistent throughout."

Callender also suggested cleaning up some language, pointing out the previous version of the bylaws read, "You most not interrupt," and

he changed it to "must."

Callender explained that, long term, the county's land use regulations need to be "cleaned up," but did not discuss that in detail.

Callender also reported that the county's planning commission was invited to a planning refresher workshop and training on Jan. 14, 2020.

Hooton and Callender, who have attended these in the past, explained they are incredibly beneficial, especially for newly minted planning commissioners like Luke McCauley and Jon Carey, who began their tenures last month.

The next regular meeting of the planning commission is slated for Jan. 22, 2020, at 6 p.m. at the county administration building at 398 Lewis St.

john@pagosasun.com

Letters
The SUN welcomes letters from readers.
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be signed by the author, unless emailed
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Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.
If necessary, only one letter in support of a political candidate or issue will be printed each edition.
Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.
There is no guarantee letters will be published.
The SUN reserves the right to edit letters.

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Business

Community Development Corporation approves agreement with Chamber of Commerce

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Following a special meeting on Dec. 12, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

During the special meeting, CDC Board President Jodi Scarpa explained that not signing the MOU would cause “heartache” for the Chamber.

“I think it would be the right thing to do. It’s just my opinion, to sign the MOU pending town and county funding to go forward. And then at the point, if we decide we want to change anything, then we can address the issue at that point,” Scarpa said.

The CDC has not decided to do anything else in regard to the MOU, Scarpa noted.

CDC Administrator Mary Jo Coulehan, who also serves as the executive director for the Chamber, explained that the CDC has a “30-day out in the clause.”

“If we did a month-to-month, if you canceled on the end of the month, on Jan. 29, I would be really hard pressed to accept a cancellation without a 30-day clause, even in a month-to-month,” Coulehan said. “It’s been in there forever. You’ve got a 30-day cancellation clause, and so, if you change the scope of work or you change anything in there, it’s 30 days. It’s basically a month-to-month contract as you’re looking at it now.”

CDC board member Jim Garrett commented that one would not want, in good faith, to alter a contractual relationship without “reasonable notice.”

“And I think that 30 days is reasonable notice under these particular circumstances,” Garrett said.

Garrett later made a motion to approve the MOU with the Chamber as written, including the 30-day cancellation clause.

The motion was approved unanimously by the CDC board.

Partnership

In a follow-up interview on Dec.

16, Coulehan further detailed the duties of the Chamber with the CDC as stated in the MOU.

Some of the many duties handled by the Chamber for the CDC encompass things on the administrative and financial sides of things, according to Coulehan.

“We file all of the regular financial audits, everything like that. We manage the website, we manage their press releases,” Coulehan said.

The Chamber also manages the CDC’s meeting preparation and follow-up, Coulehan added.

However, the Chamber has not been actively charged to solicit membership for the CDC, Coulehan noted.

Along with the CDC board, the Chamber put a request for proposal together regarding the ongoing broadband project, she noted.

The CDC pays the Chamber \$3,500 a month for all these duties for a total not to exceed \$42,000 a year, she added later.

“I think it works really well,” Coulehan said of the CDC’s

and Chamber’s partnership.

Economic development issues that affect a community can also affect the local Chamber and businesses, Coulehan noted.

The MOU is a document that is approved yearly by the CDC board, Coulehan added later.

“I think it’s just a real beneficial relationship. It just works well for both of them,” she said. “I think it eliminates some duplication of effort, actually.”

In an email to The SUN, Scarpa characterized the partnership between the CDC and the Chamber as being “collaborative.”

Both organizations leverage commonalities in order to maximize scopes and budgets, Scarpa wrote.

“The accomplishments of the CDC in the past several years are due to this strong symbiotic relationship. I am proud of the work the PSCDC has accomplished with the Chamber’s and Mary Jo Coulehan’s support,” Scarpa wrote.

chris@pagosajournal.com

Pagosa Springs recognized as leading national opportunity zone community

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Special to The SUN

Pagosa Springs has earned national recognition as one of the top 20 communities and Opportunity Zone funds committed to achieving equitable economic growth in underserved and overlooked communities as identified by The Forbes OZ 20: Top Opportunity Zone Catalysts, a partnership between the Sorenson Impact Center and Forbes Magazine.

Both the state and town were recognized for their applications demonstrating commitment to equitable economic opportunity zone stewardship.

Jim Sorenson, founder of the Sorenson Impact Center, said, “We received 113 applications to the Forbes OZ 20, with 62 Funds and 51 communities testing their OZ strategies through a rigorous selection process. The quality and standard of applications was excellent with communities and OZ funds showing a clear commitment to social impact. We are excited to share learnings from the Forbes OZ 20 to help other community organizations and OZ funds deliver real and meaningful change in the communities they support.”

The purpose of this new list is to showcase how large and small investors, as well as rural and urban communities, are pioneering dynamic, equity-minded approaches to the revitalization of distressed communities.

The invitation to apply came from Heather Otter, Region 9 Economic Development project manager. She also mentored and was closely involved in the development of Pagosa’s community prospectus.

Mary Jo Coulehan, Chamber executive director and administrator for the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC), submitted the application and community prospectus to the Sorenson Impact Center on behalf of the CDC.

“It was an intense application process and I knew we would be competing against some really large cities. However, I was so proud of the work that the Pagosa Springs Opportunity Zone work group did, the process and the final product, that I decided to go for it,” Coulehan said.

“A lot of work, brainstorming, gathering of data and design went into creating the community prospectus. Community individuals, the town and county, as well as organizations such as Pagosa Housing Partners contributed immensely. However, creating the prospectus is just a first step,” Coulehan said. “The next step is to get in front of investors and create an interest for them to develop projects that work with our community and can help with our needs such as housing or bringing in light manufacturing creating year-round, steady jobs. This invitation was a way for us to get Pagosa in front of investors who may not know we even exist.”

She added, “I’m honored to be considered for this recognition alongside the cities of Montrose and Colorado Springs who I think are doing a fantastic job with development and OZ interest. I also applaud the Forbes OZ 20 for recognizing Colorado and a large, mid-size and small rural community within the state. We’re all at different stages and there’s no one right way; we all can learn something.”

More than 8,700 opportunity zones were designated as part of the

2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. These zones were selected in collaboration with state and federal leaders to drive investment into distressed, underserved or overlooked communities. The incentive offers deferments and savings on capital gains when investors deploy funds in opportunity zone projects.

To find out more about Opportunity Zone projects or the community prospectus, contact Coulehan at director@pagosachamber.com or 264-2360.

Christmas Worship

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Sunday, Dec. 29 — Regular Services

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Luke 2:10-11


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Weiler proposes campaign for Community Development Corporation

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Local citizen Mark Weiler made a presentation to the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) board on Dec. 4 about a proposed effort to garner more exposure and membership for the organization.

Weiler explained that his proposal, which had four businesses that agreed to do it, would be to conduct marketing on why both the CDC and the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce are important to be a part of.

The suggestion would be to fund weekly ad placements of local business owners and their respective businesses to tell their story, Weiler noted.

"Now, you need to have somebody who knows how to do this," he said, "has the telephone numbers to call anybody and the courage, fearlessness to actually do that."

According to Weiler, there will be an ad campaign and a writing campaign titled "Positive About Pagosa."

"It will accomplish three things: here are people who have done it, these are the people who they associated with to do it and here's who you can call who is, what I refer to as a dot connector, that's me," Weiler said.

There is currently "pent-up demand," Weiler noted.

"I have deemed myself the economic ambassador of Pagosa Springs. I will take this project as the focal point for people who want help to develop their business, get loans, whatever it is that they want," he said.

To have ad space every week for 52 weeks in a three-column format

would cost \$13,500 and for a four-column format would cost \$17,160, he described.

There are more than 700 businesses in Pagosa Springs, Weiler commented, adding that a small percentage of them are actually members of the CDC or Chamber.

"Why? Because they see no value. They see no return on their investment. Well, we're going to show them return on their investment," he said.

Weiler added that the businesses featured in the ads would not have to just be CDC members.

To make this project work, about \$25,000-\$30,000 would be needed, Weiler explained.

In addition to the print ads, videos would be made as well, Weiler noted.

Later in the meeting, Region 9 Economic Development District Executive Director Laura Lewis Marchino raised the question on how the ad campaign and Weiler as the ambassador would fit together.

"Because if the CDC or the Chamber is sponsoring it, I would think they should be the contacts versus you," she said.

This campaign will raise awareness to the CDC and the Chamber, Weiler explained, adding that he would be happy if another suggestion was raised about someone who was local who could lead the campaign.

"I've been a member of the CDC for, on and off, for a number of years and, functionally, it's been ineffective in sharing its message and creating its brand, the value of what it produces," he said.

According to Weiler, he would work with both the CDC and Chamber in this role by being in contact with CDC Administrator

Mary Jo Coulehan and CDC Board President Jodi Scarpa and keep them up to date.

First Southwest Bank Chief Development Officer Sherry Waner explained that the CDC has had problems in the past about marketing and raising awareness.

Waner explained that Weiler had identified a deficiency in the CDC and has also offered to be a champion for the CDC.

"I love the idea. We need to do better on all these things," Scarpa said, raising another question on how the CDC would fund this effort.

Later, Weiler explained that this ad campaign must be done every week.

"The point is, do you believe enough in your mission? Do you believe enough in your vision? Do you think you can have a positive impact of helping to grow businesses here?" Weiler asked. "Let your light shine."

Direction?

Lewis-Marchino added later that the CDC board would need a memorandum of understanding with a scope of work included, as well as the price.

"I'm going to do this for free for a year," Weiler said. "I'm going to take this as a personal challenge to change the trajectory of the perception of value of the Chamber of Commerce and the CDC in our community."

Despite the fact that Weiler is a strong choice for the position, CDC board member Ron Maez noted that the board needs to allow other people to apply for the position if the board chooses to move forward

in that direction.

"What it is, is basically an appointment by this board, this committee, that we are validating," Maez said. "Whether they do it for free or monetary reasons, that's their choice or their prerogative. Monetary, I think we can't afford it. That's the bottom line about it."

The CDC board should, if they choose to, open up the position to someone who could potentially be better suited for the position than Weiler, Maez explained.

"The thing is we don't need to make this and just appoint Mark just straight out without allowing anybody else in the public to throw out their skills, if they so choose to for free," Maez said.

Following more discussion, Weiler explained he would fund 50 percent of the project cost.

"If somebody came into my business and wanted to promote my business and put up half the money to do it and I knew they were pretty good at it, it wouldn't even be a question of if I'm going to move forward," CDC Vice President Chris Smith said.

Weiler suggested that the CDC board have a work session to discuss the proposal so that the ad campaign can begin in January.

"We've got a lot of good stuff to talk about, but none of that creates business wealth in our community. It is the result of business wealth in our community, but none of those things create business wealth here," he said. "This can."

Following more discussion, Weiler explained that if the CDC agrees to the ad campaign, he would write a check for his portion of the campaign.

"I believe all of you want to have businesses be successful in our community," he said. "But you are artificially strained by your history."

Later, Weiler noted that his offer is on the table until Feb. 1, 2020.

"If you don't have action by Feb. 1, then my deepest, darkest fears will be realized," Weiler said.

Later in the meeting, the CDC board scheduled a work session for Jan. 14, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Visiting Angels conference room to discuss Weiler's proposal, among other things.

chris@pagosasun.com

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Secretary of state alerts businesses of misleading filing solicitations

Special to The SUN

The Colorado secretary of state's office is again alerting small business owners about potentially misleading notices requesting an extra fee from a third party to file business documents.

In recent days, the secretary of state's office has received numerous reports of third parties sending deceptive and misleading solicitations to Colorado businesses. The Colorado secretary of state maintains an easy-to-use online filing system for businesses and use of a third party to complete filings is not required.

"As the year comes to a close, our office has seen an increase in third parties trying to gain profit off of misleading and unnecessary solicitations to business owners," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "The Colorado Secretary of State's office takes pride in having an easy-to-use and affordable business filing system, which is why we are alerting business owners about these dubious solicitations."

The newest versions of these solicitations offer to obtain a "Certificate of Good Standing" or a "Certificate of Existence" from the secretary of state's office for a fee. Any business can currently download these certificates for free from the secretary of state website.

Other misleading solicitations may:

- Appear similar to a government form.
- Cite specific Colorado statutes.
- Contain your business entity's actual business ID number and date of formation, as reflected in the secretary of state's business records.
- Contain a "Customer ID Number" that does not match a number given to you by a state or federal agency.
- A warning to make sure that the form's instructions are followed exactly when completing the form.
- Require a fee.

• Contain a due date for your response.

• Offer to file a "Statement Curing Delinquency" or "Periodic Report."

Please be advised that the Colorado secretary of state's office does not send these solicitations. The secretary of state's office does not mail out business filing forms, and compliance with these notices is not required.

All business filings are filed online on our website. Business owners can find instructions to easily and directly file business forms on the secretary of state's website under the Business Organizations heading.



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Urban Renewal Authority

Town council to discuss Urban Renewal Authority governing structure

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

After hearing concerns from multiple special districts, the Pagosa Springs Town Council is slated to discuss the organizational structure of the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) at its meeting this evening.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

The town council approved forming the URA with a 4-3 vote on Nov. 5, with that resolution outlining that the 11-member URA commission will consist of the seven town council members, an elected member of the school board, one person appointed by the county commissioners and one person collectively appointed by the taxing districts that levy taxes within the URA boundaries.

Those taxing districts set to collectively appoint one person include The Upper San Juan Library District, San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD), Pagosa

Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), Pagosa Fire Protection District, Upper San Juan Health Service District, Southwestern Water Conservation District and Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID).

The town council constitutes the PSSGID board, so that board does not factor into the decision on the special district representative.

The county appointed Assessor Natalie Woodruff to the commission as its representative.

"On Nov. 25, the Town convened a work session with representatives from the various special districts to help facilitate the discussion on their seat," an agenda brief written by Town Manager Andrea Phillips for tonight's meeting explains.

The agenda brief further outlines that state statute does not provide a process for making the special district selection.

"Some attendees expressed concern about representation on the Commission and would like

Council to consider an alternate structure of governance. CRS provides for a 13-member independent commission (see summary attached). Although not typical, there are some cities that have this structure such as Denver Urban Renewal Authority and Arvada," the agenda brief states.

That Nov. 25 work session ended with direction for each special district to discuss and put forward to Phillips, if they chose, a potential appointee from their board.

Some district representatives suggested at the November work session that their boards may want to put forward a position about the URA's governing structure.

Following that meeting, the brief explains, the town received a letter from SJWCD president/chair John Porco asking the town council to "go back to the drawing board" and look again at the distribution of seats on the URA commission.

For more on that district and its URA-related letter, see related

article.

Too, the brief states that PAWSD intended to submit a letter to the town "requesting that they have a meeting to discuss more representation on the Commission."

For information on PAWSD and the URA, see related article.

So, this evening, the council is anticipated to discuss that feedback and provide direction to staff on the direction it wants to take.

"At this time, staff would like Council to discuss the issue of the URA governance structure and to direct staff on whether it would like to see a reconsideration at a future meeting," the agenda brief states.

"Per Bob Cole, the Town Council may be able to do an amendment to the organizing resolution since no projects have been determined, no meetings of the URA have been held, no [tax-increment financing] or other financing has been set up, and the URA formation certificate has not been filed with the state."

randi@pagosasun.com

Water district endorses Ford for URA board

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

In an effort to increase local participation and to keep the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) board abreast of the happenings of the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) commission, SWCD board member JR Ford requested to be nominated by the district to be considered for a seat on the commission.

During the SWCD board's regular meeting on Dec. 5, Ford explained to the rest of the board the history of the URA and a proposed project regarding the 27-acres of vacant land located in downtown Pagosa Springs adjacent to The Springs Resort and Spa.

"Our town has decided to go forward with that. I just thought it was important, because in the meetings

we're hearing that La Plata County is looking at doing something, I think Montezuma County has a project in mind," Ford said. "So as these towns decide to do this a lot of them, like in our case, are not going to backtrack on the taxes near as much as some of these special districts."

Ford explained later that the town will have control over negotiating a final settlement of any project.

"What I need is something from our board, is may I sit and put my name in for Archuleta County to be able to be one of the appointments so that we can at least have a say in how this is going to go?" Ford asked.

The other reason why Ford would like a seat on the URA commission is so that he could inform the other board members of the SWCD, who are from various communities in

southwest Colorado, on the process behind these projects should they come up in their own respective communities, he explained.

"I think we need to have somebody at the table and I'd like to be able to put my name in Pagosa Springs to be the rep from the special districts, but I would need you guys to allow me to do that," he said.

Ford explained that he is leading some of the smaller special districts within Pagosa Springs to "push back" and reconfigure how the representation on the URA commission is constructed.

"Just so that there is a broader representation of those special districts," he explained.

SWCD Board President Bob Wolff noted that he appreciated Ford's level of detail that he provided to the SWCD board and added

that he thought Ford was, "Perfect to represent the special districts."

Wolff later recommended that SWCD staff write a letter of support for Ford that he would sign.

The SWCD board made a formal motion to have Wolff craft a letter of support for Ford being appointed to the URA board to represent the special districts.

The letter, signed by SWCD Executive Director Frank Kugel, addresses Phillips and describes Ford as being an "excellent representative" for the URA commission.

"The Board would also like to take this opportunity to encourage the Town of Pagosa Springs to add additional positions for special districts to the URA board, given the specific fiscal impacts the formation of the URA may have on those districts," the letter states.

chris@pagosasun.com

Medical center board recommends Schulte for URA appointment

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Like several other special districts that levy taxes within the Town of Pagosa Springs, the Upper San Juan Health Service District's (USJHSD) board of directors discussed the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) at its most recent meeting.

At the end of the board's discussion on Tuesday evening, it opted to put forward board chair Greg Schulte to serve as a special district representative on the URA's governing commission.

Schulte began the meeting by explaining to his fellow board members that the town hosted a work session on Nov. 25 for the special districts to help determine who would fill the URA's special district seat, which Schulte attended as the USJHSD's representative.

That discussion, he relayed, focused on how to determine one representative and that the town council should consider providing more seats on the URA commission for special district representation.

"I found out later, thanks to Ann, that state statute provides for these authorities to have up to 13 seats and I was reading the town council packet today and it's on the agenda this Thursday for the town council to consider whether they will augment that to 13 seats instead of 11," Schulte said, referring to Ann Bruzzese, the board's legal counsel.

Schulte further explained that

the mayoral appointee could be set aside for another special district representative.

"In theory, there could be, perhaps, at least four seats for special districts, but we don't know that yet," Schulte said, acknowledging the town council could opt to stay with its original URA construction or could expand it. "So, we'll see what the town council decides to do."

Schulte explained that he thinks some districts have a higher stake in the URA than others, with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District and Pagosa Fire Protection District being larger from a mill levy standpoint than the USJHSD's 3.7 mills, but that the USJHSD is the largest employer and "arguably a very large economic driver in this community."

"So, if they expand it to more seats, there's a chance that we could have a dedicated spot for the hospital district," Schulte said. "I would say that is yet to be determined. I have learned a long time ago not to try to guess what a council will do, so we'll kind of see how that goes."

Schulte and Bruzzese then explained that Schulte had sent a one-way, informational email to the board expressing his interest in being the USJHSD's potential URA board member and asking anyone else interested in serving in that capacity to contact Board Clerk Heather Thomas, with no one else expressing interest to Thomas.

Schulte explained that he be-

lieves his background makes him well-qualified to serve in the role, but that he would be happy to step aside if someone else wanted the role.

Board member Karen Daniels asked if the town council's appointment to the board was automatic and what would happen if a town council member didn't want to serve on the URA board, with Schulte suggesting that, as it is set up now, it is a duty assigned to them as town council members.

Board member Jason Cox further explained that he has spoken with the town's attorney and learned that, since the URA's boundary is the same as the town's, they serve on the authority, whose job is to administer that special district.

He added that it is not about a specific project at the current time, but is about staffing the URA board.

He added that if no projects come forward, the board could have little to do.

"Or it could have a lot," Bruzzese added.

Bruzzese explained that statute is very specific about who serves on URA boards and that all the special districts will agree on a board member.

"As if that's simple, and there's no solution for that. And there are differing interests for special districts," she added, acknowledging the role could be challenging for that person, with statute not explaining how an agreement is made with other special districts.

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JANUARY 16, 2020

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The following changes will be implemented in 2020:

WATER CHARGES	Monthly Service Charge: (per equivalent unit)	increase from \$24.91 to \$26.40
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	8,001-20,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$8.94 to \$9.48
	Over 20,001 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$11.23 to \$11.90
Water Fill Station Charge per 1,000 gallons:		increase from \$9.65 to \$10.23
Water Availability of Service		remains at \$14.30
Wastewater Availability of Service		remains at \$12.50

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WASTEWATER CHARGES
The changes to wastewater service charges include a 2.5% annual rate increase beginning in 2024 and ending in 2027. These increases will equate to a 10.38% cumulative increase over the 4 year period.

The Water and Wastewater Rate Study can be found at <http://www.pawsd.org>

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Tim Brown CONSTRUCTION

SJWCD board asks town to consider 'fairer distribution' of URA seats

By John Finebrock
Staff Writer

In a Dec. 10 letter, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors asked Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger to "ask the Town to consider a fairer distribution of seats on the URA (Urban Renewal Authority) Board" for special districts.

The letter reads, "...the Town's tax revenue commitment would be very small compared to the other taxing districts. The school district would have the greatest share of funding, so it is appropriate that they have their own representative on the URA Board. However, the other six taxing districts would also have a much larger collective share of the financing than the Town. Thus, we conclude that those Districts should have a larger share of the seats on the URA Board.

"It is our impression that most of the Special Districts represented at the November 25 work session agree with this conclusion ..., we request that the Town Council expeditiously go back to the drawing board' and reexamine the distribution of seats on the URA Board, perhaps considering a 13-member Board," the letter continues.

The letter was signed by SJWCD board chair and president John Porco.

At its meeting on Dec. 4, the SJWCD board voted to authorize Porco to send the letter.

Additionally, the board voted to put forward Porco as a nominee to the URA commission.

Board member Bill Hudson offered another option for the board to consider.

"PAWSD is proposing, as I understand it, that the special districts come together, hire an attorney to advise us on what our rights are and

how we might proceed," Hudson said, adding, "I think we need to decide also tonight, are we interested in participating with an attorney?"

Ultimately, the board voted to approve that Porco and Hudson meet with PAWSD if they go ahead with an attorney.

Blurred lines

Additionally, some board members expressed concern that Hudson, who operates an online community magazine, posted an article after he attended a nonpublic event in his capacity as a board member.

"The point was that you were there ... not as a media representative, but as a water district representative. Then you went back after what is not a public meeting, not noticed as a public meeting and wrote an article in which you quoted or indicated how people felt about things," said Porco at the meeting, adding, "I just think you need to be very careful Bill, when you're attending a meeting as the representative of this district that you let us know in advance what your plan is in terms of your other hat which is a reporter."

Hudson and the board agreed that if he attends a future meeting as a board member and plans to write an article about it, then he will notify the people at the meeting of his intent to do so.

Hudson also caught some fire

for replying to an email sent by Pagosa Springs Town Manager Andrea Phillips and relaying back personal opinions that were not necessarily shared by other members of the board.

"When we got the letter from Andrea Phillips about the URA meeting, John and I got that and I sent it out to the rest of the board and then Bill sent a response to Andrea signing it as a board member and I guess to me, that again is inappropriate," board member Al Pfister said, adding, "I mean, he wants to sign something as a citizen of the area, the community, that's perfectly fine, and the only way he got that information was as a board member."

Hudson explained he was responding to the email as a SJWCD board member about an informational URA meeting scheduled in November.

"I was in a position of a board member, not a member of the public, who is being expected to come to a meeting and form a consensus about something when we didn't have a meeting scheduled until two weeks later and I wanted to let Andrea know I was not comfortable with that," Hudson said.

Porco suggested that in the future, board members who plan to send a response to something as a SJWCD board member notify the other members of the board of what they're planning to send so

that the board isn't "blindsided."

Precipitation and runoff

Joe Crabb from the Division of Water Resources also discussed water-related issues with the board.

Crabb explained that El Niño and La Niña weather systems don't exist this year and there's an equal chance of below average or above average winter precipitation.

Crabb noted he was not a licensed meteorologist.

"I'm not a weather, meteorologist forecaster," he said, "But we all know if you blink fast enough, it'll change here."

He reported that the San Juan River and the Piedra River peaked on the same day this year, June 9, with the San Juan at 3,650 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the Piedra at 3,120 cfs.

"Has the Piedra ever exceeded the San Juan in flow?" asked Porco.

"Yeah, you'd have to compare year to year, its not usually common that you get those peaks on the same days," Crabb said. "It really just depends on some of those temperature factors that's there, they're generally pretty close on the dates and the flow rate."

The board also:

- Approved the SJWCD's draft 2020 budget.
- Approved SJWCD's certification of mill levies to the county.

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PAWSD addresses potential URA appointment

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At the regular meeting of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors on Dec. 12, the board discussed who it would like to appoint to the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) commission.

Following a work session held by the Town of Pagosa Springs, PAWSD District Manager Justin Ramsey explained that there was a lot of discussion that several of the taxing entities did not think that the 11-member commission should have seven members from town council.

Ramsey explained that the PAWSD board needed to select one member from its board who would be willing to have the lone seat

representing the special districts, if the URA commission chooses to just have one seat representing the special districts.

Additionally, Ramsey added that he had penned a letter to the town requesting that it not have seven members from town council on the URA commission.

"I don't believe the rule says it has to be seven council members. It says it has to be the same amount of council members," he said. "What I recommended, and we can change it however you guys want to, is that we have four members of the city council, four members of the districts and then the county, school district and the mayor selects somebody."

Another option is for the town to make the URA commission a 13-member board, which would include a member from each of the

special districts, Ramsey explained later.

In regard to the appointment by Mayor Don Volger, PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh explained that he believed Volger had a "very broad community outlook."

"The URA and the project, the Springs project, were identical. Now it's been broadened so that the whole town is blighted conditions and whatever the legal rationale is," Walsh said.

This URA and the proposed project could affect PAWSD via tax-increment financing (TIF), Ramsey noted.

Later, Walsh noted that the PAWSD board could recommend another county representative instead of Volger appointing someone.

■ See PAWSD A9

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Medical

■ Continued from A6

projects that could come forward and it could be a significant workload.

He added that, while he has an interest in serving as a URA commission member, he doesn't have the time or background, while Schulte has the background and education.

Later in the discussion, Schulte explained that, according to Town Manager Andrea Phillips, the vision is to have the special district rep have a term of two years, which coincides with the end of Schulte's term on the USJHSD board.

"You know, you are really bad at retirement," Daniels joked with Schulte.

The board unanimously approved a resolution putting forward Schulte for possible appointment on the URA board.

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Photo courtesy Jayde Beery

Photographer Jayde Beery shared a photo of the wolf she took at Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park. At its meeting on Dec. 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution publicly opposing the reintroduction of wolves to Colorado.

Wolf

■ Continued from front

years, so I think it would be a large effect on that, but if they do it will be a big impact on our financial [situation] ... Hunting supports our community, ranching supports our community."

On Dec. 10, backers of a state initiative to reintroduce wolves to Colorado submitted more than 200,000 signatures to state officials to attempt to qualify for the state ballot.

As of press time Wednesday, the initiative had not yet been announced as making it onto Colorado's state ballot for 2020.

Over a dozen Colorado counties, including Alamosa, Hinsdale and Montezuma, have publicly opposed reintroducing wolves to the state.

The lone public comment at the

meeting came from Dick Ray, who explained he's been a member of The Wildlife Society for four decades and was appointed as a wildlife commissioner in 2005 and 2009.

Ray explained that he moved to British Columbia, Canada, in 1978 because he wanted to "live where there were wolves and grizzlies" and that he was well-informed on the issue.

"The Colorado I know isn't good enough for the wolf that I know," Ray began, adding, "The wolf would be in conflict the day it gets here with recreationists, livestock, wildlife, and if a person only thought about the wolf, I would think he would say, 'Leave the wolf where he is, he's doing quite well.'"

Ray added, "I would be personally opposed to any reintroduction

of the wolf in Colorado because primarily, it would not be fair to the wolf."

Commissioner Steve Wadley admitted he wasn't an expert on the issue, and noted that public comment's like Ray's helped inform his decision.

"I agree with what the gentleman said, this is a populated landscape that probably wouldn't do well with wolves. But again, I'm fairly ignorant on it and that's why we wanted the opportunity to be educated as much as we could."

The resolution, in support of the May 2005 Colorado Wolf Management Working Group recommendations for managing wolves that migrate into Colorado, passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners special meeting — budget discussions. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School library, 309 Lewis St.

Monday, Jan. 6, 2020

Dispatch Executive Management Board regular meeting. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020

Town of Pagosa Springs Historic Preservation Board. 4:30 p.m., Town Hall conference room, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020

Region 9 Southwest Economic Out-

look. noon, Fort Lewis College, Durango.

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation work session. 10 a.m., Visiting Angels conference room, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd, Ste. B10.

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

Town Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Review Board training. 4:30 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Review Board meeting. 6 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Archuleta School District Board of Education meeting. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 S. 8th St.

Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting and Board of Trustees of the Pagosa Fire Protection District Firemen's Pension Fund regular meeting. 6:30 p.m., Station 1, Training Room, 191 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee meeting. Noon, Pagosa Brewing, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Upper San Juan Library District board meeting. 4 p.m., Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020

Archuleta School District Board

of Education special meeting. 4 p.m., location to be determined.

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

Friday, Jan. 17, 2020

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 4 p.m., location to be determined.

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Upper San Juan Health Service District regular board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center Great Room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 5 p.m., location to be determined.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation regular board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce conference room, 105 Hot Springs Blvd.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

San Juan River posts lowest recorded flow total for Dec. 18

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

As of Dec. 18, the San Juan River had a reported flow of 21.6 cubic feet per second (cfs), the lowest reported flow total for that day according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The USGS's website notes that, previously, the lowest reported flow on Dec. 18 came in 1990 when the San Juan River had a reported flow of 27 cfs; the highest flow total came in 1987 when the river had a flow of 167 cfs.

Water report

Total water production has seen a decline since last week; however, this week's total is almost 2 million gallons more than this time last year, according to a press release from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Manager Justin Ramsey.

From Dec. 6 through Dec. 12 of this year, total water production was 10.40 million gallons.

Snowpack

■ Continued from front well, with no snow on the forecast through Sunday.

Other snowpack reports

The Upper Rio Grande Basin has a snowpack total of 125 percent; last week that basin's snowpack total was 118 percent of median.

A 21 percent increase was recorded for the Arkansas River

Basin, with snowpack totals going from 113 percent of median this week to 134 percent this week.

The Yampa and White River basins are currently 127 percent of median — a 9 percent increase from last week.

The Laramie and North Platte River basins are 123 percent of median when last week they were 115 percent of median.

A 13 percent increase was re-

corded for the South Platte River Basin, with snowpack totals going from 127 percent of median to 140 percent of median.

This week, the Upper Colorado River Basin is 122 percent of median, an increase from last week's total of 109 percent of median.

The Gunnison River Basin is 114 percent of median; last week it was 108 percent of median.

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The board of the Upper San Juan Health Service District board shows its holiday spirit before Tuesday evening's meeting.

Bond

■ Continued from front

That consultant's report directed PSMC to take action or look into specific ways to reduce expenses, improve revenues collected and different aspects of management and planning, such as looking into offering new services and reducing other expenses.

As part of her monthly financial report to the board Tuesday evening, PSMC's chief financial officer (CFO), Chelle Keplinger, told the USJHSD Board of Directors — which oversees PSMC — that the medical center had 63.5 days of cash on hand at the end of November.

That figure is up from 57.2 days at the end of October.

When asked by board chair Greg Schulte if she foresees any "material change" in that number between then and Dec. 31, Keplinger responded that she did not.

"So, first of all, I guess, in observance of that, I would like to commend staff," Schulte said, noting that PSMC didn't hit the required 60 days at the end of 2018.

He acknowledged that meant a lot of work for staff, and he thanked and congratulated them on the work.

The board's next meeting, where it will find out the year's final number for days of cash on hand, is set for 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 21.

Also as part of Keplinger's report, the board heard that, through No-

vember, PSMC has a net income of \$934,971 — more than a half a million below the budgeted amount, but more than \$1.2 million ahead of 2018.

"So we're still 37 percent under budget," Keplinger said after noting that PSMC logged a net income of \$15,596 in November despite budgeting for a net loss of \$184,791 on the month.

A written Finance Committee and CFO report provided to the board shows that, contributing to the positive month were:

Gross revenues that exceeded the monthly budget by 13 percent.

Net revenues that exceeded the monthly budget by 8 percent "despite deductions for charity care, bad debt and payer contractuals being 20% higher than budget."

The month's expenses were \$342 away from the budgeted amount. For November, PSMC's gross revenue totaled \$4,840,583, putting the year's total through November at \$56,402,019.

Keplinger's presentation to the board showed PSMC received about 52.05 percent of that in the form of net revenue.

That percentage is down from 55.77 percent the month before and is based on the month's payer mix (such as Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and more).

The written report also notes,

"PSMC continued to do a good job holding down expenses. Year-to-date, expenses continue to be under budget by 2% or \$563,068."

Keplinger noted during the meeting that the medical center's expenses are about a half of a percent over last year.

"November was another strong month for PSMC," the written report states. "The Finance Committee stated that PSMC's finances continue to improve and the Committee is pleased with the financial progress made during 2019."

Board discussion on the financial report centered on the deductions to gross revenues (such as the contracts with different payers such as insurance companies and bad debt) and how PSMC accounts for the various payers in its budgeting process.

In response to questions from board member Dr. Jim Pruitt, Keplinger explained that they use two years of history plus a percentage for what they don't know is coming for Medicare and Medicaid. She also noted that self-pay is probably about 4.5 percent of the bad debt, but that she would have to look at it more closely to answer Pruitt's question.

Pruitt suggested that looking at where the bad debt is coming from could be a long-term planning tool and may be beneficial in the budget process.

Bristlecone

■ Continued from front

Turner stated last week that the HOA believes Bristlecone Drive is a private road.

"This started when [the county] put a weight limit on Cascade [Avenue] and that pushed all the heavy traffic, heavy haul trucks over to Bristlecone," Timber Ridge Metro District President David Campbell said in an interview Tuesday.

Campbell explained that the county engineer and an independent engineer they hired both told the metro district that Bristlecone Drive was not designed for regular use of heavy trucks.

Turner and Campbell met with the county commissioners at their work session on Dec. 10 and, while both sides acknowledged the disagreement over Bristlecone, they brainstormed ways to solve the safety issues surrounding cars speeding on the road and both sides agreed to install stop signs and speed limit signs.

Campbell explained that this dispute has already "dragged on" for over two years and after the Dec. 10 meeting, "It seemed like it would be awhile until [the county] would do

anything," so the metro district decided to file a declaratory judgment, asking a judge to resolve the dispute.

"How they brought the metro district in is they sent us a letter saying they were canceling our agreement. We had an agreement for HUTF [Highway User Tax Fund] funds and they were canceling that agreement," Campbell said.

"Pursuant to Section 6 of the Agreement for Public Highway Maintenance (the 'Agreement') dated June 19, 2018, between the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County (the 'County') and the Colorado's Timber Ridge Metropolitan District, the County, with this letter, is providing notice that it is terminating said Agreement, effective July 1 of 2020," the letter reads.

The letter was sent to Campbell and signed by Weaver.

The agreement for road maintenance is between the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and the Timber Ridge Metro District.

Section 6 of the agreement states that either party can cancel the agreement upon giving written notice of termination.

The SUN asked Weaver on Tuesday if terminating a contract between the BoCC and a metro district requires a formal vote from the BoCC.

"The County provided a notice of termination and has not actually terminated the agreement with the Timber Ridge Metro District," Weaver wrote in an email. "If the issues in dispute over the section of Bristlecone Drive can be resolved, the County may not terminate the agreement after all."

In a phone call Wednesday, Commissioner Ron Maez explained he thought Weaver made the decision as county attorney to send the letter, as it's a legal matter, and that sending notice of terminating the contract didn't mean it would actually happen.

"This is a possible decision that could happen," Maez said of the letter. "It's not saying it's gonna be done."

The Timber Ridge Metro District is represented by attorney Matthew H. Roane, who declined to comment.

It is unclear when Roane will file the declaratory judgment. john@pagosasun.com

School district discusses URA appointment

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At the most recent meeting of the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE), Town Manager Andrea Phillips came to the board looking to see who the board would like to appoint to the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) commission.

No decisions about a project have been made, but one has been proposed, Phillips noted, referencing the 27 acres of vacant land in between the Ross Aragon Community Center and The Springs Resort and Spa, Phillips noted.

"What we're doing right now is really kind of step one, which is finalizing the appointments to the Urban Renewal Authority commission," she said.

The next steps regarding the URA commission are in reference to if the organization would want bylaws, when they would hold meetings, if it wanted an executive committee and setting the goals for the commission, Phillips explained further.

"The goal is for, really, revitalization of neglected areas for redevelopment or development," Phillips said. "The authority commission is the governing structure for those activities."

Phillips acknowledged that there are a lot of questions regarding the URA and the proposed project, but also added that one of the roles of the URA authority would be to engage experts on any potential projects.

"For now, we're just setting up the governing structure and those foundational discussions. Certainly there would be an impact to the school district, there might be more kids if this development moves forward," she said. "We want to make sure you have a seat at the table."

The appointments are set up as staggered appointments, Phillips explained, noting that it's a five-year term, but the first term is for three years.

"It does need to be an elected or regular member of the board," Phillips said. "It can't be someone who was appointed to fill a vacancy."

In regard to the representation on the URA commission, Phillips explained that those discussions would have to be up to the commission itself as it has already been formed.

"Some of the representatives on a couple of the special districts would like town council to look at forming an independent board of 13 members rather than the way that they have already structured it," Phillips said.

One of the goals of the URA commission is to take a look at the Town of Pagosa Springs' comprehensive plan and to look at what kind of "catalyst projects" could be implemented, presumably through a public/private partnership.

This whole process is new for the town, Phillips commented, adding that a URA is to help redevelopment within the town and that tax-increment funding (TIF) is the primary source of funding.

"The URA board would have discussions with each of the special districts, including the school board, separately in terms of the project and then what, if any, TIF financing you wanted to pledge to it," she explained, adding that it is up to the ASD board if it wanted to pledge zero to 100 percent.

The URA board meetings would be open to the public and would also be subject to Colorado Open Meetings Law, Phillips added later.

What if?

BOE President Brooks Lindner raised the question about what would happen if the ASD board decides not to contribute any TIF funds and if the ASD board declines to appoint a member to the URA commission.

Phillips responded by saying that she believed it was important for the district to have a seat at the table because any potential project would impact the district.

"You don't have to. We could still move forward with the authority and the governing structure and move forward with engaging with developers on particular projects," Phillips said. "You don't have to appoint someone. You're entitled under the state law to do so, and

hopefully you would see that would be a benefit to the school district."

In regard to a potential project and TIF funding, Phillips explained there is a negotiation process and an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that would be developed.

The IGA would solidify what TIF funds, if any, and under what circumstances the district would pledge to a project; the IGA would also be the "guiding document," Phillips described.

"If, say, you wanted to not pledge anything to a project, then the URA authority can accept that and move on, or we could enter mediation. We could accept the results from mediation or not and then it could go to binding arbitration if it gets to that point," she said.

Even with no ASD board representative on the URA commission, the commission itself would still have to negotiate with the entire ASD board on a project area where TIF revenues from the school district are being considered, she added.

"The URA commission is not making any decisions based on your TIF funding," Phillips noted.

Later in the meeting, BOE member Bob Lynch explained that with the TIF funding and possible mediation and binding arbitration, it could be a situation he described as, "You can play along or we can make you."

That entire process is laid out in state statute, and the intent behind the process is for the protection of the special districts, Phillips responded.

"It's really the Urban Renewal Authority commission who decides whether or not they want to accept what's come out of mediation. Or do they want to take it to the next step and require arbitration? It doesn't have to," Phillips said. "That's another good reason to have a seat on the URA commission."

Questions

Following more discussion, BOE member Bruce Dryburgh commented that he, along with other people, had some unanswered questions regarding the URA and the proposed project.

Some of these questions revolved around who the legal entity for the developer is and if sales or lodging tax can be used, Dryburgh explained.

"Therefore the revenue projec-

tions that are in the model that they put together, 67 percent of the money is illegal to spend," Dryburgh said. "I don't know why we keep going down this road without addressing those major blocks."

Other questions raised by Dryburgh are what this proposed project does for ASD's students, and the representation and makeup of the URA commission.

"I cannot see in good conscience how we could put somebody on this board until we know basic facts. Who's the contract going to be with? How much money is going to be available?" Dryburgh asked.

Soon the ASD board will need to take action regarding a potential appointment or decline to appoint, Lindner commented.

"In my mind, the question becomes is the formation of the URA more at this point in an implicit commitment to a proposed project? Or do we have two separate issues here? An issue of us needing to appoint a member to a URA board and then that person on that board is a part of that commission on that board and then looking at specific projects that come up?" Lindner asked.

Clarity

Following more discussion, Phillips clarified comments that she had heard that the town would not be contributing to the proposed project should it move forward.

"We are not able to pledge TIF funding because it is a county-wide sales tax. However, we as a recipient of sales tax through an agreement jointly with the county can pledge our proposed sales tax and lodging tax towards a project," Phillips explained. "So to say that the town is not going to be contributing, I'm sorry, is absolutely false."

Later in the meeting, Phillips explained that the town felt like it needed to take a step back and set the foundation of the URA commission.

"All of those questions about a particular project will be answered, trust me. We want to bring in experts and have those same discussions and really delve into those details," she said. "The URA authority is really an umbrella organization. It's responsible for other potential projects that could come forward. There's still a lot of details that we want to take a look at."

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PAWSD

Continued from A7

Audience member Bruce Dryburgh, who also serves on the Archuleta School District Board of Education, commented that he personally would not be on the commission until "lots has changed."

"We talked about, what was the ability of the town to sue people if they didn't like the mediation," Dryburgh said, which prompted Ramsey to ask the question if there would be insurance for the URA commissioners and who would pay for it.

The URA has to have some sort of broad community benefit, such as to attract high-wage jobs or affordable housing, Walsh noted.

"If something like that came along, a URA may be very valuable," he said. "A good URA might pull us together and focus money on affordable housing, so that could be a worthwhile thing."

Ramsey later added that he believed Walsh would be a good person for the URA commission.

"I'm just saying we need to have a really generous spirit for the whole community and not just look at our narrow interests," Walsh said. "I would be willing to serve on that board, but if we were turned down and the fire district were turned down and it turned out that there was only one member from all of the special districts, then I probably wouldn't want to serve."

There needs to be broader representation on the URA commission, Walsh added later.

If a potential project comes forward, the PAWSD board will have a decision to make regarding what percentage of its TIF funds they would like to contribute to a project, Ramsey explained.

If an agreement cannot be made, there could be a situation where binding arbitration is needed, Ramsey noted.

"That's why I think this board is fairly important to get this right. I think a lot of people's hope is that when the board is set up and they start to develop the bylaws for this board they will put in there that they cannot force people into binding arbitration," Ramsey said.

Letter

In regard to the proposed letter, Walsh noted that his recommen-

dation would be to have a second county representative on the commission.

"And I would also add that we have a lot of confidence in Donny perhaps trying to form a 13-person board," Walsh noted, adding that the board would have more fair representation.

Ramsey added that the letter could recommend that a meeting should be held to have the community decide how the board representation should be.

Dryburgh added that he believed there should be broader input.

Another issue that Dryburgh recommended the PAWSD board raise is in reference to the binding

See PAWSD A14

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2019 Market Report**

Sports

WRESTLING

Wyman nabs first place at Columbine Invitational

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Erik Wyman nabbed a first-place finish at the Columbine Invitational on Saturday in the 126-pound weight class, and the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team as a whole came in third at the tournament.

"Erik Wyman, he was our lone champion and he had a very strong performance and won four matches — didn't lose one, won them all in strong, dominating fashion," said Coach Dan Janowsky. "He's a state placer, so he's always been good. He has upped his game to another level ... He just set the tone for us all day long."

Wyman's first three matches ended quickly.

Wyman pinned Chatfield High School's Cameron McElroy in 51 seconds; pinned Sierra High School's Joe Luevanos in 1 minute, 28 seconds; and pinned Horizon's Julian Marquez in 2 minutes, 24 seconds.

Wyman nabbed the top spot in his weight class by beating Rock Canyon's Sammy Mobly by decision with a score of 16-3.

Janowsky commented on the team performance by the Pirates at the tournament.

"Generally speaking, we wrestled pretty good and, you know, too often you look at the final totals and they never tell the whole story," Janowsky said.

Returning state champion Cameron Lucero wrestled for the first time this season in the 152-pound weight class after coming off an injury.

Lucero pinned his first three opponents, then lost by pin in the fourth minute against Thomas Jefferson High School's Isaias Estrada to earn second in his weight class.

Janowsky explained the added pressure that can come with being a returning state champion like Lucero.

"He's our state champion and everyone expects him to win automati-

cally, and he did get second ... It took a good guy, even though [Lucero] is not 100 percent, it still took a good kid to beat him," Janowsky said, adding, "It's tough, and especially for high school kids, his success and all that kind of stuff has drawn him a lot of attention, put a target on his back so to speak. So, it makes it a much bigger deal when he loses than somebody else and he has to bear that ... There's an added pressure, you're much more under the microscope, but we're gonna learn how to deal with that."

Brae Bergdolt (145-pound weight class) had a "very strong day," according to his coach. Bergdolt pinned his first two opponents in the tournament and then won by decision in the semifinal.

In the match for first place, Bergdolt fell just short, losing by decision 7-5 to Sterling High School's Riley Bornhoft, who snatched first place away from Bergdolt in a close match.

"His technical wrestling is just improving by leaps and bounds," Janowsky said of Bergdolt, adding, "He's looking sharper and scoring more and more points."

Skyler Hill, wrestling in the 220-pound weight class for the Pirates, took second at the tournament, gaining a bye in the first round and then beating his next two opponents by pin in the third and fifth minutes of the matches.

Sterling High School's Drew Book was able to stop Hill in the first-place match, winning by decision 11-8 to bump Hill to the second-place spot. Janowsky explained that Hill nearly got the victory, and most likely would have, had the match continued on for a few more seconds.

"Skyler, when the match ended, the guy was in a lot of trouble. He was, without a doubt, saved by the bell because we had him on his back in a pinning combination. His only hope was to keep his shoulder off until time ran out," Janowsky said.

Dustin Clark, in the 160-pound weight class, earned third at the tournament, after losing to Weld Central

High School's Tanner Baumgartner by decision.

Clark rebounded in the third-place match, beating Columbine's Will Carroll by decision 10-3.

E.J. Monterroso (132-pound weight class) and Wil Aucoin (182-pound weight class) both nabbed fifth at the tournament.

The scoring for the tournament works the following way: 16 points for a first-place finish, 12 points for second place, nine points for third place, seven points for fourth place, five points for fifth place, and sixth gets three points.

Additional bonus points are awarded for "pins and superior decisions," according to Janowsky.

Pagosa came in third in the tournament with 148 team points, behind Weld Central in first place with 184 points and Sterling at second place with 152 points.

On the injury front, Pagosa's Grant Aucoin has been lost for the season due to a football injury that requires surgery.

"That hurts our team, for sure," Janowsky wrote in an email.

Janowsky explained he expects to have Dylan Tressler and Trevor Torrez back from injuries "soon."

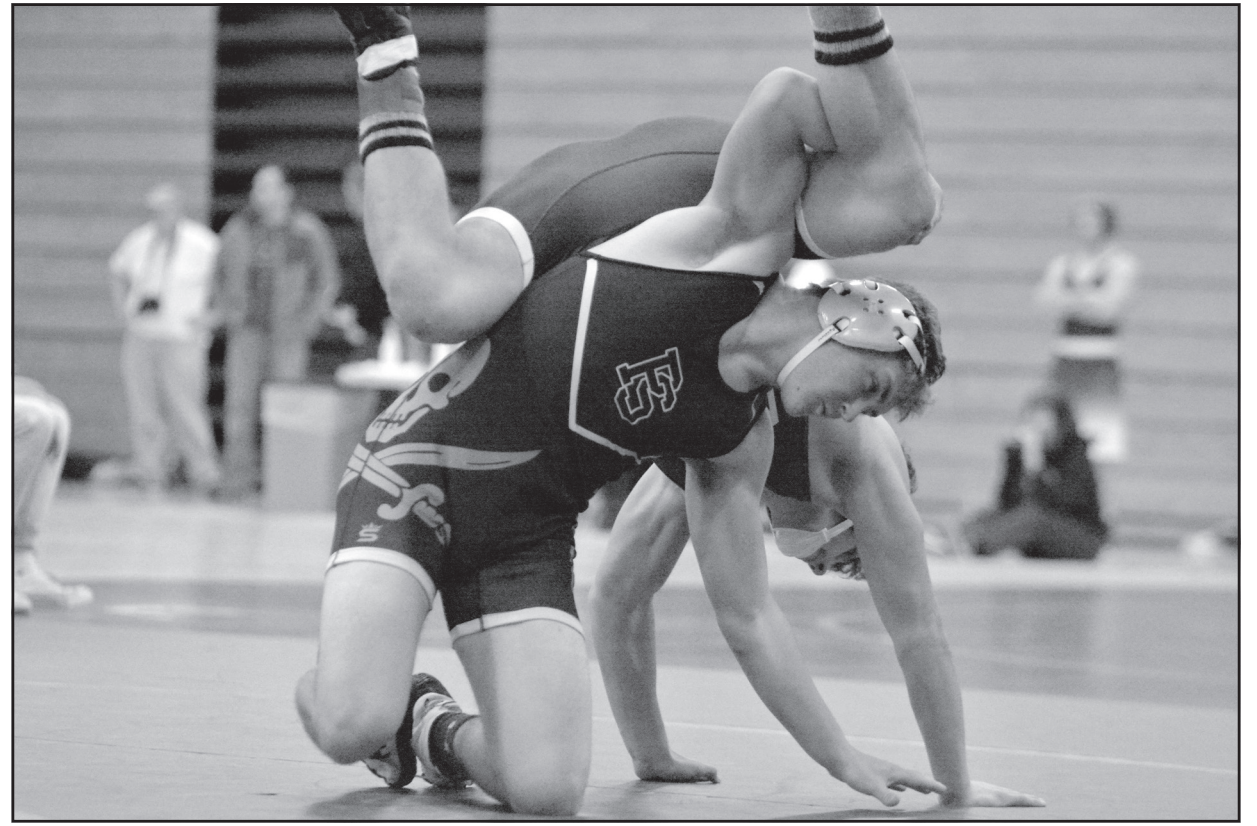
Tomorrow, the Pirates will head to Central High School in Grand Junction to wrestle in the Warrior Classic, which will take place over Friday and Saturday.

"It's really fun," Janowsky said of the tournament. "It's a two-day battle and our guys are really eager for it. We've done well, but it's a prestigious tournament and it's fun to put yourself in there and see how far you can go."

Janowsky noted there will be many wrestlers there who placed at last year's state tournament.

Janowsky explained the Pirates still have holes in their lineup, noting that the 106-, 113-, 120- and 285-pound weight classes all have open slots.

Asked why he doesn't move up some JV wrestlers to varsity so the Pirates don't automatically forfeit



Photos courtesy Stacey Barker

Above: Pirate Tay Barker gets underneath an opponent at the Columbine Invitational in Littleton on Saturday. The Pirates as a team finished in third place.

Right: Pirate E.J. Monterroso takes an advantageous position in his match at the Columbine Invitational. Monterroso won four out of five of his matches, garnering a fifth-place finish.



those weight classes. Janowsky stated players have to earn it.

"I happen to have the long approach," Janowsky said. "You gotta prove that you're up to this ... You have to prove your poise and your grit and determination and when you're showing those kind of things we can move you into [varsity]."

The Warrior Classic starts tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m. at Central High School in Grand Junction. The action rolls into Saturday, with finals to be held that afternoon.

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BASKETBALL

Pirates go winless at Buena Vista Tournament

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The Buena Vista Tournament was not kind to the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' basketball team, as the team lost both of its games by less than 10 points each against the Grand Valley Cardinals and Gunnison Cowboys.

Grand Valley

In the opening game of the tournament for Pagosa on Dec. 13, the Pirates fell to Grand Valley by a score of 52-48.

Pagosa fell behind early, with Grand Valley taking a 19-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Pirates then found themselves down 35-20 at halftime following a second quarter in which they scored 12 and the Cardinals scored 16.

In the third and fourth quarters Pagosa outscored Grand Valley 18-7, but it just wasn't enough to propel Pagosa to a victory.

Mason Snarr led the team in scoring with 18 points. He also pulled down a team-high nine rebounds to go along with three assists and two steals.

Snarr also led the team in blocks with four.

Ryan Lewis finished with 12 points, eight rebounds, three assists and a block.

Mitch Lewis rounded out the double-digit scoring for Pagosa with 11 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Pagosa connected on 14 of 20 free-throw attempts against the Cardinals, good enough for 70 percent.

However, Pagosa turned over the ball 20 times against Grand Valley.

Gunnison

Things weren't much better on Dec. 14 against Gunnison as the Pirates lost 50-41.

The first quarter between the two teams was scoreless, but the second quarter featured an offensive outburst by Gunnison as they scored 29 points to Pagosa's 17.

The third quarter was a bit quieter as Pagosa outscored Gun-

nison 8-4.

In the final quarter, the Cowboys outscored the Pirates 17-16 to seal the victory over Pagosa.

Snarr led the team in points with 15. Snarr also pulled down nine rebounds and added a steal and a block to his stat line.

Both Ryan Lewis and Mitch Lewis added 10 points each.

Ryan Lewis added nine rebounds and a block, and Mitch Lewis added nine rebounds, three assists and a team-high two blocks.

Kyler Hammer finished with four points, two assists and a team-high two steals; Hammer also added a block.

Pagosa connected on 80 percent of its free-throw attempts, making eight of 10.

The Pirates committed 14 turnovers against Gunnison.

In both games at the Buena Vista Tournament, the Pirates got behind early and had a struggle to get back into the game, coach Randy Sorenson wrote in an email.

"In both games we fought back and got the games tied late in the game but we weren't able to get over the hump," Sorenson wrote.

Sorenson did give the Pirates credit for fighting their way back into both games and having a chance to win.

More tournament action

Starting this evening, Pagosa will kick off action at the Montrose tournament with the first game being against the 4A Palisade Bulldogs (3-3 overall) at 4:15 p.m.

Last season, Pagosa defeated Palisade 41-36.

On Friday, Pagosa will then take on the 4A Montrose Indians (4-2 overall) at 7:45 p.m.

Last season, Pagosa defeated Montrose in double overtime by a score of 49-43.

To conclude the Montrose tournament on Dec. 21, the Pirates will take on the Roaring Fork Rams (1-4 overall) at 10:45 a.m.

"We are going to have to figure out how to be mentally ready to play beginning with the opening tip. Our defense is going to have to be more consistent," Sorenson



Photo courtesy Chris Dickey/ Gunnison Country Times

Pirate Mitch Lewis looks to put up a shot during Pagosa's second game at the Buena Vista Tournament against the Gunnison Cowboys on Dec. 14. Pagosa fell to Gunnison 50-41; Lewis finished the game with 10 points, five rebounds, three assists and a team-high two steals.

wrote. "We cannot allow teams to score 16 to 20 points some quarters. We definitely have to value the basketball more and cut our turnovers down."

Pagosa will also have to limit teams' offensive rebounds, Sorenson noted.

"We just need to continue practicing hard and fix some of our mistakes and we will be fine," he wrote. "It will be another tough weekend this weekend but if we play to our potential we should have a chance to win all three games." chris@pagosahun.com

Lady Pirates fall to St. Mary's, best Grand Valley

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The No. 2 Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team went 1-1 at last weekend's Buena Vista Tournament, moving the team's record to 2-1.

Pagosa's Lady Pirates opened play at the tournament against the reigning state champion, No. 1 St. Mary's, and fell 50-31 in the Pirate-versus-Pirate affair.

St. Mary's outscored Pagosa 14-6 in the first quarter.

Pagosa bounced back in the second quarter to outscore St. Mary's

10-9, with St. Mary's leading 23-16 at halftime.

"They're a great team. We kind of played with them pretty good in the first quarter and second quarter as well. I mean, we went down seven at half, but we were missing some pretty easy opportunities" and could have gone into halftime down only three or four "pretty easily," coach Wes Lewis said.

St. Mary's increased its lead over the course of the second half, outscoring Pagosa 16-9 in the third and 11-6 in the fourth.

"They went on an 8-0 run to start the second half and then you

go from being down seven to down 15 in about a minute's time. And give them some credit, they hit ... one really deep 3 and another 3 that's fairly contested and then they drove the basket and made a layup and we fouled them," Lewis said.

In the end, St. Mary's walked away with the 50-31 win.

"Obviously not what we were hoping to get out of that game, but I wasn't 100 percent disappointed," Lewis said, "but wished we'd have played a little better."

Lewis noted the team had too many turnovers — 17 compared to St. Mary's eight — and didn't take

advantage of opportunities when they had them.

Teagan Stretton and Hailey Griego jointly led the team in scoring with nine points each, followed by Taylor Lewis with six, Molly Graham with four and Adelyn Dozier with three.

Stretton hit two 3-pointers, ■ See Lady Pirates A12

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FOOTBALL



SUN photo/Chris Mannara

Coming off of the team's first league championship in 10 years, multiple Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football players put a bow on their season with all-conference honors. Pictured, from left to right, are Paden Bailey, Mitch Lewis, Grant Aucoin, Tay Barker, Skyler Hill, Dustin Clark and Wil Aucoin, all who received all conference awards. Not pictured is Justin Baxstrom, who also received all-conference honors.



SUN photo/Chris Mannara

A slew of Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football players earned honorable mention all-conference honors for their work on the field during the 2019 season, one in which featured a league championship and postseason appearance. Pictured, from left to right, are Tyler Bowdridge, Nolan Kay, Caleb Laverty, Kaden McKee, Evan Raymond, Eric Huddleston and Noah Blackbird, who all earned honorable mention selections.

Lady Pirates

Continued from A11 while Dozier landed one. Pagosa hit four of eight free-throw attempts in the game. Elsa Lindner led the team with five rebounds, followed by Taylor Lewis with four, and Stretton and Griego with three each. Kori Lucero, Dozier and Graham each logged a pair of rebounds. Stretton and Taylor Lewis each also added three assists and a steal to their stat lines, and Graham, Lucero and Griego each contributed one assist. "I think the girls, I don't think they walked away from that thing thinking, 'We can never beat 'em.' They think if we fix a few things, you know, if we — we gotta get better, though. I mean, it's early season. They are the No. 1 team and right now it's a fairly wide margin, but we're going to work on trying to close that margin as the season goes on," the coach said. "We've got a lot of other good teams on our schedule that we've gotta focus on now. We're certainly not thinking about St. Mary's anymore. We're moving on." The next day, Pagosa faced off against the Grand Valley Cardinals, who entered the game with a 3-1 record. Pagosa jumped out to a strong lead in the first quarter by holding Grand Valley to a single point while scoring 11.

"It was a great first quarter, for sure," the coach said. The Lady Pirates extended their lead in the second by outscoring the Cardinals 13-11 to give themselves a 24-12 lead at halftime. Despite that lead, the coach noted the team had a "wake-up meeting" at halftime and got a lot better in the second half, including on turnovers. The majority of Pagosa's 12 turnovers came in the first half, he noted. Pagosa continued to outscore Grand Valley in the second half, including 9-6 in the third quarter and 13-2 in the fourth. "We got in some deep foul trouble early in that game and even throughout the third quarter," the coach said, adding that kids stepped in and put up "big minutes for the team." Among them, he noted, was Trista Tully. "She stepped in and helped us out in the post spot because we got in foul trouble with our post players, and I thought she did a pretty good job. She gives 100 percent all the time, so I was really proud of Trista for stepping in in that situation," he said. He also highlighted the play of Taylor Lewis, Griego and Lucero, noting the team stuck to it and found a way to win. Wes Lewis added there wasn't

much flow to the game and it took the Pirates a while to pull away and build the lead. Taylor Lewis led the team with 13 points in the game, which she complemented three rebounds, two assists and five steals. Griego followed with 11 points, seven rebounds and an assist, and Dozier logged eight points, two rebounds and an assist. Lucero and Stretton each put up four points. Lucero added a rebound and two assists, and Stretton contributed a rebound, four assists and two steals. Graham put up three points, pulled down a rebound and had one assist. Miah Schoffner added a pair of points to the scoreboard for the Lady Pirates and pulled down two rebounds. Lindner contributed with two rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block, and Keira Torrez had one rebound, as did Tully. This week, Pagosa will head to Parker for the Lutheran Holiday Hoops Invite. Pagosa will open play at that tournament against the 1-3 Olathe Pirates at 7:30 p.m. Friday. At 6 p.m. that evening, host No. 3 Lutheran will take on Manitou Springs. The following day, the winners of each of Friday's games will take

each other on for the tournament championship at 2:30 p.m., while the other teams will take each other on in the consolation round at 1 p.m. The focus, the coach noted, will be to go in and "do what we do." randi@pagosasun.com

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Colorado Department of Education approves Archuleta School District's requests for reconsideration

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

As of Dec. 11, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) finalized its ratings for the state's public schools under its accountability system, according to a press release.

In addition to the CDE finalizing its ratings, it also approved ratings for schools and districts that had requested that the CDE reconsider the preliminary ratings given in

August.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES), Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) and Archuleta School District (ASD) will have a "performance" rating following requests to reconsider submitted to the CDE.

A performance rating for a school is defined by the CDE as, "The school meets or exceeds statewide attainment on the performance indicators and is re-

quired to adopt and implement a Performance Plan."

According to a report given by the ASD Superintendent Linda Reed to the ASD Board of Education on Dec. 10, the district was expecting to have its requests for reconsideration approved regarding two of its schools' School Performance Framework ratings and the district's District Performance Rating.

In late August, when the CDE released its preliminary school and district performance frameworks, PSES and PSMS both received a preliminary rating of being on an improvement plan decreased due to participation.

Last year, PSES received a final rating from CDE of performance plan while also meeting 95 percent participation.

PSMS received that same final rating from the CDE last year.

ASD, as a whole, received a preliminary rating of being accredited with an improvement plan with the rating being decreased due to participation, according to the CDE's ratings.

Last year, the district's final rating was accredited and it also noted ASD met 95 percent participation.

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS), the district's lone charter school, received a preliminary rating of being on an improvement plan decreased due to participation.

Last year, PPOS earned a final rating of being on a priority im-

provement plan, but met 95 percent participation.

ASD Superintendent Linda Reed explained in an interview on Aug. 26 that the ratings for both PSES and PSMS were caused by human error.

Specifically, Reed explained that the district believed that the wrong student biographical data report had been uploaded.

During the ASD board's Dec. 10 meeting, Reed explained that she had been in communication with CDE's Colorado Commissioner of Education Dr. Katy Anthes about the district's request.

According to Reed, Anthes was going to recommend that the requests for the district's rating, as well as the ones for PSES and PSMS, be approved.

"All of our schools, with the exception of the charter school, which could not appeal because they didn't have three years of data, we will be at performance for the elementary, the middle and the high school," Reed said. "So that is very good news for us."

In a follow-up interview on Dec. 16, Reed commended the work done by ASD Assistant Superintendent Laura Mijares with the requests for reconsideration.

"I'm thankful that the department and the state board have a process when clerical errors occur so we don't get penalized because of a simple mistake," she said.

chris@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Sam Bricker/Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area features epic skiing and boarding after receiving 40 inches of fresh powder from a pre-Christmas storm that crept into the Southern San Juan Mountains over the weekend. The ski area reported 23 inches of snow in 24 hours, 32 inches of snow in 48 hours and a whopping 40 inches of snow in 72 hours. Season-to-date, the ski area has had 139 inches of snow with a midway depth of 67 inches as of Wednesday morning.

Fort Lewis College to hold winter commencement Dec. 20

By Lauren Savage
Special to The SUN

Fort Lewis College (FLC) winter commencement will take place Friday, Dec. 20, in Whalen Gymnasium at 3 p.m. Doors will open at 2 p.m. About 200 students will graduate.

"We are already so proud of what these graduating students have accomplished at FLC and look forward to supporting them as alumni," said President Tom Stritikus.

Addressing the graduates will be Colorado Sen. Rhonda Fields from District 29.

Fields is considered by many to be one of the most influential women in Colorado's politics today. She was elected in November 2010 to the Colorado House of Represen-

tatives with more than 70 percent of the vote in House District 42. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, crime victims and the most vulnerable in the community.

In 2016, after serving six years in the Colorado House of Representatives, Fields was elected to the Colorado Senate, making her the first African American woman elected to represent District 29 in that body. Her personal and professional experience helped her shape, and deliver on, her strong legislative agenda as she served rural, urban and suburban Arapahoe County.

Throughout her career, Fields has been an advocate for justice

and human rights. She is known to tackle tough issues by crafting bipartisan solutions to keep Colorado moving forward. In 2018, her colleagues elected her to serve as the assistant majority leader. Fields also chairs the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. She holds a master's degree in education from the University of Northern Colorado.

A reception with cake and refreshments will be held in the San Juan Dining Hall immediately following the ceremony. All are welcome, free of charge.

Tickets are not necessary to attend.

No balloons or confetti are allowed inside Whalen Gymnasium.

The art department lot is re-

served for ADA parking during commencement. Staff will be monitoring the parking lots near Whalen Gymnasium in golf carts to assist those with mobility issues.

An American sign language interpreter will be located to the left side of the stage.

Campbell Child and Family Center is offering free child care for children up to 8 years of age during the ceremony. Caregivers are available from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Families must sign up in advance by emailing Director Peggy Ferguson.

Watch the livestream on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fortlewis.

A list of the majors awarded can be found at www.fortlewis.edu/graduation.

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service over two weeks: 206.

Dec. 2 — County warrant, South 9th Street.

Dec. 2 — Accessory to crime if crime was misdemeanor, South 9th Street.

Dec. 3 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, no insurance in possession, expired license plates, County Road 700.

Dec. 4 — Computer crime-misdemeanor, identity theft-possesses, criminal impersonation, Blue Jay Drive.

Dec. 4 — Warrant arrest, Nutria Circle.

Dec. 4 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, Doc Adams Road.

Dec. 4 — Warrant arrest, South 8th Street.

Dec. 4 — Warrant arrest, Cactus

Drive.

Dec. 5 — False reporting to authorities, Easy Street.

Dec. 6 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Dec. 6 — Criminal mischief, Navajo Court.

Dec. 7 — Information only, Durango Court.

Dec. 7 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Navajo Court.

Dec. 7 — Threats, Great West Avenue.

Dec. 7 — Aggravated motor vehicle theft, U.S. 84/County Road 359.

Dec. 8 — Agency assist, County Road 119.

Dec. 9 — Death investigation-death investigation, County Road 200.

Dec. 9 — Second-degree criminal tampering, County Road 982.

Dec. 9 — Third-degree assault-simple assault, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Lake Street.

Dec. 9 — Violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, domestic violence, violation of restraining order, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, possession of weapons by previous offenders, River Run Drive.

Dec. 9 — Animals running at large, unlawful ownership of vicious dog,

Blue Jay Circle.

Dec. 10 — Drove vehicle while under F.R.A. suspension, drove vehicle without insurance, Aspen Village Drive/Parelli Way.

Dec. 10 — Warrant arrest, Oak Place.

Dec. 10 — All other thefts, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 11 — Domestic violence, criminal mischief, Highland Avenue.

Dec. 11 — Animal complaint, Susan's Place.

Dec. 11 — Warrant arrest, County Road 600.

Dec. 12 — Drove vehicle when BAC .08 or more, drove vehicle when license suspended, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, open container in a motor vehicle, illegal possession or consumption of alcohol by a minor, Navajo Trail Drive.

Dec. 12 — Criminal mischief, criminal attempt to commit felony, Buttress Avenue/South Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 12 — Third-degree assault-

simple assault, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, domestic violence, possession of drug paraphernalia-penalty, U.S. 160.

Dec. 12 — Information only, Canyon Circle.

Dec. 12 — Harassment-repeated communications invade, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, harassment by phone or computer, Badger Place.

Dec. 13 — County warrant, County Road 600.

Dec. 13 — Agency assist, Taylor Lane.

Dec. 13 — Careless driving, made U-turn where prohibited, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drove vehicle when BAC .08 or more, Boulder Drive/U.S. 160.

Dec. 14 — Harassment-follows in public place, River Run Drive/Oakridge Drive.

Dec. 14 — Agency assist, Great West Avenue/U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Police Department
■ See Blotter A14

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8	\$6,294
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Town shop design approved by town's planning commission

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Town of Pagosa Springs' planned consolidated maintenance facility took a step forward on Dec. 10, with the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, sitting as the design review board, voting unanimously to approve the final design review application.

The facility is slated to house the town's streets, maintenance and facilities departments and will be built at the site of the town's existing facility on South 5th Street.

In introducing the project, Planning Director James Dickhoff explained that the commission (as the design review board) had previously seen a sketch plan of the project and that a neighborhood meeting was held in August, with suggestions from that incorporated into the design.

Overall, he informed the board, the neighbors were supportive of the project and felt like it would improve the neighborhood, reduce the noise by keeping it internal, reduce the amount of time machinery is running to warm up in the mornings and more.

He added the project will provide a benefit to the neighborhood.

"This is a highly visible ... development for us," Dickhoff said, explaining there are no design criteria for the public/quasi public zoning district, but staff reviewed the project under mixed-use zoning design criteria.

An agenda brief on the project explains that is "to ensure the best compatibility with the existing neighborhood."

The planning director also explained that the town received some land from the school district in order to be able to expand, with 80 foot of the school district's easement being dedicated to the town on two sides of the town shop.

He added that the town would be seeking a partial right of way vacation on the 5th Street side in order to achieve a 20-foot setback, adding later that the building is proposed to go over the property line by a couple feet.

Dickhoff then discussed how various facets of the proposed shop align with the mixed-use zoning district criteria.

During that discussion, Dickhoff invited engineer Mike Davis to discuss the plans for drainage on the property, which he explained will address regional drainage problems.

That drainage plan combines a detention pond, existing culverts and a conveyance ditch.

Planning commissioner Bill Hudson then asked about the impact of using permeable surfaces for parking in the area, with Davis stating it would make a big difference, but that air quality requirements mean paving.

Dickhoff pointed out there is an opportunity to look at alternate means to meet the same goal.

As that topic of discussion continued, Davis noted that when they have experimented with alternative parking lot surfaces, they have been "very unsuccessful" in our climate and with our soil types.

Planning commissioner Chris Pitcher noted that the school district created the problem with the parking lot and the town is taking on that problem.

"I think that's the right thing to do, and also ... the development we're looking at is making a difference by looking at some alternatives to asphalt for the whole interior, so I don't think we can solve what's been done on the whole south side of town, not just the school district, but certainly we can be better going forward and I think this plan shows that and addresses some bigger drain-

age issues that are just inherent to what's happening here. So, I think as much as we'd like to solve all the problems, I think we can feel good about this one," Pitcher said.

The shop site is a "drop in the bucket," Davis said, noting there are a lot of impervious areas upstream.

As the design review continued, discussion touched upon foot traffic in the area and two wall expanses with less modulation than the rest of the site.

Hudson noted the architects did a great job with the variety of materials, but noted the town has been picked by other people about large expanses without modulation and asked if public art or something could be used since that side faces the school parking lot.

Dickhoff explained that there has been talk about a mural project with school district students.

Dickhoff noted there is some landscaping proposed to provide a buffer and Pitcher pointed out that plans showed trees along the wall.

Architect Brian Huff noted that with a shed building it doesn't make a lot of sense to put in a lot of modulation to break up the facade, and architect Brad Ash pointed out that the landscape was turned off on the renderings because the focus is on the buildings.

Ash pointed out there will actually be some modulation on the building based on new information received from Davis, and pointed out that it had been suggested to keep that wall simple to allow for the possibility of art with the school.

Pitcher noted the expanse would be broken up by an opening, and Hudson suggested it is a 70-foot straight line.

"A 70-foot canvas, some would say," Pitcher responded, adding a project with the school district could be "very interesting."

As that discussion continued, Huff noted that the landscape was turned off because it would "really block the building."

Public comment on the matter came from a neighboring property owner who questioned the alignment of South 6th Street, which will permanently connect with the school parking lot, and what the fence surrounding a portion of the development will look like.

Dickhoff explained that the South 6th Street alignment will pick up where the street is right now in order to keep costs down, and Huff explained that the fence will be an 8-foot wood and metal panel fence that will look nice.

With that, planning commissioner Peter Hurley moved to approve the final major design review application with the contingencies that an exterior lighting and illumination plan be provided, the applicant look into options for the blank wall and that a setback variance or right of way vacation be sought to accommodate proposed building setbacks.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Town Manager Andrea Phillips told The SUN Wednesday the town hopes to start construction on the facility in April or May, with construction likely to take at least 12-18 months.

The town council is anticipated to choose a construction manager/general contractor in late January or early February, with that firm working with the architects to finalize the design drawings and plan set for construction, she explained.

In other business at the planning commission meeting, the commission provided recommendations to the Pagosa Springs Town Council on the proposed River Rock annexation and zoning, adoption of the town's 3-mile plan, Cotton Hole Park traffic circulation options, and the proposed sign for the San Juan River Overlook.

All of those things are slated to be considered by the town council this evening in the council's regular meeting, which will begin at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

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PAWSD

Continued from A9

arbitration.

"The town having the ability to sue someone who doesn't want to go along, arbitration is a lawsuit, it's no different than that," Dryburgh said. "And third, we have to absolutely segregate out the project that has been presented, Springs, until you get the agency all set up with the people and the bylaws and things of that sort."

Audience member Bill Hudson, who also serves on the San Juan Water Conservancy District Board of Directors, explained that the district would be sending a letter to the town asking for broader representation from the special districts on the commission.

"We didn't specify 11 or 13, it's basically we feel that there should be broad representation of the special districts," Hudson said. "I like the idea of just suggesting broader representation. I even like better the idea of the special districts coming together with the

town council and discussing this as a group of boards that are going to be funding future projects at some point."

IfPAWSD and the other agencies are successful in what it is trying to do in regard to the letter, Dryburgh noted the school district would join them in its efforts.

In a follow-up interview on Tuesday, Ramsey clarified what the PAWSD board's position is.

"What they really want, is to have a meeting with the town, with the districts and have the districts and the town together to put together the format of the board, likely leading to more taxing entities on that board," he said. "Basically, they want to have a sit-down meeting and come up with how we build the board. If it stays the same, I guess that's OK, if they can really justify it; I don't think they can. But they want to have a big meeting and develop the board together with everybody involved."
chris@pagosasun.com

Blotter

Continued from A13

meat

Calls for service over one week:

72.

Dec. 1 — Animal at large, South 9th Street.

Dec. 4 — Abandoned vehicle, U.S. 160.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Dec. 3 — Michael Vincent Flaherty, trespass 1-dwelling, 30 months direct sentence to community corrections, total fines and costs — \$478.50.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 2 — Walter S. Havens, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$98.50.

Dec. 4 — Robert T. Trujillo, license plates-unlawful display, registration-not in vehicle, total fines and costs — \$135.50.

Dec. 4 — Bernard W. Shaw, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.

Dec. 4 — Jessica M. Erickson, license plates-expired, total fines and costs — \$185.50.

Dec. 4 — Brett A. Breshears, speeding 5-9 over limit, total fines and costs — \$192.50.

Dec. 4 — Heather R. Bendele, harassment-strike/shove/kick, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, total fines and costs — \$277.50.

Dec. 4 — Virgle Dale Murphy, violation of permit requirements, total fines and costs — \$178.

Dec. 4 — Dustin P. Harris, driving under the influence, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours com-

munity service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, total fines and costs — \$1,315.50.

Dec. 4 — Luis Michael Talamante, dog at large (first offense no injury), total fines and costs — \$76.

Dec. 4 — Marc Allwang, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$210.50.

Dec. 4 — Roni L. Kinser, dog at large (first offense no injury), total fines and costs — \$76.

Dec. 4 — Asa D. McGill Howe, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 4 — Rachel S. Beard, speeding 5-9 over limit, total fines and costs — \$127.50.

Dec. 12 — Shugery Dawn Montes, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 12 months probation, total fines and costs — \$931.50.

Dec. 12 — Rodney Dewayne Walton, violation p/o-civil, two years probation, total fines and costs — \$1,464.50.

Dec. 12 — James Eric Luttrell, violation of permit requirements, total fines and costs — \$178.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Clayton Buchner
No report.

Celebrations



Kip and Kathy Strohecker are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Zoe Strohecker, to JT Oldroyd, son of Taylor and Meredith Oldroyd, of Corpus Christi, Texas. They will be married Jan. 3, 2020 and in the Mount Timpanogos LDS Temple on Jan. 18, 2020. There will be a reception in Pagosa Springs at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Season's Greetings

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The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

Miracle on Fourmile Road

By Sharon Fink
Special to The SUN

The saying goes, when you hear a bell ring, an angel gets its wings. For Ray Emery, when he hears an elk bugle, it may be his personal angel.

It began on Sept. 16, 2014, Emery, an avid hunter and fisherman from Pagosa Springs, had been keeping his eye on a large, blond-colored bear near Fourmile Road. He had set up game cameras and found evidence of how large this bear was.

"I found hair as long as a dollar bill and places where he scratched when standing upright that measured 7 feet tall," he said.

He nicknamed the bear "Blondie" and wanted more than anything to bag him. Also spotted on his camera were pictures of a mountain lion, so he knew one was traveling through or was making this spot part of his territory.

Emery had a tree stand set up in a large aspen and had been going for days hoping to claim the elusive blonde bear. Three days prior to Sept. 16, he caught a glimpse of movement out of the corner of his eye.

As he investigated further with his binoculars, he was stunned to see the most magnificent bull elk he had ever laid eyes on. Emery called him an imperial elk because he was a 7x7, meaning 7 points on each side, totaling 14.

To see an elk such as this imperial bull is extremely rare.

As Emery was gazing at him in wonder, he thought to himself, "You and I are going to have an appointment soon."

Little did Emery know his premonition was correct, but not in the way he envisioned.

Not having the success he anticipated hunting "Blondie," Emery had decided on the morning of the 16th that the time had come to take the tree stand down.

At 11:30 a.m., he left his friend's cabin where he stays while hunting on Fourmile Road and drove a mile or so down to park his truck. He walked approximately a half mile and proceeded to take everything down and move his equipment to a different location.

As he was unstrapping his stand and had to twist the pin to let the cable out of the top section, he felt himself falling backward.

"I threw my arms out trying to grab the stand." Feeling the air rushing through his hair, Emery continued, "Falling over 30 feet felt like a long time. My thought was at least I am going to die doing what I love."

Several minutes went by after the fall before he realized the severity of the impact. He saw his glasses nearby and reached to retrieve them, discovering a lens had popped out. He tried as best he could to move his body, but soon knew that he could not. He assumed he had broken both legs. He spotted the lost lens and managed to reset the lens back into his frames.

Needing a bit of shelter, Emery used his upper body to crawl his way to a nearby spruce tree. Using the cushion from the tree stand, he tried to make himself as comfortable as possible given his intense pain.

At around 4 p.m., Emery had determined he may not be found, so he tore a plastic bag he had with his supplies to make a garment to keep himself as warm as possible

during the night. Because of the poor reception, he never bothered to carry a cellphone.

At around sundown, in the distance, Emery heard the scream of a mountain lion.

"I thought at first, 'That's interesting, I'd never heard one out in the wild before,'" he noted.

When Emery's wife, Penny, did not receive a phone call from him by 7 p.m., she felt something was wrong. She waited until 7:30 p.m. and drove up the mountain from town to check on him.

As time ticked away, however, the screaming became louder and louder as the lion was making his way closer and closer.

"The lion was winding me," he said, using a term to describe the predatory behavior of lions when on the hunt.

Lions smell their prey and wait for just the right time to attack. This lion was on the attack.

As the lion approached closer, circling Emery, who was unable to defend himself without a gun, the adrenaline kicked in.

"I knew I had to stay alert and not allow myself to go into shock. The only thing I could do was make noise by screaming and using my knife to bang on the metal portion of my stand which was beside me, hoping to scare him off. I banged so hard, I broke my knife," he said.

Now, without even a weapon, it was almost dark. The lion was about 50 feet away and closing in.

"I was really scared. I prayed real hard," said Emery.

Then he heard the snap of a twig. "I started screaming and crying as loud as I could. I couldn't move. My legs were paralyzed. I thought this was it. I made my peace," shared Emery.

Then, out he stepped, just 5 feet away. The appointment Emery had wanted with the imperial bull had arrived. Instead of the bull being in his gun sights, however, he came to save his life.

"The huge bull stood between me and the lion, and let out a bugle so loud, it made my ribs rattle," explained Emery.

Suddenly, a warm air came down, as soothing as warm water, and melted away the intense fear and anxiety, giving a sense of peace and well-being.

"I quit screaming and hollering and crying," he said.

The large bull walked over to Emery and sniffed his boots. "He started bugling again and a half dozen cow elk came out and took turns sniffing me and coming close. They wouldn't let me touch them, but I came within inches. I felt at ease," explained Emery.

During the next hour or so, the imperial bull kept up the bugling, signaling to the frustrated lion he chased off that there was no use trying to come back. During this time, the elk never left his side.

When Emery's wife, Penny, did



Ray Emery

not receive a phone call from him by 7 p.m., she felt something was wrong. She waited until 7:30 p.m. and drove up the mountain from town to check on him. Upon seeing his truck along the road, she frantically began blowing her horn. By this time, it was about 8:30 p.m. Emery heard the horn and so did the elk.

A call was made requesting a search and rescue team, only to be told that since it was after dark, they would have to wait until morning. However, after enough persuasion, the team of rescuers made the journey. Between 9:30 and 10 p.m., Emery heard and saw activity and yelled so as to be heard. "My brother-in-law first found me," he noted.

The imperial bull and his group of cow elk by this time had left, knowing their services were no longer needed. Help was on the way.

"I don't think I cheated the surgeon this time," Emery told Penny as he was being carried out.

He was flown on a chopper to Durango. It was here he was told that any delay in him being found would have resulted in his death. Once it was determined he suffered a T-12 explosion fracture in his back, he was immediately flown to St. Anthony's Trauma Center in Denver, over 300 miles away. He spent the next seven to 10 days in the hospital, then the next three months at Craig

Rehabilitation Hospital in Denver, a world-renowned medical facility specializing in traumatic brain and spinal injuries.

Today, Emery uses a cane and wears a leg brace. He also experiences intense nerve pain.

"My waist down to this day feels like it is on fire," he explained.

Over the last five years, he has had five surgeries.

"God works in mysterious ways. I thank my maker every day," Emery shared.

While motioning toward the scenery of the mountains, he added, "How can anybody deny there is a God when looking out at this? This is my church."

Emery's experience made him realize just how precious life is. He and Penny, along with their golden retriever, made their dream of traveling to Canada and Alaska a reality.

His having been the recipient of a miracle changed him in other ways, too.

"I was never the type of person before my accident to have ever believed such an event was possible," he said.

He is a believer now.

"I love to hunt; I love the outdoors. I got a bull on my wall that I got in '09 — a 6x6." With tears in his eyes, he adds, "After all that happened, I could never pull the trigger on a bull again."

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Photos courtesy George Hunyadi

A wide variety of musical numbers, featuring many of Pagosa Springs' favorite performers, filled the hall at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church during the first performance of the Heralds of Christmas concert on Dec. 15. Seasonal favorites combined with less-traditional arrangements delighted the audience. The event was presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society.

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for a
wonderful
2019!

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from DUST2



SAN JUAN BASIN AREA AGENCY ON AGING NEWS

Nursing Home Quality Care Act introduced

By Kay Kaylor
SUN Columnist

For San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA), I am not only a part-time long-term care ombudsman, advocating for residents at Pine Ridge, a 24-hour extended care home, and BeeHive, an assisted living residence. I also am an aging and disability resource specialist and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor. Information on the many aging and care concerns will be included here.

On Nov. 22, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky and Sen. Richard Blumenthal introduced the Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents Act of 2019 as H.R. 5216 and S. 2943. They were joined by 25 representatives and two senators as original co-sponsors, and the act has been endorsed by 10 advocacy groups so far.

Most important, the act specifies minimum staffing levels for 24-hour care in all nursing homes accepting Medicare and Medicaid payments. The minimum of 4.1 hours of direct care per resident daily are divided into portions of care by registered nurses (.75 hours), licensed practical or vocational nurses (.54) and certified nursing assistants (2.81).

Currently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not specify standards despite years of advocacy on the topic. In a Kaiser Family Foundation data analysis for 2017, the average total nursing hours (both licensed nurses and nursing aides, orderlies and assistants) per resident in Colorado was 4.2, but the national totals ranged from 3.6 hours in Georgia to 5.2 hours in Alaska. Nursing Home Compare details averages on its website.

The act also expands training requirements and supervision for all nursing staff and creates whistleblower and other protections for nursing home personnel and residents. Regarding another issue discussed, the act prohibits the use of forced arbitration agreements between residents and any nursing home entity. In addition, it develops a standardized protocol for nursing facilities to obtain informed consent for residents for treatment with psychotropic drugs.

SJBAAA offers resources for people age 60 and older or on Medicare. For further information, please call me at 264-0501, ext. 1, or send an email to adrc@sjbaaa.org.

EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, December 26

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 20

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Monday, December 23

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 19

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.*

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 2

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 27

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Monday, December 30

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 26

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's.*

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LIBRARY NEWS

Bridging America's digital skills gap and makerspace crafts event for all ages

By Carole Howard
SUN Columnist, and the library staff

America has a digital skills gap, and libraries are increasingly becoming go-to hubs for personal and professional development. As higher levels of digital skills have become integral to all kinds of work, libraries across the country are stepping up to help—and your library is right up there playing a leadership role.

Few modern jobs are untouched by the wave of digitalization sweeping the American economy. One study cited by The Atlantic magazine showed that, between 2002 and 2016, the share of jobs requiring low digital skills dropped from 56 to 30 percent, while the share requiring high digital skills rose from 5 to 23 percent.

You need multiple tools to do well in the digital age—a computer, the Internet, credible online resources and face-to-face help—and they all are freely available to you at your Ruby Sisson library.

Our free resources include 14 computers for public use, Wi-Fi, computer classes, drop-in technology help, online computer tutorials and two bilingual computer learning stations for young children. Scanning documents to a thumb drive or an email address is also free. Printing costs only 15 cents a page for black-and-white copies or 50 cents a page for color copies. We hope you'll read this "Library

News" column every week to learn about digital learning opportunities happening at your library.

Makespace crafts event

Creative people of all ages are invited to join us next Thursday, Dec. 26, from 10 to 11 a.m. for a very special free crafts event. We'll provide all varieties of materials for you to use to build, design and create whatever crafts you want.

Holiday closures

Your library closes at noon on Dec. 24 and is closed on Dec. 25 for Christmas. Similarly, we close at noon on Dec. 31 and are closed Jan. 1, 2020, for New Year's.

Teen gaming today

Free teen gaming normally happens on Tuesdays for teens in the sixth through 12th grades, but just for December, it will happen on Thursdays because of scheduling conflicts. Enjoy Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks on Dec. 19 and 26 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

All-ages gaming tomorrow

Join us tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 20, from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. for a free all-ages gaming session where you can enjoy video gaming on Wii and Xbox 360 Kinect with your friends and family.

Tween gaming

Free gaming for fourth through eighth grades is Monday, Dec. 23, from 4 to 5 p.m. Enjoy Xbox 360

Kinect, Wii and snacks.

ESL classes expand to evening sessions

Free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes have been so appreciated at your library that we are—by popular demand—switching one of the weekly sessions to the evening to make it easier for more people to participate.

The new schedule is Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. The classes are led by two highly experienced teachers—Joyce Holdread for the intermediate/advanced group and Ellynn Ragone for beginners. No registration is required.

Clases nocturnas de ESL en la biblioteca

Las clases han sido tan apreciadas en su biblioteca que nosotros—por demanda popular—estamos cambiando una de las sesiones semanales de la noche para facilitar la participación de más personas. El nuevo horario es los martes de 5-7 y los viernes de 12-2. Las clases son dirigidas por dos maestras altamente experimentadas; Joyce Holdread enseñará a los estudiantes intermedios y avanzados y Ellen Ragone enseñará a los principiantes. No es necesario registrarse.

Adult education

Our free PALS (Pagosa Adult Learning Services) accelerated

GED course is available only once more in December: Monday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come to your library to get help from Mark with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Free tech sessions

Drop in with your technology questions on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Family storytimes

Every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. and Saturday from 3 to 3:45 p.m., join us for great stories, fun songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move.

Both storytimes are open to babies, toddlers and youngsters of all ages to make it easier for parents to attend with their children depending on their busy schedules rather than the age of their little ones. These free sessions are an excellent way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers.

Activities calendars

To be sure you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your families at your library, we encourage you to pick up a copy of the events calendar each month. There are three versions—kids, tweens/teens and adults. We look forward to seeing you at your library. Se habla español.

More Christmas books

"Noel Street" by Richard Paul Evans explores the deeper meaning of Christmas. "A Jensen Family Christmas" by William W. and J.A. Johnstone shows how danger is one of the family holiday traditions. "Christmas Shopaholic" by Sophie Kinsella follows a young woman whose parents ask her to host Christmas.

Nonfiction

"AOC" by Prachi Gupta is a biography of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. "If You Tell" by Gregg Olsen is the true story of two sisters who escaped years of abuse from their sadistic mother. "Casa Construction Exterior" by Michael Gary Devloo is a guide to residential construction in both English and Spanish.

Mysteries and thrillers

"Just Watch Me" by Jeff Lindsay introduces a new thriller series featuring Riley Wolfe. "The Second Sleep" by Robert Harris follows a young English priest whose faith is tested by the possessions of an older dead priest. "The Andromeda Evolution" by Daniel H. Wilson is a sequel 50 years after "The Andromeda Strain" made Michael Crichton a household name. "A Minute to Midnight" by David Baldacci features FBO agent Atlee Pine. "Beating About the Bush" by M.C. Beaton is an Agatha Raisin mystery. "Criss Cross" by James Patterson is an Alex Cross mystery. "An Anonymous Girl" by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen follows a woman who signs up for a psychology study. "The Age of Anxiety" by Pete Townshend deals with mythic and operatic themes.

Large print

"Stealth" by Stuart Woods is a Stone Barrington mystery. "Contention and Other Frontier Stories" features 17 new stories about the American frontier in the early 1900s. "Robert B. Parker's Angel Eyes" by Ace Atkins is a Spenser

mystery. "The Rise of Magicks" by Nora Roberts is book three of the Chronicles of the One series.

Other novels

"The Confession Club" by Elizabeth Berg features a supper club with members who decide to share embarrassing misdeeds and regrets. "Sword of Kings" by Bernard Cornwell is the 12th installment of the epic Saxon Tales series. "Once Upon an Alaska Summer" by Lisa T. Bergren is a romance. "Nothing To See Here" by Kevin Wilson is an unusual story of parental love. "Star Wars: Resistance Reborn" by Rebecca Roanhorse is the prequel to "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker." "The Starless Sea" by Erin Morgenstern takes readers into a world of stories was filled with keys, cats, books and mystery.

Books on CD

"Bloody Trail of the Mountain Man" by William W. and J.A. Johnstone and "Bucked Out in Dodge" by Ralph Compton are westerns. "Hawke's Target" by Reavis Z. Wortham is a Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke thriller. "The Andromeda Evolution" by Daniel H. Wilson is a sequel 50 years after "The Andromeda Strain" made Michael Crichton a household name. "The Deserter" by Nelson and Alex DeMille is a thriller about the hunt for an Army deserter. "Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry" by Mary Higgins Clark is a thriller about sexual misconduct. "Blue Moon" by Lee Child is a Jack Reacher thriller.

Programmed Nooks

We have nine free Nooks and three free tablets programmed for your e-reading pleasure. The eight adult e-readers contain either fiction or nonfiction bestsellers. The four youth e-readers contain books for children, juniors and young adults.

Thanks to our donors

For their generous monetary donations, we are grateful to Ron Stanke, Jan and Bob Clinkenbeard, Gayle Dixon, and Susan and Terry Arrington. For books and materials this week, we thank our anonymous donors.

Quotable quote

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." — Mahatma Ghandi (1869-1948), Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British rule, and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

Website

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

Public Notices

River Rock Estates Annexation Published Notice
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Council of the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado has adopted a Resolution Initiating Annexation Proceedings for Certain Property known as the River Rock Estates Annexation, said Annexation being more particularly described as follows: A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN GLO LOTS 8 AND 9, THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (N1/2 SE1/4) AND THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (N1/2 SW1/4) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 35, NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:
BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED, BEING IDENTICAL WITH THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED UNDER RECEPTION NO. 20108477, BEING ON THE NORTH LINE OF GLO LOT 8 AND ALSO BEING THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, WHENCE THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK 65 OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, BEARS N.89°45'08"E., 225.34 FEET DISTANT;
THENCE ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID PARCEL OF LAND THE FOLLOWING:
S.00°34'15"E., 8.07 FEET;
35.92 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 260.00 FEET AND A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.03°23'12"W., 35.89 FEET DISTANT;
261.96 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 540.00 FEET AND A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.06°33'12"E., 259.40 FEET DISTANT;
S.20°27'03"E., 115.85 FEET;
296.74 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 460.00 FEET AND A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.01°58'14"E., 291.62 FEET DISTANT;
185.27 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 1040.00 FEET AND A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.11°24'22"W., 185.03 FEET DISTANT;
S.06°18'09"W., 465.28 FEET;
41.63 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 540.00 FEET AND A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.04°05'38"W., 41.62 FEET DISTANT;
S.01°53'06"W., 110.00 FEET;
THENCE N.89°57'35"W., 255.08 FEET LEAVING SAID WESTERLY LINE AND TO THE CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF FAIRWAY LAND TRUST MINOR SUBDIVISION, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED UNDER RECEPTION NO. 99011912;
THENCE N.07°06'38"W., 87.73 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER;
THENCE N.13°22'34"W., 305.94 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER;
THENCE N.07°23'06"W., 329.09 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER;

THENCE N.14°53'58"W., 134.51 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER;
THENCE N.29°40'54"W., 201.29 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER;
THENCE N.07°06'38"W., 483.02 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTH LINE OF GLO LOT 9 AND ALSO BEING THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, WHENCE THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK 69 BEARS N.89°01'58"W., 592.81 FEET DISTANT;
THENCE S.89°01'58"E., 135.93 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS TO THE SOUTH 1/4 CORNER OF THE TOWNSITE PERIMETER;
THENCE N.89°45'08"E., 435.23 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS AND ALSO THE NORTH LINE OF GLO LOT 8 AND 9 TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, within Archuleta County, Colorado.
That, on the 7th day of January, 2020, at the hour of 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may come up for hearing at the Town Council Chambers, Town of Pagosa Springs, 551 Hot Springs Boulevard, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, the Town Council will hold a hearing for the purpose of finding and determining whether the property proposed to be annexed meets the applicable requirements of Colorado law and is considered eligible for annexation. At such hearing, any person may appear and present such evidence upon any matter to be determined by the Town Council.
TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO
TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-23
A RESOLUTION INITIATING ANNEXATION PROCEEDINGS
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE KNOWN AS RIVER ROCK ESTATES ANNEXATION AND FINDING THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION NO. 2019-01 TO BE IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 31-12-107, C.R.S.

WHEREAS, a Petition for Annexation No. 2019-01 ("Petition") has been filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Pagosa Springs ("Town") and referred by the Clerk to the Town Council, requesting annexation of certain property to be known as the River Rock Estates Annexation (the "Property"); and WHEREAS, the Petition contains the following:
A. An allegation that it is desirable and necessary that the Property be annexed to the Town;
B. An allegation that the Property meets the requirements of Sections 31-12-104 and 31-12-105, C.R.S., and is eligible for annexation in that:
1. Not less than one sixth (1/6th) of the perimeter of the Property is contiguous with the Town, which contiguity may be established by the annexation of one or more parcels in a series;
2. A community of interest exists between the Property and the Town; the Property is urban or will be urbanized in the near future; and the Property is integrated with or is capable of being integrated with the Town;
3. Without the consent of the landowners, no land included within the Property, which is held in identical ownership, whether consisting of one tract or parcel of real estate or two or more contiguous tracts or parcels of real estate;
(a) is divided into separate parts or parcels, unless such tracts or parcels are separated by a dedicated street, road, or other public way; or
(b) comprises 20 acres or more and, together with the buildings and improvements situated thereon, has a valuation for assessment in excess of \$200,000.00 for ad valorem tax purposes for the year next preceding the proposed annexation;
4. No annexation proceedings have been commenced for the annexation to another municipality of part or all of the Property;
5. The annexation of the Property will not result in the detachment of area from any school district and the attachment of it to another school district;
6. The annexation of the Property will not have the effect of extending the boundary of the Town more than three miles in any direction from any point of the Town's boundary in any one year;
7. If a portion of a platted street or alley is to be annexed, the entire width of said street or alley is included within the Property;
8. Reasonable access shall not be denied to landowners, owners of an easement, or the owners of a franchise, adjoining any platted street or alley annexed by the Town but not bounded on both sides by the Town;
C. An allegation that the signers of the Petition comprise landowners of one hundred percent (100%) of the Property, exclusive of streets and alleys and any land owned by the Town;
D. A request that the Town approve annexation of the Property;
E. The signatures of such landowners;
F. The mailing address of each Petition signer;
G. The legal description of the land owned by each Petition signer;
H. The date of signing of each signature, which date is not more than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date of filing of the Petition with the Town Clerk;
I. An affidavit of each circulator of the Petition that each signature is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be;
J. Four copies of an annexation map containing a written legal description of the boundaries of the Property; a map showing the boundary of the Property; a showing of the location of each ownership tract of unplatted land, and the boundaries and the plat numbers of plots or lots and blocks of platted land within the Property, and the boundary of the Town and any other municipality contiguous to the Property.

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the Town to annex said area to the Town; and WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to initiate annexation proceedings in accordance with law. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

(i) The resolutions contained above are incorporated as if resolved and set forth in full.
(ii) The Petition and the annexation map are in substantial compliance with the requirements of Section 31-12-107(1), C.R.S., and the provisions of the Municipal Annexation Act.
(iii) The Town Council hereby accepts the Petition and initiates annexation proceedings for the Property, situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, as described in the Petition, and incorporated herein by this reference.
(iv) The Notice attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A is adopted as a part of this Resolution. The Notice establishes the date, time and place when a hearing will be held regarding the final passage of an annexation ordinance pertaining to the Property. The Town Clerk is directed to publish a copy of this Resolution and the Notice once a week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the Property, with the first publication at least thirty days prior to the hearing.
(v) A copy of the published Notice, together with a copy of this Resolution and the Petition as filed, shall also be sent by registered mail by the Town Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Attorney and to any special district or school district having territory within the Property at least twenty-five days prior to the date fixed for such hearing.
(vi) A copy of the published Notice, together with copies of the Letter of Intent provided with the Application, the annexation map, and the concept plan for the development of the Property shall be sent by certified mail by the Town Clerk to the owners of real property within three hundred (300) feet of the boundaries of the Property, irrigation ditch companies whose rights-of-way traverse the Property, and to the mineral estate owners and their lessees of the Property.
(vii) Pursuant to Sec. 21.11.5.6 of the Town of Pagosa Springs Municipal Code, the Petition and annexation map are hereby referred to the Planning Commission for its consideration, review and recommendations at a regular or special meeting to be held prior to the date of the hearing before the Town Council. If zoning of the Property has been requested concurrent with annexation, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the zoning of the Property at the same meeting. Notice of the public hearing on the zoning of the Property shall be given as provided in the Municipal Code. Adopted by a vote of seven in favor and zero against, this 5th day of November, 2019.

Published December 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of LEOLA JEAN JOHNSTON aka LEOLA J. JOHNSTON, Deceased
Case No. 2019-PR-30048
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are requested to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before APRIL 30, 2020, or the claims may be forever barred.

Susan Claire Tanner
351 Lupine Place
Pagosa Springs, CO 81447
Published December 12, 19 and 26, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

Notice of Request for Proposals/Qualifications for Town Attorney Services
The Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado (Town) is requesting proposals from qualified law firms and individual attorneys to provide legal services to the Town. To be considered, an electronic copy and three hard copies of a proposal must be received at Town Hall by 4:00 pm on January 10, 2020. A copy of the Request for Proposals/Qualifications for Town Attorney Services and any addendums can be found at the Town's website www.pagosaspings.co.gov
Published December 12 and 19, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Winter watering for dry landscapes

By Robin Young
SUN Columnist

Woody plants with shallow root systems require supplemental watering during extended dry fall and winter periods. These include European white and paper birches; Norway, silver, red, Rocky Mountain and hybrid maples; lindens, alder, hornbeams, dogwood, willows and mountain ash. Evergreen plants that benefit include spruce, fir, arbutus, yew, Oregon grape-holly, boxwood and Manhattan euonymus. Woody plants benefit from mulch to conserve soil moisture.

Herbaceous perennials and ground covers in exposed sites are more subject to winter freezing and thawing. This opens cracks in soil that expose roots to cold and drying. Winter watering combined with mulching can prevent damage.

Lawns also are prone to winter damage. Newly established lawns, whether seed or sod, are especially susceptible to damage. Susceptibility increases for lawns with south or west exposures.

Watering guidelines

Water only when air temperatures are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Apply water at mid-day so it will have time to soak in before possible freezing at night. A solid layer (persisting for more than a month) of ice on lawns can cause suffocation or result in matting of the grass.

Plants receiving reflected heat from buildings, walls and fences are more subject to damage. The low angle of winter sun makes this more likely in south or west exposures. Windy sites result in faster drying of sod and plants and require additional water. Lawns in warm exposures are prone to late winter mite damage. Water is the best treatment

to prevent turf injury. Monitor weather conditions and water during extended dry periods without snow cover—one to two times per month.

Newly planted versus established plants

Newly planted trees are most susceptible to winter drought injury. Woody trees generally take one year to establish for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, a 2-inch diameter (caliper) tree takes a minimum of two years to establish under normal conditions.

Trees obtain water best when it is allowed to soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. Methods of watering trees include sprinklers, deep-root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand.

Apply water to many locations under the drip line and beyond if possible. If you use a deep-root fork or needle, insert no deeper than 8 inches into the soil. As a general survival rule, apply 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a 2-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter.

Newly planted shrubs require more water than established shrubs that have been planted for at least one year. The following recommendations assume shrubs are mulched to retain moisture. In dry winters, all shrubs benefit from winter watering from October through March. Apply 5 gallons two times per month for a newly planted shrub. Small-established shrubs (less than 3 feet tall) should receive 5 gallons monthly. Large established shrubs (more than 6 feet) require 18 gallons on a monthly basis. Decrease amounts to account for precipitation. Water within the drip line of the shrub and

around the base.

Herbaceous perennial establishment periods vary. Bare root plants require longer to establish than container plants. Perennials transplanted late in the fall will not establish as quickly as plants planted in spring. Winter watering is advisable with late-planted perennials, bare root plants, and perennials located in windy or southwest exposures. For more information, contact the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Office at -5931.

Upcoming events

January/February 2020: Support your local 4-H Program by purchasing soup from a 4-H member.

Jan. 18, 2020: Cottage Foods Certification, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Extension office. This certification allows certain foods to be produced in home kitchens and be sold directly to the consumer. For more information, please call the office at 264-5931. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com/cottage-foods-pagosa-co-tickets-83416072719 or come into the office to pay. Cost is \$40

Feb. 11, 2020: The 36th annual Beef Symposium will be held at the Archuleta County Extension office. The cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Please call the Extension office at 264-5931 for more information and to register.

Feb. 12, 2020: The Agricultural Financial Management Strategies workshop hosted by the CSU Agriculture and Business Management Team will cover topics such as risk management, business planning, enterprise budgeting, record keeping and more. Please go to www.2020fms.eventbrite.com to register or come into the office to pay. The cost is \$15.

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

In its annual tradition, members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Council No. 7560 of the Knights of Columbus installed the nativity scene at Town Park. The Knights' Christmas message to residents and guests is "Keep Christ in Christmas." The nativity scene is lit up for night viewing.

Semi driver cited after going off highway

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

A semitrailer driver who was allegedly under the influence while driving has been cited for careless driving and driving under the influence (DUI) following his truck going off of the side of the road on U.S. 160 near mile marker 132 at about 1 p.m. on Nov. 17.

The driver of the truck, Jason Allberg, 43, from Florida, was heading westbound on U.S. 160 and went off the side of the road into a ditch, and jackknifed the semi and was not able to get back onto the road, according to Colorado State Patrol Cpl. Blake Hancey.

Allberg showed signs of impairment, Hancey explained.

"He was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence. He did agree to a test, then that was done and he was essentially charged and taken to Durango and was released at detox," Hancey said.

No injuries were reported, and Hancey noted that the truck sustained no damages initially except for when crews were attempting to get the truck out of the ditch.

"The damage that was sustained to the fuel tank was when they were trying to recover it," Hancey said, adding that the semi was partially blocking the roadway.

In the process of getting it out of the ditch, Hancey explained that the one of the truck's saddle tanks was punctured.

"It wasn't leaking until they were pulling it up on the road," Hancey said. "There's generally, when that happens, they have a cleanup contracting crew and the company itself was contacted to make arrangements for that."

There are possible charges of DUI, but that depends on the result of a blood test, Hancey noted.

However, Hancey noted law enforcement suspected Allberg was under the influence of alcohol.

"As of now, he has not been charged with that," Hancey said, "but that could change. There are some charges that are pending."

Driving drunk in general is a problem, Hancey explained.

"I think it's important for those that are professional drivers, they

need to be held to a high standard," Hancey said. "I believe that this was not necessarily indicative of the company itself, but an in-

dividual's choice, which I believe it's always an individual's choice. As far as that goes, it's a problem everywhere. In this case, we were

extremely lucky that there wasn't a crash and somebody else wasn't injured."

chris@pagosasun.com

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and
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preview

ARTS & CRAFTS

Letters to Santa



Letters To Santa

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

Dear Santa,

May I please have something? Can you please bring me a kitchen for all of us, my brother and sister, for dear Christmas. And pretend grapes and Buzz Light-year. I hope you love your cookies. Be grateful it's Christmas Eve. My mom needs new pots and pans. Please bring my brother and sister presents too. Please do it...please, please please! I hope your reindeer have a lot of fun eating their carrots.

Love Levi, age 4

Dear Santa Claus,

Can you ask my mommy to get my boat toy for me. It's at Walmart instead of the red submarine. yes.

Thank you,

Orion, 3 years, 10 months

Dear Santa from Gabriel Mendez.

this i have been kind of bad and not to my mom. this year i wish lising for new shoes and new phone and i really really wish for a Xbox One and three games: Lego world and a racing game and spiderman if not spiderman one dat i can see my grandma for one hour and tell her i miss her and i love her and to tell her to come back. thats all i want for Chrismus if not it's OK. Did u get the other kids lists to.

Sinle Gabriel Mendez

Dear Santta:

Hi how are you?

are your elvs working hard? I want a PS4 for Christmas am I on the nox liste or the nice list? What are your deers names?

Love, Esteban

Dear Santa iH

for christmas I want a dirt bike and a santa hat. I hope you doing good and that you travel safely.

From Jake

Dear Santa,

HI how are you? How many elves are there? For Christmas I want a Hot Wheels Ultimate garage. My favorite snack is a candy cane. My friend is Adam. What is your favorite cookie? My favorite cookies are oreos. I hope you have a safe trip around the world.

Your friend, Daymian

Dear Santa Claus,

Hi, how are you today? How old are you? I am 7 years old! My name is Ethan. How are the elves? For Christmas I want a bay blade set.

Your friend, Ethan

Dear Santa,

Hi, how are you?

I bet you are very busy. How many elves are at the North Pole? How is Mrs. Clause? Can you tell her Hi for me? All I want for Christmas is a baby brother, because it is boring at my house.

Your friend, Alejia

Dear Santa Claus,

how is it going at the North Pole? What's your reindeer's names? I wish that my grandma gets well. My name is Vanessa. I wish for barbie clothes and barbie shoes. I wish for a real cat and dog. I can't wait for Christmas.

Your friend, Vanessa

Dear Santa,

Hi how are you? I bet you are busy at the work shop. For Christmas I want for my gramma to get better. I want to see my grandma and my grandpa because

■ See Letters on next page



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Coyote Moon Bar and Grill: Karaoke with Lisa Saunders, 9 p.m.
The Springs Restort atrium: Steve Blechs Schmidt, 6 p.m.

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Letters

■ continued from previous page
they moved away and I really miss them. They live in Arizona. For Christmas I want a chromebook and a polaroid camera. I hope you ride safe in your sleigh.

Your friend, Baylee

Dear Santa,

Hi, How are you? I bet you are very busy. What are the names of your elves? I am a 2nd grader and my teacher is Mrs. Stretton. I can't wait until Christmas for Christmas I would like a bike and a Barbie. I hope you stay warm when you deliver presents on Christmas Eve.

Your friend, Zuleika

Dear Santa Claus,

Hi, My name is Alexa. How are you doing? I forgot your reindeer names? How is Mrs. Claus an Am I on the naughty list or in the nice list. My favorite holiday is Christmas because it is Jesuses birthday and we gather together with my family, we eat and open presents. For Christmas I would like slime and a Hover board it would be nice if you could give me one more thing please and it is a cat. What kind of cookies do you like? I like sugar cookies. I wish I could ride your sled. I can't wait till Christmas!

Your friend, Alexa

Dear Santa,

Hi, How are you? Is it nice at the Noth Pole. For Christmas I would like a Fox. Can it be a white Fox? What is your favorite food? Do you like dogs? I'm 8 years old. I've been good this year. In school we made Chistmas flowers. I wish I could show you them.

Sincerely, Bixby

Dear Santa Claus,

Hi how is it up at the North Pole? Christmas is my favorite day. How is Mrs. Claus? For Christmas I would like 3 things an X-Box, an electric ATV that, I can ride and that has rubber wheels. and foot ball gloves. You are the best!

Your kid, Chloe

Dear Santa,

I like you. You are nice. I would really like a drone for Cerismas. How is Miss Claus. How are the

elves Did they make the toys. Are the reindeer are they redy to go no the way don't loose any gifts my name is Leo I am 8 years olled.

Your friend, Leo

Dear Santa,

Hi, how are you? I bet you are busy this year. How is Mrs. Claus and the elves? I like to fish. My favorite football team is LSU. For Christmas I would like a snowglobe please. I hope you don't get frost-

■ See Letters on next page



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Letters

■ continued from previous page

bite on Christmas Eve.

Your friend, Adam

Dear Santa,

Hi, how are you? can I have a pug for Christmas. I love their wrinkles, they are so cute. Is it true that elves have big ears. How is Mrs. Claus? What is your favorite cookie? does Rudolf's nose actually glow? I'm in 2nd grader. I like to play football with my dog Bogey. Bogey is so cute. he is black. I hope you have a good Christmas. What is it like to go down a chimney?

Your friend, Asher

Dear Santa,

Hi, how are you? I bet you are very busy. How are the elves in the toy shop? How is Mrs. Claus? I want a Lego set with Lego people. What is your favorite cookie? I am 7 year old. I Love Roodolph the red nose rander. What are all the elves names? I want a bike and a puppy. My favorite color is blue. What is your favorite color? I hope you have a great Christmas.

Your friend, Octavio

Dear Santa,

Hi how is it at the North Pole? I can't wait until Christmas! What are your reindeers names? You are very nice. Wht are your elves names? I hope you have a nice trip.

Yor friend, Pia

Dear Santa,

Hi, Merry Christmas How is Mrs. Claus? How is it at the North Pole. It must be cold over there. It is snowy here. Can you remind me the reindeer's names. I wish I could go to the North Pole. Does Rudolf actually have a red nose? What I want for Christmas is Pokemon cards, and a remote control jet. I am in second grade and I go to school at Pagosa Springs Elementary.

Your friend, Ethan L.

Dear Santa,

Hi, how are you and Mrs Claus doing? How are elves? For Christmas I want a phone and I want a remote control car and a Teak Deak. How are the reindeer doing. I hope your not to busy. What do you

like about the North Pole?

Your friend, Oscar

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are your elves for Christmas I would like a Lego set how is Mrs. Claus and your reindeer? in the winter I go ice skating. it is very fun! Last Christmas I got a lot of presents I like playing in the snow. for Christmas I am getting a electric scouter

your friend, Kooper

Dear Santa,

I would like a farmset for Christmas. I would lilke a computer and a monster truck too.

Love, Liam

Dear Santa,

My name is Brycen. Can I please have a puppy for Christmas and dog food so I can feed my puppy? and thank you for giving kids presents.

From, Brycen

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I woudl really like a gold necklace with a cross on it for this Christmas. Could you please make a black panther figure?

From, Noah

Dear Santa,

My name is Kyleah. For Christmas I woud really love if you get me a PS4 with a pink and purple camo controller, a slime kit, and a LOL pet.

From Kyleah

Dear Santa,

My name is Jazmine Martinez. This year I would really love a new bike and a new DS4 for my brother. Also I want a new scooter for me and my brother. Also you saw me on the train.

From, Jazmine

Dear Santa,

I want a Domisaur Rex for Christmas that eats toys. I want a new basketball for Christmas. I want a ball that never breaks. I want a treadmill.

From Lahoen

Dear Santa

I have been good this year. I woudl love a dirt bike. I really really want to give my little brother a new wiPad. I want my dirt bike

to be red please.

From, Ben

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. i would really love a camera for Chritmas this year. In my stocking I want fun Dips.

Love, Mia

Dear Santa,

i have been good. I would love to have Hatchamals for Christmas. I would also like to have a bike for my brother Wallace. I would love a puppy, too.

Love, Kesonrah

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good girl this year. I want a phone an iPad, and a computer for Christmas.

Love, Jemma Jade Flaugh

Dear Santa,

I have been a really good girl this year. I would really love a kitten and a rabbit for Christmas this year. I would really love thei game catchgolf I would love a new house and an i Phone II.

Love, Izabella

Dear Santa,

I wold like a Nintendo Switch and a basketball. I have been a really good boy. I would like a few batteries. I would really, really like an iPhoneII with Roadblock and Roadbucks pretty please.

From, Oliver

Dear Santa,

My name is Sofia. i really want a kitten for Christmas. I want a blue bike, a sutffed unicorn, and slime for Christmas.

Love, Sofia

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl. I would

■ See Letters on next page

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Letters

■ continued from previous page

really like an American Girl doll. I really want a Hatchamal, a LoL oll, and a puppy.

Love, Kaleen

Dear Santa,

I would really like a PS4 because I like to play video games. Thankyou for giving me presents.

From, Aidan

Dear Santa,

How are you I have been good. I hop Mrs Claus comes to my house with you. I want a Hotwheels car. I want a awsome blosem.

From, Carlie Bridges

Dear Santa,

How are you this year. I sure hal are the elvs is bow! bres! wir-d pup are a bad rat dril has a wrck!

Christmas Ruby

Dear Santa,

Do the randeer get presens is missis claus a gud kauk hey are you had are the randear your friend Kolby I want a bick and a jacket and a puppy and a tweaty tow and some twenty tow bulets and a hunting backpack and some hunting pens. and a merry crismus

from Kolby Elliott

Dear Santa,

How are you. I been so good this year. has Mrs Claus a good cooker. has all the elves dun. And I want a awsome blorem. And a park dian-ile. And a L.O.L Love. And Leo and doll. and a Elf stufe.

Mrry Christmas, Callie

Dear Santa,

I would like a pone like mom's plese. How ar you. wat would you like for sraks. Thank you for wat you do.

Love, Rilea

Dear Santa Claus

How is it with I been every good this year Mrs. Claus bake her cake is every. good I wish you are every nice to us are you ready for Christmas can I feed the raindeer from Ana to Santa

Dear Santa,

How is mrs claus. How is your workshop going. How ar the raindeer. How ar the elves. I hav bin god.

Merry Christmas, Jori Wilson
Dear Santa Claus,

I hope your leves have been good this year. I have been wanting a cat, do you think you could pleas get me one? and thank you for everything you do for us all.

and you are the best Santa kid's could ever have.

Love Santa Claus, Kiana Bennett
DEAR SANTA

How are you this year? Is Mrs Claus a good cook? Is rudolph grown up? Does ruldolph fly the right way? I am EXITED! How are the raindeer? My elf was naughty and got in our candy! I hope you get what you want this year Is the grinch real?

Merry Chrismas, Trent

Dear Santa,

Thanks for all the joy you give us for Chistmas and all the time we get to sped time with are famly. Thank for giveing us this fi of the year. merry Chistmas

Love Leon

Dear Snata Claus,

how is mrs. claus and are you ready for christmas. And thank you for how much you do for the whole world! And what yor favorite part of Christmas. And Santa you and ytour elves are the best! and mrs. Claus! Santa I'll leave cookies and milk and I'll leave reindeer food out side and I want a PS4.

love Eduardo

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year is rudolph your top raindeer. I have a list of preents that i sent you the list of.

Merry chistmas, Micah

Dear Santa,

How ar you this year? What do

Ana

you wish for? And can i ride yore sled i want a game sitom plec?

frum Lexen

Dear Santa,

I want a I phone II for this Christmas. I was a good kid and did not get a green grip. Can I get a snow globe and a bunny thakes you Santa

Your truuly Clayton Jose Tressler
Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Nintendo switch, a huverbord and a Galaxy SZ for Christmas this year. I want to play on them. I have been a good boy.

Your friend, Netzy Sheperd
Dear Santa Claus,

I want to get a puppy because i have been good. I will take care of it. I would like a leash and toys for the dog. I also want a cell phone. I would like to get a to-go cup. I want to get a basketball please. I want to get new clothes.

Your friend, Esperanza

■ See Letters on next page

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Letters

■ continued from previous page

Dear Santa,
I want a big tablet. Also another thing I want is a phone. Next, I want a puppy. I want a mermaid bracelet. I was an amazing child all year!

Your friend, Kadence
Dear Santa

I want a snowglobe and a mermaid tale because I have been a good girl this year. I helped my mom and clean and mop the floors. And I've been good because I want a toy for Christmas and candy and toys in my stocking oh and I also want a music box and a cofe cup for my mom but make it secret ok Santa and make it prety and beautiful and lovely and make it say I Love you.

Your friend, Maelie
Dear Santa Claus

I want two mermaide tales for christmas this year. I want to fit in side it and go in the pool. I have been really good! I have been doing work at home too. I Love Christmas becuase you get to see your family. I Love cookies to. hay Santa I Like red to cuase it's the color of Love! I hope you like the Letter! COOKIES!

LOVE Aliya Johnson
Dear Santa,

I want a pink skate board because I was a good girl. Next, I want a lot of presents for my birthday is December 31, 2012. Also, I want a cool books Finally, I want a safe.

Love, Adelaide Graham
Dear Santa

I want a scooter it is a fast scooter I want it to be blue. Next I want a football

Your friend, Gabe
Dear Santa,

I want a baby puppy for Christmas this year. I want to play with it. I think I deserve it because I have been good this year. Another thing I want for Christmas is a phone. Also, I have been a very good girl this year.

Your frind, Baylie Rodriguez
Dear Santa

I woat a hoverboard because I am a good boy. A another thing woat is a phone. A another thing I woat is a bunkbed. I woat a toy truck. A another thing I woat a Nintendo switch.

Your friend, Anaziah
Dear Santa Claus,

I want a black hoverBoard. I have been good this year well I think I've been good. I'd like an-

other thing is a I Phone II Pro. I really want a I phone II pro.

Your friend, Ty Mitchell
Dear Santa,

I want nothing but my family, friends and pets. I know I have been a good girl. But I want my family, friends and pets to come to my house for Christmas eve.

Your friend, Olivia Diffey
Dear, Santa

I want a Teen ninja turtle video game. It is the most coolest game ever!

Your friend Lance Anderson
Dear Santa

I want a girl puppy. I want to play with it. I want a bike. I want a teddy bear. I want a playground I want some boots.

Your friend Madisyn Lucero
Dear Santa Claus,

I was a good girl. I want a humongouse panda bear. So I could fit inside it because I got no green slip. I want a fox hoodie because I LOVE foxes and I'm always cold. I want skateboard wheels because mine aren't that good. Also, I want a Ipad because mine has viruses. I want a rat because my cousin has one and I'm jealous and I want it with the cage.

Your freind, Karlie
Dear Santa,

I want a puppy for this Christmas this year. I want because my other dog is about to die. I have been a good boy and I have not gotten a green slip.

Another thing I would like is a journal with blank paper this Christmas. I want it because I want to draw on it. I stock the fridge.

Your friend, Cooper Laner
Dear Santa Claus,

I want a bunkbed with a desk under it for Christmas. I want a pool and a trampoline. I want a canvas some paint brushes. I've been a good girl. I don't lie to my mom and dad.

Your friend, Milagro Blanco
Dear Santa,

You're real!
I have been good I want an Xbox at my mom's house for Christmas. Thank you.

Your favorite kid Avitt
Dear Santa,

Can I have your cookies? I've been kind of good. I hope I get all the things on my list! Thank you Santa!

Sincerely, Your favoite kid, Roen!
Dear Santa,

Have a nice christmas. I'm trying to be good. Please bring me a tablet and/or a giant robot. The robot should have a computer and both should have downloaded games.

Love, Wells Witting
Dear Santa,

Have a great day I was good This year. I'm hoping you will bring me a flashlight and two new PokeMon Shield and sword of PokeMon.

Love, Kylie Pinto
■ See Letters on next page

Shuttle to Wolf Creek!

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Saturday-Sunday from

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mark@epsteinclayworks.com
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Letters

■ continued from previous page

Dear Santa,
Have a nice Christmas. I've been good. I want a princess car and a toy cat, a fack foob foyma toy mav toy, cat. and a noo backpack. I want to play with sprinkles. Also some candndy. Please and thank you.

Your friend, Shaniya

Dear Santa,
Can I have your cookies? I've tried to be good this year. I'm hoping you can bring me a brand new dirt bike and a taller one please your favorite kid, Ayden

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa!
I've tried to be good this year. I hope you can bring me a new bike and 20 lps. Thank you, Santa.

Your favorite kid, Tesla

Dear Santa,
Happy Holidays I've tried to be good this year. I'm hoping. you will have a good Christmis. Also, a horse. Thx

Love, Gordoven Atalya

Dear Santa,
See you at the highscool. I've tried to be good this year I want to have a puppy, and a kitten, and makeup.

Your frend Camellia Bellina

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! I haeven been good this year. It want a bike for Christmas. Thank you Santa!

Your favorite kid, Steven

Dear Santa,
Hi, do you want to talk? I tried my best I was good most. I'm hoping you will bring me a noo smell good tha smells like hot chocolate tanks Santa.

Your friend, Rylee Chatagnier

Dear Santa,
Merry Christme!
I was good this year. I hope you will bring me a new bike and a fish. I want a gold fish. Thankyou Santa.

Sincerely From, Marleigh

Dear Santa
Your so kind to people I've been

so good this year I'm hoping you will bring me an Imaginex teen titen go tower. Thank you, Santa

Yor favorite kid Gavino

Dear Santa,
Happy holidays.

I've tried to be good this year. I'm hoping you will bring me a doll and a bike. Thank you, Santa!

Your favorite kid, Morgan

Dear Santa,
Happy holidays! I was excellent this year. I'm hoping you will bring me a scruf luf, Gelli plate, blinger, luky fortune, osmo, a real baby puppy and an X box.

From Shiloh

Dear Santa
Merery Christmas! I've been good. I hope you will breng me a cros with God! Also, an Xbox. Thanc you so much.

Sincerely Lelend

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa!
Santa, I want a mincraft diamond light-up sword and a mincraft diamond light-up picaxe. Thank you! Merry Christmas.

Sincerely, Joe

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa!
I've tried to be good this year. I'm hoping you will bring me a new bike, nerfgun with bullets, and a football helmet. Thank you

Your boy, Nick

Dear Santa ailskino, i love you love Kino

Thomas

Dear Santa Claus,
Love, Troyletta prez for me because Christmas is 18 das for Christmas he like my toy I like you Santa Troyletta Aloysuis

Dear Santa
can you giv me a Mostr Chruc that has tow I b los that his Name is Blazs and his fren

Love Jose and I am a boy and I am 6

Dear Santa Claus
i bin grat this year i got alot thing

to tel u can i get initeno switch and can you look in the box and can i get an x box. ples. can i get coton candy mucheh. can i get miny whoter all the one in school and it wherks!

love, Talon

Dear Santa, for christmas I want a Lago set and i want zum cupcaks and I wad wont a elf on the chilf

Loev. Nate, 7

Dear Santa Claus,
i would like a moos blanke and a galree of colrdoe anmol wall.

Love Cora, 6

Dear Santa Claus,
I want for Chritsmas a pakit of Ligos of spiderman and I want tora boslayer

Love, Sebastian, 7

Dear Santa Claus,
can yo get me a fac crismithe and a yohycon shcoshee.

Love, Athena, 7

■ See Letters on next page



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Exciting News!

Your voices have been heard and for the first time in 15 years The Springs Resort & Spa is enhancing our locker room facilities! We realize there is never a good time for this type of rejuvenation, however we've taken painstaking efforts to schedule the work during our slowest time. There is a big push over the next 3 weeks, then the locker rooms will be back in service for the holiday break (December 20-January 6), and then rejuvenation

continues after the holidays.

We are confident that our guests both near and far will greatly appreciate the new Bath House when it's completed, as many guests have expressed their support and gratitude for the planned renovation.

To show our appreciation please enjoy 10% off beer, wine, and cocktails while visiting the resort 3 pm – 6 pm every Monday – Friday until the rejuvenation is complete!

Letters

■ continued from previous page

Dear Santa Claus,
I Love your elves espeshle danst he is the best elf and you are the best to

Love Kystle is 7

Dear Santa Claus
My christmas tree will be the best christmas tree

Love Bodhi, 6

Dear Santa Claus,
My christmas deerrs santa the tree Love Lily

Love, Lily, 6

Dear Santa Claus,
thank you for all the presents. I want a purple modisic!

Love Taylor, 6

Sant giv me a tablit

Alex

Dear Santa Claus,
thace you for all the prests mothr sid.

Lyla, 6 from Lyla to Santa

Dear Santa I want for christmas is a baby sistr and I want evrey bude to be frins and I want evrey prsin to be nis to eech othr and I want evrey bute to be helthe.

Love Olivia, 7

Dear Santa Claus,
I like you wen it is christmas and you are the best I blev i blev

Love Hazel, 6

Dear Santa i wun a snow brod for christmas

Love Tyler, 7

Dear Santa Claus,
can you give me a babedol that has a name and a beene and can it have a dres and it can tock and wock.

Lave Kyndal, 6

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a unicorn for Christmast and I love Christmas

Love Mia, six

Dear Santa
Christmas is the best

Love Mihael, 6

I like moutains. And sun sets.

Wyatt

Dear Santa Claus
I dlik like preset i Do i Do the adedo

(no name)

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I tock er fo mysistr. I will help my mom an my room. Fist, I world like 15 LoLs dolls. Next, i would like a unicorn. Thank you Santa.

Konsi

Dear Santa,
I have been good because washed dishes. I will work on feeding my cats. First I would like a Machine Moj Moj. Next I would

like ear plugs.

Your friend, Ana

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I help my mom and dad. I will work on cleaning bathroom. First, I would like a video gam. Next, I would like nintendo switch.

Your friend, Jimmy

Dear Santa,
I have been good becuse I took care of my sister I will work on helping my dad. egg mahine an next I would like a christmas 6pt.

Your friend, Terven

Dear Santa,
I have been good because my step sister take cair of ma I will work on cleaning my room. First, I would like a Harry Potter legos. Next, I would like a motorcycle.

Your friend, Rody

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I helped others! I will work on cleaning my room! First, I would like a fortnight swith! Next, I would like a mic!

Your friend, Sammy

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I took care of my brother. I will work on my spelling words. First, I would lik a barbie house. Next, I woul like ear plugs. Thank you Santa.

Your friend, Daralys

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I helped my mom and dad. I will work on being band hands free. First, I would like nerf gun bullets. Next, I would like a Fortnite lama in real life.

Your friend, Kade Nce

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I took care of my sister. I will work on taking care of my dogs. First, I would lilke a play stable. Next, I would like a hat.

Your friend, Alicia

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I took care of my sister. I will work on my

spelling word. First, I would like house a Barbie. Next, I would like computer.

Your friend, Jaylee DeJesus

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I took care of my brother. I will work on my spelling word. First I would like a remote control boat. Next I would like a dirt bike.

Your friend, Chase

Dear Santa,
I hav been good because feeding my fin. I will work on I took care of my. First, I would like a Barbie Next, I would like a phone Thank you Santa.

Your friend, Anya

Dear Santa,
I have been good because i fed my dog. I will work on helping my mom and dad. First, I would like a bike. Next, I would like computer.

Your friend, Elisa

Dear Santa,
I have ben good because I fed my dog. I will work on being good at school. First, I would like a spirit horse set. Next I would like christmas horse set. Thank you Santa.

Your friend, Louie

Dear Santa,
I have been good beause 'm helping others. i will work on helping my dog.

First, I would like a Play station 4. Next I would like pellet gun ammo. Thank you Santa

Your friend, Cal

Dear Santa,
I have been good because I took care of my dogs. I will work on being good at school. First, I will lik an electric scooter. next, I would like a fortnight switch.

Your friend, Dekklyn

Dear Santa,
I have been good because- took care of my brother. I will work on helping my mom and dad. First, I would like a hat Next I would like a pair of shoes.

Your friend, Tenley

Karaoke Dance Party

Saturday at 9 pm
with Lisa Saunders

Join us at Coyote Moon



120 Piedra Rd. • Top of Put Hill/ Mid-Town



Merry Christmas!

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

However, there is much more to the story of Jesus than a once a year event. Jesus came to change lives. Following Jesus was meant to be a life lived every day of the year in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and many other Christian attributes.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus during the season. But let us live each day the life to which Jesus calls us.

The birth of Jesus is a wonderful story. At this time of the year it seems that many people are a little kinder and more joyful, even among the hustle of the season.

Time of Services

Sunday	Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
	AM Worship	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	PM Worship	6:00 p.m.
	Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

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Dorman Diller, Minister



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*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

*December 24
at 6:00 p.m.*

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Holiday Church Events



All events listed in December Church Events Calendar are free of charge.

Friday, Dec. 20

Movie. 6 p.m., New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. "Joyeux Noel," a moving, true story. (505) 604-5031.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Mass. 4 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, call 731-5744.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. You are invited to join our Grace family. For more information, call 731-6200.

Christmas Eve Service. 5 p.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Brass will be playing at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 731-3120.

Christmas Eve Family Service. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Father Doug Neel will give a children's sermon and provide a special treat for the young ones. Holy Communion is included.

Candlelight Service. 6 p.m., Amaz-

ing Grace Community Church, 77 Navajo Circle. A classic small intimate Christmas Eve service in a sheep barn in the countryside. For more information, contact Pastor Mark at 444-2111.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 6 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. For more information, call 731-2205.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 6 p.m., New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. For more information, call (505) 604-5031.

Christmas Eve Service. 7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Christmas Music. 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Special classical Christmas music provided by NightSong Trio, St. Patrick's Choir and special guests Sarah Dorian, Robert Neel and Dale Scrivener.

Christmas Eve Mass. 8 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 445 Lewis St. For more information, call 731-5744.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 8 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Service of Holy Communion.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Mass. 9 a.m., John

Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Family Mass. For more information, call 731-5744.

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Burning Bowl Ceremony. 10:30 a.m., New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. Release the past and reclaim the future. For more information, call (505) 604-5031.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Mass. 5 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 445 Lewis St. For more information, call 731-5744.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day Mass. 9 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. For more information, call 731-5744.

Come celebrate
Christmas with us!

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service ~ 5pm

Brass will be playing
at 4:30pm



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209 Harman Park Dr.
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www.pagosabiblechurch.org

Help make a difference with giving trees

By Veronica Medina
Special to The PREVIEW

In the giving spirit of our community, there are two giving trees: one is at Ace Hardware and one is at the Liberty Theatre. These trees have tags that give the name, age

and gender of the participant, as well as an item that is needed. There are children, veterans and seniors.

With your help, we will make a difference this Christmas. Please drop off the wrapped gift with the tag by Dec. 20 at NextHome RMR, 56 Talisman Drive, Ste. 2.

Christmas Worship

Sunday, Dec. 22 — Regular Services
Dec. 24 • 5 & 7 PM — Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, Dec. 29 — Regular Services

All are welcome

COMMUNITY
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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Humble Beginnings

TUESDAY, DEC. 24
4:30 PM
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Preschools spread the holiday spirit at the Senior Center

By Ursala Hudson
Special to The PREVIEW

Pagosa's youngest performers paid a visit to the Pagosa Springs Senior Center this past week to spread the holiday cheer. The tiny voices of Seeds of Learning preschoolers recited poems and sang songs of the season to delighted and appreciative audiences.

Each of the three classes from Seeds of Learning visited the Senior Center at the Ross Aragon Community Center before lunch was

served to the seniors; the Dragonfly classroom visited Tuesday, the 4-year-old Ladybugs on Wednesday and the 5-year-old Butterflies on Friday.

This was the 17th year that the preschoolers have visited the senior center during the holiday season. Each year, the children ride the three blocks from Seeds of Learning Center to the Senior Center on the Mountain Express Transit, which is an annual treat they eagerly anticipate during the weeks preceding.

Dave Krueger — the center's treasured volunteer and former Pagosa Springs Elementary School music teacher — begins practicing the holiday program songs with the Seeds students several weeks in advance.

This year, the children learned the words and created hand motions to "Snowflake," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Frosty the Snowman" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The older students were delighted to share their hard work with a crowd, while the youngest students surprised their audience with an impromptu unstructured dance to Krueger's ukulele accompaniment, which was naturally well received.

The classrooms also work to create handmade gifts that each child personally delivers to a new senior center friend to uphold the season of giving and to warm the hearts of the seniors. Gifts range in style from ornaments to abstract miniature canvas art.

Experience 'the magic of drumming circles' at Tuesday session

By Paul Roberts
Special to The PREVIEW

Join musician and music therapist Paul Roberts for a free hand-drumming class at the Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at noon. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to unleash their creativity. No previous experience is necessary. Drums are provided for those who do not have one.

Through listening and playing, participation in group drumming involves being receptive and creative at the same time. This observation is made in "The Drum," an article posted on the Northern College Indigenous Council on Education website.

The article provides a fascinating glimpse into what it refers to as "the magic of drumming circles." Here are more takeaways from the article:

- People from many different backgrounds are getting together to create connections through the sheer joy of drum rhythms.
- Drumming circles are the ultimate stress-reducer.
- Natural bio-chemicals in the body are released, which help boost the immune system, among

other things.

- Inner chatter is instantly quieted and a peaceful meditative state is often the result as the drum connects with your own heartbeat.

- Adults relearn how to play and have fun.

- The beating of the drum helps us listen to our soul so we can understand our purpose and our connection to each other in the circle of life.

- For First Nations Peoples, the drum represents the universal heartbeat of Mother Earth, the Universal goddess and mother to us all.

- The first sound that was heard in the world was the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

- Rhythm facilitates healing and realignment of the four realms of human existence — mental, spiritual, emotional and physical.

There's something organic and self-generating about how group drumming supports social interaction and meaning among people, in ways that would not necessarily happen otherwise, with the potential to positively effect health and well-being.

For more information about the hand-drumming class, call 731-3117. The Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse is located at 230 Port Ave.

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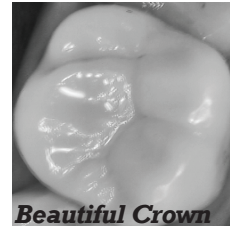
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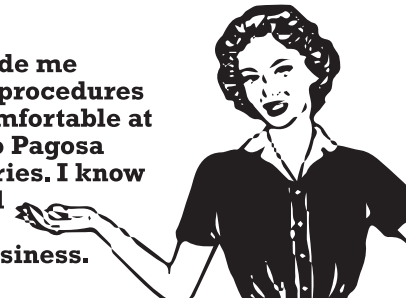
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Chris T. 11/19



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Photo courtesy Carole Howard

Local Pi Beta Phi sorority alumnae gathered at the home of Carole Howard on Dec. 9 for a Christmas potluck luncheon. The event included an angel gift exchange and a concert of Broadway hits and Christmas carols sung by Perry Davis Harper and Amy Harper, stars of Thingamajig Theatre Company musicals at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. The ladies also donated more than 200 pounds of food and toiletries to the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church food bank for people in need over the holidays. Holding just a few of those items are, in the front row left to right: Lisa Scott, Melissa McDonald, Joni Rose and Maribeth Hill. In the second row are, left to right: Marilyn Chipps, Carole Howard and Mary Bailly. In the top row are, left to right: Constance Clark, Paula Tennant and Penny Hart.



We'll work like a dog for you!

Laura Easterling
(281) 744-5731
laura@exitrealtypagosa.com



Darlene Peterson
(970) 946-5119
darlene@exitrealtypagosa.com

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Photo courtesy Bill Hudson

Thingamajig Theatre Company performers Jessi Miller and Cassidy Giddens take a ride in a theatrical “Surrey with the Fringe on Top” during a rehearsal for “A Grand Night for Singing” at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Watching from the background are Amy Harper and Jesse McFarland. The revue opens this Saturday, Dec. 21, in repertory with “A Very Perry Christmas” and runs through Jan. 12, 2020.

Thank you for giving me a home!

Animal Shelter
465 Cloman Blvd.
(970) 731-4771
7 days-a-week

Humane Society
of Pagosa Springs

Thrift Store
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‘Grand Night for Singing’ to open Saturday

By **Bill Hudson**
Special to The PREVIEW

Thingamajig Theatre Company, Pagosa’s nonprofit professional theater company now in its ninth season, is pleased to announce the opening of “A Grand Night for Singing,” a musical revue showcasing the classic songs of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein.

Said Thingamajig Artistic Director Tim Moore, “It’s been said that

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s songs are like snowflakes: no two are alike ... and we can’t think of a better way to celebrate the Great American Songbook.”

Moore selected Director/Choreographer Andrew Barratt Lewis to helm the production, with a cast of new and returning actors and singers — Cassidy Giddens, Amy Harper, Perry Davis Harper, Jesse McFarland, and Jessi Miller — with musical

■ See ‘Singing’ on next page

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‘Singing’

■ **continued from previous page**
 direction by Paula Millar, scenic design by Laura Moore, lighting by Elaine Wong and costume design by Adrienne Young.
 This fresh musical revue includes 30 legendary songs including favorites like, “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair,” “Some Enchanted Evening,” “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning” and “If I Loved You.”

The show opens this Saturday and then continues after Christmas, from Thursday, Dec. 26, through Jan. 12, 2020, with performances at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

More than five decades after Rodgers’ and Hammerstein’s final collaboration — “The Sound of Music” — their musical legacy still comes across as fresh and vital, and allows for up-to-date interpretations by the Thingamajig performers.

“A Grand Night for Singing” was originally presented cabaret-style at the Rockefeller Center in New York, featuring songs from such lesser-known works as “Allegro,” “Me and Juliet,” “State Fair” and “Pipe Dream,” as well as from mega-hits like “Carousel,” “Oklahoma,” “The King and I,” “South Pacific” and “The Sound of Music.”

The Broadway production, directed by Walter Bobbie and choreographed by Pamela Sousa, opened in November 1993 at the Criterion Center Stage Right, where it ran for 52 performances. It was nominated for two Tony Awards, for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical, and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revue.

Thingamajig’s “Grand Night” performers are also appearing in the theater’s current production, “A Very Perry Christmas,” an original revue conceived and with musical direction by Davis Harper with live music performed by saxophonist and vocalist Bob Hemenger,

pianist and vocalist Taryn Palmer, drummer Greg Booher, guitarist Will Spears and bassist James Kiker. The show also features Pagosa vocalist Johanna Laverty, plus a dozen youthful singers from Davis Harper’s new children’s theater class. The music ranges from Franz Gruber’s “Stille Nacht” to the Harry Connick Jr.-style “It Must’ve Been Old Santa Claus.”

“A Very Perry Christmas,” a family-friendly musical showcase featuring more than 30 holiday favorites, plays tomorrow, Friday Dec. 20, with more performances on Dec. 22-24.

“We’ve been having a lot of fun with the Golden Age style of songs, from the Christmas movies that our audience grew up watching,” Davis Harper explained. “And we’re also traveling to Texas, Italy, Hawaii and Ireland.”

The song list also tips its hat to the American West with John Denver’s “Aspenglow” and Steve Weisberg’s “Christmas for Cowboys.”

“A lot of people have asked — and this show is definitely going to be ‘kid-friendly,’” Davis Harper explained. “One of the performances is on Christmas Eve, so we absolutely wanted a show that the whole family could enjoy. There’s something for everybody, but also come to sing along. If you feel like singing along, then go ahead and sing along, because that’s really what we want you to do.”

The final show in Thingamajig’s 2019-2020 winter season will be “The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995,” a hilarious script by playwright Jennifer Faletto that was workshopped at Thingamajig Theatre’s 2018 Playwright Festival. It takes the audience on a laugh-out-loud visit to the stalls of the girls’ restroom in a Texas high school, where all the secrets unfold. “Texas Homecoming Revolution” opens on Jan. 31, 2020, and runs through Feb. 9, 2020.

All the shows are being presented at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Tickets for “A Grand Night,” “A Very Perry Christmas” and “The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995” can be purchased on the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

■ See ‘Singing’ on next page

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Touch of the Master's hand

Imagine being touched by God and seeing his face. There is only one face we worship and adore and his name is Jesus; a face when seen unveiled allows us to see him in all his glory.

At this time of the year, we see the many faces of Christmas — music, bright lights, presents, busyness, family and smiling children.

I sat across from a woman at a friend's house. Her smile was electrifying. I said to her, "Your smile is beautiful. It is undeniable that your heart has been touched by God as it shows on your face."

I thought about the song of the old violin. It was just an old violin until the master violinist picked it up and played it.

The lyrics go something like this: "Well it was battered and scarred, but the auctioneer held it up with a smile. He said it sure ain't much but it's all we've got left. One, give me one dollar, who'll make it two. Only two dollars, who'll make it three. Three dollars twice, now that's a good price. Who's got a bid for me?"

"From the back of the crowd, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow. He wiped the dust from the old violin and tightened up the strings. Then he played out a melody pure and sweet,

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



sweeter than the angels sing. And then the music stopped and the auctioneer said, now what is your bid for this old violin. Then he held it up with the bow and cried out, one, give me \$1,000, who'll make it two. Only \$2,000, who'll make it three. Three thousand twice now that's a good price. Who's got a bid for me?"

"The people cried out, what made the change, we don't understand. Then the auctioneer stopped and said with a smile, it was the touch of the master's hand."

There are many faces that we see as we go about our busy days. There is one in particular that I won't ever forget. In our early years on the Blanco, snow had fallen 3 feet and the chore of the day was getting the children to the bus stop on time. If one child lagged, that meant all lagged and all were late.

Each morning, I prodded four children to finish their breakfast, put on their shoes and coats, and be out

the door by 7 a.m.

If we weren't there waiting, the bus driver would zip right by. Even if the children were only 20 feet from the stop, waving from our red truck, he would barrel down the Lower Blanco. His face was always angry. He was defiant and showed no mercy or compassion. That was our school bus driver at the time.

I prayed to God, more for myself than for the bus driver. Why wouldn't he wait for us when he saw us? That meant I had to drive the kids to town on ice and snow or keep them home for the day.

Then one morning, we were about 30 yards from the stop. I put my foot to the gas. I knew I couldn't catch the bus in time. But something was different that December morning — a change on the bus driver's face. He was smiling. Not only smiling, he was waiting for us. I saw the face of God that morning and felt the touch of the Master's hand.

We enter this holiday season with excitement, dread, vacation plans and other things that make up the season. It's a busy time of stringing lights, decorating trees, buying gifts

■ See Lane on next page

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'Singing'

■ continued from previous page website, pagosacenter.org, or by calling the box office at 731-7469 (SHOW).

Thingamajig Theatre Company is an award-winning professional nonprofit theater in residence within the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Its talented actors, directors and designers come from across the U.S. and around the world to produce musicals,

comedies and dramas year-round.

The theatre was co-founded in 2010 by Moore, producing artistic director, and his wife, Laura Moore, both extraordinary actors and directors in their own right. Their mission is to provide high-quality theater experiences at a low cost to our community, thereby making art accessible as well as providing a major economic driver for Pagosa Springs' tourism industry.

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Community of New Thought to hear ‘Leveling Up Your Life’ presentation

By Lisa Burnson
Special to The PREVIEW

“Intention triggers a transformation of energy. Inherent in every intention the mechanics for its fulfillment.” — Dr. Deepak Chopra.

All are welcome to join New Thought Center for Inspirational Living (NTC) this Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:30 a.m., for our presentation: “Leveling Up Your Life: Break out of Your Box and Claim Your Best Destiny.”

We will be discussing the 40 Day Manifestation Code for bringing our intentions into reality, as well as exploring techniques for “letting go and letting God.” Our speaker will be Shayla White Eagle

Lane

■ continued from previous page and attending holiday functions. But without a special touch, it would be just another day, just like the old violin.

Final brushstroke: What was the face that I saw on that cold winter morning with snow in the air? Why did my face reflect a smile as I

McClure.

Also on Sunday, Dec. 22, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., we invite all who enjoy writing in the company of others to join our writing group for “Stories To Tell Us.”

We welcome people of all religions, cultures, races and lifestyles to our services, where we celebrate the Science of Mind and positive thinking.

Our community of affirmative-minded people share joy, laughter and awareness of connection to spirit, and our ability to co-create a life of infinite possibilities.

We will have spirited live music.

Meditation circle

We invite the public to enjoy

our weekly meditation circle each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m., weather permitting. There will not be a Meditation Circle on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Upcoming events

Friday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m.: movie, “Joyeux Noel,” a moving, true story.

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.: Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration.

Sunday, Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m.” Burning Bowl Ceremony — release the past and claim your future.

Jan. 11, 2020, 2 p.m.: “Manifestation Magic.”

Please call NTC for more information about these events.

About us

NTC is a New Thought center based on fostering living a spiritually centered life and promoting the philosophies of the Centers for Spiritual Living and the Agape Centers. NTC honors all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine.

We welcome local talent to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Have a hand in making a difference. Participate, learn or

■ See Community on next page

wrestled with my children in bewilderment? Perhaps it was because I was touched by the expression of another, someone who had been touched by the Master’s hand.

Readers’ comments

Send your comment to betty@bettyslade.com.

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Christmas Eve at St. Patrick's to be a celebration of love

By Sally Neel
Special to The PREVIEW

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., invites the public to join in a feast of love — love that came down at Christmas in the form of the newborn Christ child.

St. Patrick's will celebrate with beautiful music, prayers, scripture readings, a sermon given by The Rev. Douglas Neel and the feast of Holy Communion. The church, decorated with beautiful poinset-

tias, wreaths and gentle candle light, will reflect the joy and beauty of Christmas.

The family service at 5 p.m. contains all these things with the focus on children. Neel will give a children's sermon and provide a special treat for the young ones. Student pianist Grace Wiersma will provide the special music, with organist Sally Neel accompanying hymns. Holy Communion is included and all, children and adults alike, are invited to partake.

At 7:30 p.m., special classical

Christmas music provided by NightSong Trio, St. Patrick's Choir, and special guests Sarah Dorian on cello and vocalists Robert Neel and Dale Scrivener, will be led by director Sally Neel. The 30-minute musical presentation will set the tone for the glorious Christmas Eve candlelight service of Holy Communion that begins at 8 p.m.

On Christmas Day, St. Patrick's offers a service of Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. This service, which includes hymns, is a gentle way to welcome the wonder of Christ's birth. Looking out of the clear transept windows at the snow-flocked trees and mountains, listening to the Gospel reading of the birth of Christ and hearing Douglas Neel's homily welcomes the day in a special way.

The public is welcome to attend any of these beautiful services as we celebrate the wonder and love of Christmas. St. Patrick's offers communion to all believers, young and old. For more information, call the church office at 731-5801.



Photo courtesy Sally Neel

St Patrick's Episcopal Church invites the public to its Christmas Eve services: a 5 p.m. family service with special music and Holy Communion, and classical Christmas music at 7:30 p.m. followed by Festival service of Holy Communion at 8 p.m. Christmas Day service will be offered at 10 a.m. St Patrick's is located at 225 S Pagosa Blvd.

Community

■ continued from previous page contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

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

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- BUDGET
- COMMITTEE
- DEDUCTION
- DONATE
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Photos courtesy Seeds of Learning

Scene ... celebrating the season with Seeds of Learning and the Pagosa Springs Senior Center. Preschoolers visited the Senior Center last week, spreading cheer with poems and songs of the season.



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A prayer for Christmastime

By Sami Fortin
Special to The PREVIEW

Dear Lord,
This Christmas gives us a whole new purpose — one that takes our eyes off of who we are or what we've done so that we might ponder the wonder of who you are — not only what you've done but who you are.

Take us back to the night you were born and let us look upon the faces of Mary and Joseph as they gazed into your eyes knowing who you were but not having foreknowledge of all that would take place. They just went about doing what they knew to do.

Let us get a feel for the starry night when the shepherds saw the angels. What a sight that must have been and the message they heard, "Good news for all." Could that mean me also?

Oh, what a night to follow the star and find out it was just as you said, they'd find the baby wrapped in cloths laying in a manger. The King of the World. Born in a manger? What do we see here? A way for us to relate to you. A way for us to understand you came to have a relationship with us. Help us to grasp the whole picture of your amazing love for a people who find it hard to believe you created the earth for this purpose.

Can we see the wise men traveling from afar? They didn't know what to expect. They just obeyed what they knew to do. They'd been waiting 400 years for prophesy to be fulfilled. They had to see with their own eyes.

A Matter of Faith

He's waiting for us to come, He hears our prayers and He'd rather die than live without us.

Give us this same excitement over all the hustle and bustle just to come and see the babe that was born in Bethlehem to a virgin.

Father, show us your glory in this season and turn our hearts toward yours, for you are not far from any one of us. Move your people to reach out and find you. You've commanded us to repent for you have set a day when the whole world will be judged in righteousness by this one man who was born to a very unlikely couple, beating all the odds in prophesy.

Help us to let down our guard,

take a chance and believe this Christmas that Immanuel wants us to hear His voice, to know His touch and give a response to all He has done. Let us worship Him as Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Like the wise men who brought gifts, let your people bring their hearts and lift up their hands in praise, not to a God of stone but one who lives among us and delights in us.

Let us see you in all the lights and decorations. In the excitement of buying gifts for one another, let us not forget the greatest gift of all: Jesus. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

He's waiting for us to come, He hears our prayers and He'd rather die than live without us.

"I'm just a nobody, trying to tell everybody about somebody who saved my soul." — Casting Crowns.

I'm working on obeying God when I hear Him call. This is a daunting task, one that I'm not qualified to fulfill, but I have found Him faithful and He calls the unqualified to finish His work here on earth. Just as He came as a human baby to this place in a most unlikely way to call us into a most holy place with Him. He's the deliverer. He delivers us from darkness into light from wrath into joy from destruction into eternal life.

Community news.

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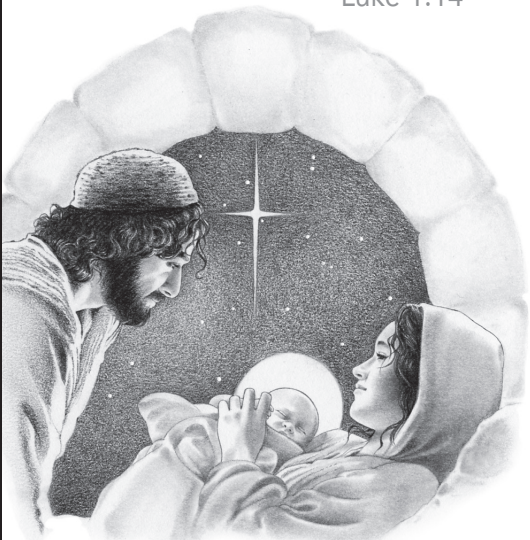
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Traversing a newly opened Wolf Creek Pass

At the close of last week's action, our motorists crossing newly opened Wolf Creek Pass (1916) from east to west were looking down the barrel of a Colt .45 shoved in their face by an inebriated, limber-legged wagon train boss who insisted that, since the narrow pass would only allow one lane of traffic in most places, his eastbound hoss wagons were gonna have priority "by Gar," and the motorists better back up and get out of the way, according to our storyteller.

"He was so angry and unsteady we could not even guess what he might do. Finally, the men of our group told him to shut up and get back up into his wagon, until they could find a workable plan, or they would pitch him down into the cañon. He sat.

"Then began the most terrifying experience of backing inch by inch on that narrow, slick, steep grade. David always believed in going forward, so was not expert at backing — and especially under such conditions. Joseph's experience



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

in the Cadillac garage paid off. He showed real efficiency in this case.

"When we got down into the flat lowland, there was no road at all, just mud and water soaked trails, each driver making his own guess which set of workmen's wagon tracks to follow through the willows until he could connect with next section of ascending road up the mountainside.

"At Box Canyon we had to wait until fifteen heavy dynamite blasts tore away a section of rock, then all the debris had to be cleared away before we could attempt to cross over. At one place a steam drill stood against the rock wall and we had to drive around it on the point of broken rocks. The Cadillac was too long to make the turn around

this drill, so again Joseph had to see-saw inch-by-inch to make the turn. Just as we got around the whole point slid off into the stream below.

"None of the other cars carried food, so when we found a slightly dry spot under a spruce tree, the Hatchers and we invited the group to eat with us, as we had an ample supply from our camp. Every man had shoveled, pushed, and lifted, and worked his best for everyone who needed help. We had showers all day long. There seemed to be no bottom to the road with this rain on the new construction. When we began to climb, the road was so slick, or again so sticky, it took the five cars three hours, to cover only a quarter of a mile. Added to all these delays, the Chalmers and Cadillac each had flat tire. Now night was coming and we were still two and one half miles from Mr. Logan's work camp."

Continued next week. Merry Christmas.

Safety tips when buying toys for tots

Special to The PREVIEW

Toys play a pivotal role in the lives of young children. While fun is always a consideration when buying toys for kids, toys can do more than entertain.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children notes that toys for young children should match the youngsters' stages of development and their emerging abilities. When those matches are made, children's imagination and coordination will develop, all while they're having fun.

Safety is another factor adults must take seriously when buying toys for children. Unfortunately, safety is not always foremost on the minds of toy shoppers.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that more than 251,000 toy-related injuries were treated in American hospital emergency rooms in 2017.

Thankfully, such injuries are almost always avoidable, especially when shoppers follow a handful of safety strategies when buying toys for young children.

- Avoid toys with lots of pieces. Stanford Children's Health notes that toddlers and small children tend to put things in their mouths, increasing their risk of choking as a result. When buying toys for toddlers or small children, avoid toys with small parts that can be choking hazards.

- Pay attention to age recommendations on packaging. Age guidelines on toy packages are designed to ensure that kids play with toys suited for their age and abilities. Children are more likely to enjoy playing with toys designed

for kids their age, and these toys are less likely than age-inappropriate toys to put youngsters' safety in jeopardy.

- Recognize even stuffed animals can present safety hazards. Stuffed animals may not appear to pose as safety risks, but poorly made stuffed animals may have small parts that can easily come off. Poorly made stuffed animals may prove no match for the prying hands of curious youngsters,

so make sure any small parts on stuffed animals, such as eyes and buttons, are securely fastened before making any purchases.

- Teach kids how to use toys. When giving children advanced toys, take the time to show the youngsters how to use them. Such demonstrations can clear up any confusion about the toys, reducing kids' risk for injury as a result.

Safety should always be a priority when purchasing toys for kids.

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

May these be yours during this holiday season.



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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Byron Greco

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

When hunting, the northern harrier, or marsh hawk, flies low to the ground with flaps and glides, often holding its wings in an upright V-shaped pattern. Its owl-like facial disk and stiff facial feathers direct sound to its large ear openings. This raptor often hears prey before seeing it. It may log up to 100 miles per day back and forth across its territory in search of food. Strictly carnivorous, the harrier prefers to eat small mammals, frogs, lizards, large insects and small songbirds, but will switch to larger prey when these are scarce.

Food availability is a driving force in reproduction. When prey is abundant in spring, the male harrier may mate with up to five females. During nesting, the male provides most of the food for the females and chicks, often in an aerial pass to his mate as he approaches the hidden ground nest.

Male northern harriers are gray above and whitish below. Females, which are larger and can weigh 50 percent more, are brown with streaked white undersides. The darker brown juvenile has a russet-colored breast. All have long, broad wings; long, darkbanded tails; and a characteristic white rump patch that is an identifying mark.

These raptors are still fairly common, but numbers are declining due to loss of open and wetland habitats and a decrease in prey. The juvenile harrier in this photograph showed up for the recent Christmas Bird Count in the open land near the Riverwalk.

For information on local bird-watching events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 19

Hai Chee. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Movement focusing on balance within mind, body and soul. Slowly reduce tension as you feel better, one breath at a time.

A Course in Miracles Study Group. 10-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Call Karen LeCour at 264-0111 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. All are invited to enjoy a free hot meal in a welcoming atmosphere. No reservations are required.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior

Center.
Christmas Party. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Pickleball. 1-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Teen Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 7th-12th grade. Xbox 360 Kinect, and snacks. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Winter Recreation Arts and Crafts Class. 4:15-5:45 p.m., Community Center. The Recreation Department is currently accepting registration through Nov. 22 for an arts and crafts class. The class is for ages 9-13 and class size is limited. The

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Instrument featured in the 1996 film "Shine"
- 6 Talk big
- 10 States further
- 14 Building annex
- 15 Capitol Hill worker
- 16 Boxing match
- 17 Make baskets
- 18 Decorative enamelware
- 20 Junior, to Senior
- 22 Cone-bearing evergreen
- 23 Some jeans
- 24 DiCaprio flick, "_____ Island"
- 25 West Coast sluggers
- 28 Read a bar code
- 29 Financial holdings

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
20						21				22				
				23				24						
25	26	27					28							
29						30				31	32	33	34	35
36						37				38		39		
40					41		42				43			
					44	45				46				
47	48	49	50					51						
52							53					54	55	56
57							58				59			
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

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- 31 Sorority letter
- 36 Make revisions
- 37 Calendar girl
- 39 Love handles, essentially
- 40 Steer away
- 42 Sacred text
- 44 Eye flirtatiously
- 46 Car radio button
- 47 Archaic clothing
- 51 Bit of heckling
- 52 Fully
- 53 Vendor's wagon
- 57 Civil War nickname
- 59 Gung-ho
- 60 Heavy metal
- 61 Quiz answer
- 62 Performance place
- 63 Printed letters
- 64 Cordage fiber
- 65 Liable to lose it

- 4 Short book
- 5 By _____ (alone)
- 6 Kickstarts, in a way
- 7 Get to
- 8 Bustle
- 9 Kimono-clad entertainer
- 10 Cut short
- 11 Dunkable treat
- 12 Slow-witted one
- 13 Take the wheel
- 19 Gumption
- 21 "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" writer
- 24 Use elbow grease on
- 25 Acted like
- 26 Stem joint
- 27 Sandpaper surface
- 28 Inasmuch as
- 30 Hosiery thread
- 32 Post-hospital tending
- 33 Calculator symbol
- 34 Remove the rind

- 35 Look out for, say
- 38 They'll hold water
- 41 66, famously
- 43 Get the oven ready
- 45 Word before spurt or chart
- 47 Come calling
- 48 Contest submission
- 49 Brownstone feature
- 50 1000 kilograms
- 51 Kentucky Derby drink
- 53 Shade of purple
- 54 Stretches
- 55 Landlord's due
- 56 Cafeteria item
- 58 "Right you ___!"

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Subscribe to The SUN

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

cost of the class is \$25 for the three-week session. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

San Juan Stargazers. 7-8:30 p.m., Visitor Center Conference Room, 105 Hot Springs Blvd. Hot drinks and goodies will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. for a holiday social time. There will be two parts to our meeting. First, we will be discussing the StarLab — a portable planetarium that Anita Hinger, science teacher at the middle school, has been gathering money to benefit all students of our school district. Then we will have a regular program called “Experiencing Hubble: Understanding the Greatest Images of the Universe.” It includes a written lesson and a video lecture by Professor David Meyer. For more information, visit www.sanjuanstargazers.org, email sjstargazers@gmail.com or call 335-8286.

Friday, Dec. 20

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Tai Chi. 11 a.m.-noon, Community Center. This is a slow, gentle exercise that improves balance, strength, flexibility and lung capacity while reducing stress and increasing an overall sense of well-being.

English as a Second Language. Noon-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Gaming. 2:30-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents ‘A Very Perry Christmas.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Family Storytime: Holiday No-Bake. 3-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Get in the holiday spirit by trying some new recipes that will be fun for the whole family. Join us for great stories, fun songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move. Storytime is a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents ‘A Grand Night for Singing.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to

purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Thingamajig Theatre Presents ‘A Very Perry Christmas.’ 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Dec. 23

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Line Dancing. 9:15-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:15 a.m., advanced at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call Beverly at 264-2064.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies. Call 264-0501, ext. 1 to make an appointment.

Qigong. 10 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Maintain and improve health, strength and balance.

Bridge for Fun. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Bingo. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 2 p.m., Senior Center.

Santa is Coming to Goodman's. 3-5 p.m., Goodman's Department Store, 402 Pagosa St. Cider and cookies will be served.

Tween Gaming. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks. For those in the 4th-8th grade. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga. 4-5 p.m., Community Center.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents ‘A Very Perry Christmas.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Chi Energi. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. A variety of movements and stretches to create energy for the healing of our mind, body and soul.

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Yoga Fusion Class. 10 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Hand-Drumming Class. Noon, PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Join musician and music therapist Paul Roberts for a hand-drumming class. All are welcome. Hand drums will be provided for

■ See Calendar on next page



May you enjoy all the delightful sights and sounds of the season!

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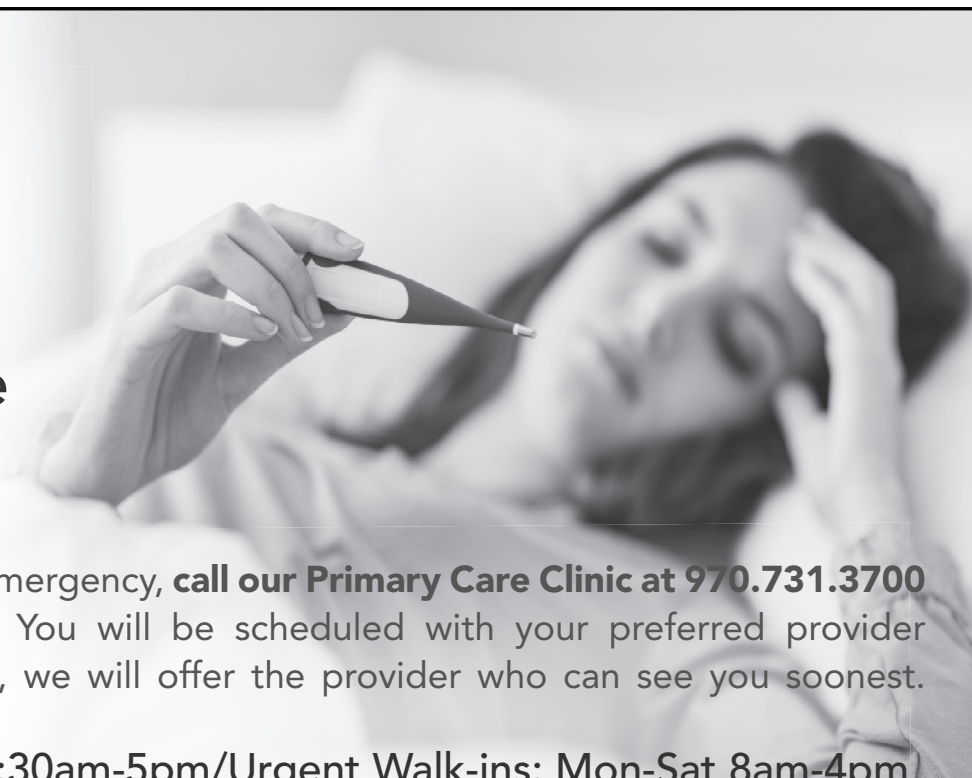
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

those who don't have one. For further information, call 731-3117.

Men's PTSD Group. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church library. Focusing on resolving anger and conflict. Contact Vets for Vets at 507-3005 for more information.

Pickleball. Noon-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

English as a Second Language. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 26

Hai Chee. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Movement focusing on balance within mind, body and soul. Slowly reduce tension as you feel better, one breath at a time.

Makerspace Crafts Event. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Come in and build, design and create. We provide the materials; you provide the vision. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. All are invited to enjoy a free hot meal in a welcoming atmosphere. No reservations are required.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Pickleball. 1-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Teen Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 7th-12th grade. Xbox 360 Kinect, and snacks. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Friday, Dec. 27

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Tai Chi. 11 a.m.-noon, Community Center. This is a slow, gentle exercise that improves balance, strength, flexibility and lung capacity while reducing stress and increasing an overall sense of well-being.

English as a Second Language. Noon-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Gaming. 2:30-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Meditation and Dharma Discussion. 10 a.m., Pagosa Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Suite B-15, 70 Greenbriar Drive. All are welcome.

Crafting Club. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Center. Join us for creativity, crafting and sharing ideas. This will be a time to bring your creativity, projects in progress, supplies and ideas to spend some time being crafty and connect with others who enjoy all aspects of creativity, too.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson

■ See Calendar on next page

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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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!

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

ANSWER:

HUD Publisher's Notice



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

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Family Storytime: Dreidels. 3-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Join us to learn about dreidels and how to play with them. Join us for great stories, fun songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move. Storytime is a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

High Country Squares Dances. 3-5 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Richard Berry calls both Mainstream and Plus. Visitors are always welcome. For information, contact Steve Keil at stevekeil128@gmail.com or 731-0044.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Dec. 30

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Net-

work. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Line Dancing. 9:15-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:15 a.m., advanced at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call Beverly at 264-2064.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies. Call 264-0501, ext. 1 to make an appointment.

Qigong. 10 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Maintain and improve health, strength and balance.

PALS Adult Education. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, 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. PALS will only occur three times in December. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga. 4-5 p.m., Community Center.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Chi Energi. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. A variety of movements and stretches to create energy for the healing of our mind, body and soul.

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Yoga Fusion Class. 10 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Men's PTSD Group. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church library. Focusing on resolving anger and conflict. Contact Vets for Vets at 507-3005 for more information.

Pickleball. Noon-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

English as a Second Language. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.



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UUUs to hear reflections on life and death

By Dean Cerny
Special to The PREVIEW

Have you heard the one about a Jewish philosopher, a Catholic priest and a naturalist author who meet in a bar? What would they talk about? What would they have in common? The punchline is no joke.

The Unitarian Universalist Sunday service on Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. will explore the spiritual thoughts of 17th century philosopher Baruch Spinoza, Father Richard Rohr and American nature writer Barry Lopez. The spiritual perspective of each of these men will be the topic

of a personal reflection on life and death given by Pastor Dean Cerny.

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.

A potluck will follow the service on Dec. 15 as our fellowship says goodbye to Cerny and celebrates a relationship that began in the summer of 2016. His last Sunday with us will be Dec. 22.

To schedule a private meeting with Cerny, or for further informa-

tion about the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, call 731-7900.

Religious Exploration (RE) classes are held on the third and fourth Sundays and continue through to May. For more information about RE, contact Anna Ramirez at afrancis@hotmail.com.

Check out our calendar of events at pagosauu.org. All of these events take place at Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza. From North Pagosa Boulevard, turn onto Park Avenue, then turn into the Greenbriar Plaza, drive to the east side of the parking lot and look for the Unitarian Universalist sign, facing north.

Don't let the holiday season get the best of you

By John Lough
Special to The PREVIEW

The holiday season leaves many people feeling anxious and nervous as they receive invitations to holiday office parties, family gatherings and other social events that they would rather avoid. It's understandable, for while such events can be a great time to socialize, they also can lead to disaster.

Stories are common of that guy

who had one drink too many at that holiday office party and ended up doing permanent damage to his career.

Of course, family holiday gatherings offer the same sort of opportunities to mess things up. A few drinks, then a desire to share family secrets, to rekindle an old disagreement or to share an opinion better left unshared — all opportunities for trouble.

If worries about upcoming holiday celebrations have you nervous and tense, here are some suggestions on how to make such events less stressful and more enjoyable.

When an event of any type has you anxious that something could go wrong, take steps to limit the opportunities for disaster. Rather than be a no-show, arrive early, visit for a short time, then thank your host and leave. And, if it turns out that your anxiety was ill-founded and you're having a good time, then stay and enjoy yourself.

A good rule to avoid problems and embarrassment is to skip the alcohol. Even one or two alcoholic drinks can affect judgment. If a host forces a drink on you, say thanks, but don't feel obliged to drink it.

You can also avoid holiday party trouble by simply avoiding potential problem areas. A holiday party is not the place to share negative or critical comments about others. Even things said in confidence have a way of getting repeated to all the wrong people.

It's also important to mind your manners. Avoid excessive drinking, don't overdo it at the buffet table and be sure to thank your host.

Often problems arise at holiday parties because of problem people. If there's someone who always knows how to push your buttons, focus instead on staying close to those you enjoy and avoid that person. If he or she corners you to argue, simply refuse to respond and instead politely excuse yourself.

You don't have to fear or avoid the holiday party. Focus on being sober, polite and sociable, and you may find even a holiday party you're "required" to attend just might be a pleasant experience.

"Counseling Corner" is provided by the American Counseling Association (ACA). Send your comments and questions to ACACorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Holiday hosting in small spaces

Special to The PREVIEW

Gatherings of family and friends are a big part of the holiday season. Hosting such gatherings can be a great way to show loved ones how much you appreciate them, and hosting also saves hosts the trouble of traveling during one of the most hectic travel seasons of the year.

When hosting a large crowd at home, space can be a difficult hurdle to clear. However, a few helpful strategies can help space-starved hosts pull off a holiday soiree where everyone is comfortable.

- Pare down the menu. Holiday feasts don't have to resemble medieval banquets with excessive amounts of food and drink. Hosts with small kitchens and tiny dining quarters can pare down the menu, limiting offerings to just a single entree and a few simple side dishes so everyone feels comfortable at the table and has ample room to eat. A small menu also gives hosts more time to spend with their loved ones during the festivities.

- Don't overdo it on drinks, either. When planning the drinks menu, avoid offering cocktails, which take time to prepare and often require guests to visit the kitchen for refrigerated ingredients. Limit drinks to wine, beer,

■ See Hosting on next page

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Ways to make your poinsettias last longer

Special to The PREVIEW

Poinsettias are synonymous with the holiday season. These colorful plants brighten up homes with their vibrant hues in variations of red, white and pink, making them a holiday decoration many people cannot live without.

While they're most visible during the often chilly holiday season, poinsettias prefer warm weather. Poinsettias are native to Central America and originally flourished in an area of southern Mexico. The Aztecs used the plant for decorative and medicinal purposes.

The poinsettia may have remained a regional plant if not for the efforts of Joel Roberts Poinsett, who was the first United States ambassador to Mexico under President James Madison. Poinsett, who would later found the Smithsonian Institution, had a love of botany and became enamored with the brilliant red plants he saw in Mexico. Eventually,

Poinsett began growing the plants at home in South Carolina, and friends and others soon coveted them.

Poinsettias are beautiful and the bracts (modified leaves) can be vibrantly colored. That signature vibrancy is why many people would like to preserve their poinsettias to last beyond New Year's, which is possible with the right care.

The following are some tips, courtesy of Mother Nature's Network, Habersham Gardens, Oregon Live, and Phoenix Flower Shops, to keep poinsettias thriving past the holiday season.

- Start with healthy plants that have full leaves, bracts and deep colors.

- Poinsettias do best when the temperature is between 65 and 75 degrees. Temperatures below that or drafts from cold windows can cause leaves to drop.

- Position the plant in a room that gets indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sunlight can't

be avoided, diffuse the light with a sheer curtain.

- Poinsettias need well-drained soil. Overwatering or allowing roots to sit in wet soil can cause the leaves to fall off prematurely. Water thoroughly only when the pot looks dry. In households with temperatures around 70 degrees, the plant should be watered about once a week.

- Fertilize the plant after the blooming season with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.

- Try placing poinsettias in or near a bathroom, as they prefer high humidity.

It may be possible to get poinsettias to rebloom next season. Allow the poinsettias to dry out a little more in the spring. In May, cut about 4 inches from each stem to produce a lush, full plant during the winter. The plants can be moved outside in June and during the summer, but keep them away from direct sunlight. Return the poinsettias indoors beginning around October. Make sure the plants get at least 12 hours of darkness per day for around eight weeks in October and November. This will help them develop a deep hue and bloom on time for Christmas.

Hosting

■ continued from previous page water and soft drinks, storing cold beverages in a cooler kept outside on a front or back porch or in an area outside the kitchen so cooks can work without interruption.

- Move some furniture. If your main living space is small, consider moving some bulky furniture into a bedroom or office where guests won't be spending time. Then make better use of the open living space by placing folding chairs or other accommodations to ensure there's ample seating for everyone. A sin-

gle recliner can only be enjoyed by one person, but removing it from a room may create enough space for as many as three folding chairs.

- Go small on decorations. If you know you'll be hosting in advance of the holiday season, decorate with guests in mind. That might mean skipping a 6-foot Christmas tree in favor of one that takes up less space. Avoid leaving any fragile decorations out, as adults or over-excited kids may knock them over as they try to navigate a cramped space.



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On a first-name basis

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

With 10 children, it seemed like somebody always forgot something. Sometimes I would take time out from my day and run get the needed item. But often what one of our children was missing was something that was left at home. Donna, my wife, often had to take the forgotten item in to whichever school the child attended.

Most of the time, the child who needed something was at the middle school. Middle school is the time in life when children have gone from having everything in the classroom to being responsible for the items themselves. This change in life seems to be more of a challenge for the parents than for the child.

One day, Donna had taken an item in and was standing in the middle school office waiting to visit with the secretary. The secretary was on the phone.

"It looks like Jimmy doesn't have P.E. until fourth period, so you have time to bring his gym clothes in before class," the secretary said into the receiver.

As Donna stood waiting while the secretary continued her phone conversation, another lady came in. The lady looked flustered and embarrassed as she took her place in line behind Donna.

Donna, always sociable, turned to the lady. "Do you have to bring things in for your children often?"

"How did you know I was bringing something for my child?" the lady asked in surprise.

"That's pretty much the main reason parents come here," Donna replied. "Besides, you have a fifth-grade math book in your hand."

The lady blushed. "I guess that was kind of obvious, wasn't it?"

"Are you new here?" Donna asked. "I haven't seen you before."

The lady nodded. "Yes, we just moved here a couple months ago."

Donna held out her hand. "I'm Donna."

"It's nice to meet you," the lady said. "I'm Joan."

"I have a child in fifth grade and one in seventh," Donna said.

"My oldest is in fifth grade," Joan said. "And I think I have been here almost every day for the last two months. It seems there is always something. He got a power drink spilled on him and needed new clothes. He had a pop explode in his pack and needed another pack. He tore his pants and needed a replacement. He left his P.E. clothes home and would have a grade cut if he didn't have them. It just never ends. And he always calls me when I am in the biggest hurry."

"That's the life of a parent of a middle schooler," Donna said.

"But I am afraid they will think I am annoying," Joan said.

Donna shrugged. "I'm sure we aren't the only ones. I would bet that the secretaries are used to it."

"I fear that soon the secretary and I will be on a first-name basis. I told Ross if that happens, he's going to be grounded for life."

About then, the secretary finished her phone call. She walked over to the counter.

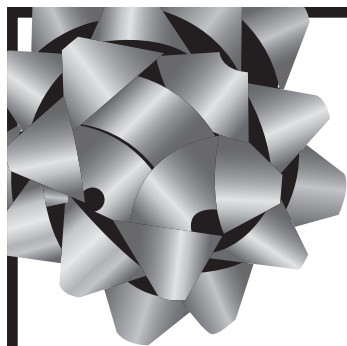
"Donna, were you first?" the secretary asked.

Hearing her name from the secretary, Donna looked at Joan and smiled. She turned back to the secretary. "I was, Susan." Then Donna motioned toward Joan. "But I think she is in more of a hurry."

The secretary turned to Joan. "Joan, did you bring something for Ross?"

Donna grinned at the look on Joan's face when she heard her first name, along with the name of her son. After Joan handed over the math book, Donna touched her arm. "Don't ground him for too long. It's just part of his growing up."

Joan smiled. "And maybe learning patience is part of mine."



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How to approach nutrition when feeding children away from home

Special to The PREVIEW

Children can be picky eaters. Parents know that getting kids to eat anything, much less healthy foods, can sometimes make the dinner table feel more like a battlefield than a place to break bread.

That's especially so when the dinner table is in a restaurant, where savvy youngsters might know less nutritious dishes like macaroni and cheese or fried chicken fingers are on the menu.

But the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet are so numerous for youngsters that it's worth doing whatever it takes to get kids to embrace nutrient-rich foods, both at home and when dining out.

The American Academy of Family Physicians notes that a healthy diet can stabilize children's energy levels, help them maintain healthy weights and potentially prevent mental health conditions, including anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

But recognizing the importance

of a healthy diet and getting kids to embrace one are two different things, especially when kids are dining out and being tempted by unhealthy alternatives. In recognition of that, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the following strategies to parents who want their kids to eat healthy when they're away from home.

- **Make meals all-inclusive.** When preparing school lunches or taking youngsters out for a night on the town, make sure to offer a mix of foods from the five food groups. The AAP recommends parents offer vegetables, fruit, grains, low-fat dairy, and/or quality protein sources, which can include meat, fish, nuts, seeds, and eggs. Offering each of these foods at every meal may not be feasible, but kids should eat foods selected from the major food groups at every meal.

- **Avoid highly processed foods.** The National Institutes of Health notes that studies have suggested there's a link between highly processed foods and health problems.

Such foods, which typically contain ingredients such as hydrogenated oils, high-fructose corn syrup and flavoring agents, are typically high in calories, salt, sugar and fat.

While highly processed foods tend to be easier to make and readily available at restaurants, serving them to youngsters can start kids down the road to poor dietary habits, potentially increasing their risk for obesity and diseases like heart disease and diabetes. When packing snacks for school lunches or taking kids out to restaurants, be sure to include or bring along healthy whole foods, such as fruits and vegetables. This can ensure kids get some healthy fare during mealtime.

- **Enhance foods if necessary.** While high amounts of sugar, salt and fat can jeopardize the health of adults and youngsters alike, the AAP notes that small amounts of these substances can be used to enhance kids' enjoyment of healthy foods and increase the likelihood that they will eat them.

Parents may not have much control over what their children eat while away from home, but a handful of strategies can increase the likelihood that kids enjoy healthy fare when eating at school or at restaurants.

Prevent growth of mold/mildew in colder months

Special to The PREVIEW

Mold and mildew are not only unsightly, but unhealthy. These fungi grow readily in damp areas and are found in the air breathed both indoors and outside. If left unaddressed, mold and mildew can threaten the health of a home's inhabitants.

Mildew is a type of mold that remains relatively flush with the surface it grows on. Other molds can grow puffy in appearance. Molds serve the purpose of destroying organic materials, but in high amounts, these microorganisms can cause respiratory problems, sinus congestion, throat irritation, headaches and other issues, particularly when mold grows unchecked indoors, says Better Homes and Gardens. As a result, it is essential to address mold before it becomes problematic.

According to Polygon, a drying technology and temporary climate

solutions company, the wet season in winter is when molds often grow and expand. Mold can break down the integrity and strength of the surfaces where it grows.

Homeowners can employ the following strategies to prevent mold growth:

- **Keep all surfaces clean,** using proper cleaning products. Diluted bleach solutions are highly effective at killing microscopic fungi, viruses and bacteria.

- **Reduce moisture and humidity** by ensuring sufficient air circulation in rooms, particularly bathrooms and kitchens. An exhaust fan will help remove moisture quickly.

- **Fabrics covered in mildew** that can be laundered should be carefully removed and washed in chlorine bleach and hot water. An oxygen bleach product also can be effective.

- **Invest in a dehumidifier** that

■ **See Mold on next page**

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— Dan and Jared Wirth

Legal, tax help programs planned for Senior Center

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

The San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging provides legal services for seniors through the program attorney, Daniel Fiedler. Fiedler will be spending the day at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center on Jan. 23, 2020, by appointment.

Following are the legal services Fiedler can assist with:

- Public benefits and utilities shut off.
- Landlord-tenant problems, such as persons being evicted.
- Simple wills, power of attorneys, medical durable power of attorney and living wills.
- Consumer issues such as advocating for persons harassed by debt collectors.
- Emergency limited long-term Care guardianship and domestic problems, such as abuse.

Please come by or call the Senior Center office to schedule an appointment, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. (inside the Ross Aragon Community Center), 264-2167.

Tax preparation help

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be returning to prepare federal and state income tax returns at no charge.

The 2020 dates are Feb. 22, 2020, and March 14, 2020, by appointment only. The gross income limit this tax season is \$54,000.

Please call 264-2167 for more information or to make an appointment.

History (Book) Club

Are you interested in reading and

Mold

■ continued from previous page can reduce moisture in the home in problem areas, such as damp basements or garages.

- Fix plumbing leaks as soon as possible.
 - Remove damp leaves and snow from areas around the foundation of the home. Ensure that gutters and downspouts are clear of debris and can shuttle water away from the house effectively.
 - Replace cracked or defective mortar in basements.
 - Make sure all seals on windows and doors are not compromised and are in good working condition.
 - Be sure an HVAC in-line humidifier is adjusted to the right setting and isn't pumping too much moisture into the heated air; otherwise, the added humidity can contribute to mold.
 - If there is a flood or water infiltrates a home in other ways, hire a professional service to help clean and dry the home effectively.
- Mold and mildew are problematic, but with diligence they can be kept at bay.

Senior News

talking about history with others? If so, please join us and bring your ideas and experiences as we continue a history discussion group at the Senior Center. The discussions will cover many historical subjects based on the preferences of the group. Please come and bring your friends who might also be interested.

On Nov. 20, the History Group began its study of English history and how it influenced America.

The essence of the discussions concerning England is what America adopted and what it rejected regarding England's form of government and culture.

Facilitated by Jim Van Liere, the group meets the third Wednesday of every month.

The next meeting will be Jan. 15, 2020, at 1 p.m. in the Community Café dining room in the Senior Center.

Health and wellness

The Senior Center is continuing the pilot program which expands health and wellness services to Archuleta County seniors. The program includes wellness and blood pressure monitoring or allows individual area seniors to discuss two subjects of their choice.

There is no charge for Medicare enrollees. Participant IDs will include Medicare card, photo ID and, if necessary, any supplemental insurances. No Medicaid is accepted at this time. Participants are encouraged to bring a list of their current medications.

The goal of the outreach clinic is to provide care to those who are not able to travel.

The next health and wellness

date will be Jan. 22, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memberships

Senior Discount Club Memberships are now offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch. If you are a senior (60 years and older), for only a \$4 suggested donation, you are eligible for a hot meal, drink and a salad prepared by our kitchen staff.

The guest fee for those 59 and under is \$10 and children 10 years and under can eat for \$8.50 each. Access to the salad bar is only \$6 for those under 60.

Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19 — Sliced ham with pineapple sauce, baked sweet potato, broccoli with garlic and butter, milk, salad bar and cranberry salad.

Friday, Dec. 20 — Turkey pot pie, bacon green beans, sautéed cabbage, milk, salad bar and lemon dessert.

Monday, Dec. 23 — Shrimp scampi, yellow squash medley, pineapple casserole, breadstick with butter, milk and salad bar.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 — Closed for Christmas Eve.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 — Closed for Christmas.

Thursday, Dec. 26 — Hot turkey sandwich, milk, au gratin potatoes, broccoli with butter, salad bar and pumpkin muffin.

Reservations and cancellations are required. You can make a reservation at 264-2167 by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you would like to dine in the Community Cafe at the Senior Center.

For your convenience, you can make your reservations in advance or have a standing reservation on days you know you will always attend.

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**Classified Advertising,
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Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 19

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.*

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 2

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 27

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Monday, December 30

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 26

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's.*

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KITTENS/CATS: We are still overflowing with cats and have kitties galore! We have everything from kittens to seniors. Come by and meet your future furry pal! Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.



MAX: Max was found on our doorstep with a note to please love him and that he was semi-blind. And there's lots to love because he weighs 21 lbs.! We are looking for that special someone for him or perhaps a foster home? Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.



GRENDL: This young Rottie mix, Grendel, is really lonely now. Her brother just got adopted and what she really needs is a person in her life now to play with. Please come and meet her to see if that could be you. Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.

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BRAND NEW, STILL IN BOXES. Full sized cocoa brown heated, massaging, swivel recliner with cup holder and magazine side flaps. \$300. Call (970)398-0388 for more information.

SIMPLY CLEAN- EFFICIENT AND THOROUGH! Housecleaning services. Call Erin to schedule a cleaning. (949)566-3906.

TREK MOUNTAIN BIKE, Fuel EX8 29ER, 1x12, med frame like new, \$2,000. (970)903-6523.

MAX: Max was found on our doorstep with a note to please love him and that he was semi-blind. And there's lots to love because he weighs 21 lbs.! We are looking for that special someone for him or perhaps a foster home? Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.

GIVE THE GIFT OF STRESS RELIEF. Gift Certificates now available! Eclectic Bliss Massage, 468 Pagosa Street, Suite H, Pagosa Springs, CO (309)738-5895.

KITTENS/CATS: We are still overflowing with cats and have kitties galore! We have everything from kittens to seniors. Come by and meet your future furry pal! Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.

ON SATURDAY, 21 DECEMBER, Tara Mandala will host our 25th Anniversary Winter Solstice Celebration. Join us as we center ourselves and open our hearts to begin the holidays, releasing our challenges from the past year and setting beautiful intentions for the upcoming New Year. Includes special dinner and guided meditation. Open to the public. We are a 25-minute drive outside of Pagosa Springs. For more information and to register: www.taramandala.org.

NEVER TOO OLD FOR hide and seek! Come join us at the Methodist Thrift Store for the hiding of the "Elf on the Shelf" possibly to win gift certificate or other great prizes! See you there! December 21st, 9a.m.-5p.m.

HIPPIE CHICK MASSAGE has relocated to Del Norte, CO! (719)657-1440 www.hippiechickmassage.com. All Pagosa clients will receive \$15 off any massage. 1055 Grand Ave.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AL-ANON meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall. www.al-anon-co.org.

TRADITIONAL ALANON GROUP: Traditional AlAnon Group meets Mondays, 6p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Dr. (325)669-9715.

A.A. PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP. 315 N. 2nd St./CR 200- Snowball Rd. Sunday 10a.m. (OD); Monday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (C-BB); Tuesday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (CM); Wednesday 7:30a.m. (OD), noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (OD); Thursday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (ON); Friday noon (OD), 5:30p.m. (OD); Saturday 7:30a.m. (OD), 5:30p.m. (OD). (Last Friday of the month 6p.m. potluck, 7p.m. birthday speaker meeting.) Questions, contact (970)245-9649, aa-westerncolorado.org or aadistrict18.org, or call Ed K. 946-2606 or Val V. 946-6086 or Ellen C. (214)566-5921.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS WEDNESDAYS, 7p.m. at 315 N. 2nd St./CR 200, Snowball Rd. For information contact Woody (970)582-0065 or Carl (970)903-2346.

A.A. PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP winter hours beginning on Tuesday, December 19, beginning at 6p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Charlotte (970)903-9690.

SERVICES

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HANDYMAN SERVICES. SMALL PROJECTS. Honey do lists. Carpentry. Honest and reliable. Call Manny at (228)355-1628.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow, (719)849-8873.

SNOW REMOVAL- SNOW SHOVELING, raking roofs, clearing walkways, clearing decks and removing snow build-up around house. Call 264-0193.

RENT A MAN for all the things gals need help with. Call Handyman Dan. Prompt, reliable, professional, affordable. (719)849-8873.

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING. Reasonable prices. Linda Lerno. 731-5173.

PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC, GROUP of detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable cleaners. Starting at \$20/ per hour. Text/ call **KIM**. (970)946-6446.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/ sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/ operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted.

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SNOW REMOVAL. IF YOU need help, please call. (970)946-6091.

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SNOW REMOVAL. SNOW BLOWER, shovel, roof rakes. Call Bob. (970)903-2297 or (970)264-4324.

HOW ABOUT AN EXTRA HAND during the holiday season? Available for organizing, decorating, event preparation, cleaning. Call Lori, 946-8747.

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER? Solid Rock Management offers home inspections, house cleaning services, snow removal, fire mitigation and much more! Get a 10% DISCOUNT this month by scheduling with us for any one of our reliable services. Call us today. Jason Logan, Solid Rock Builders LLC & Solid Rock Management! (970)759-3882.

DRYER VENT CLEANING AND dump runs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. 731-2543.

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HELP WANTED

DETENTION COMMANDER. Archuleta County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the position of a Detention Commander. For job description, wage and benefit details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit a Sheriff's Office application and resume to Undersheriff Woodman at PO Box 638, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, Fax (970)731-4800 or email to jwoodman@archuletacounty.org.

LINE COOK/ PREP COOK WANTED full time at the PEAK DELI. Bring resume. No calls.

PART-TIME HELPER. Chimney and roof work. Starting pay \$15/ hour for qualified worker. (970)946-1275.

DENTAL HYGIENIST: San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to drelicsmithdds@aol.com or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

PATROL DEPUTY. Archuleta County Sheriff's office is accepting applications for the position of Patrol Deputy. Applicants must be Colorado P.O.S.T certified. For job description and wage details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit a Sheriff's Office application and resume to Human Resources, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or fax (970)264-1879 or email to tmccann@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

EXPERIENCED LINE COOK, experienced cashier. Clean, sober, good with people. Apply in person, The Malt Shoppe. No calls.

CNAs NEEDED, DAY SHIFT and night shift. Night shift differential. Apply in person. Pine Ridge Extended Care. Under new management.

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SAN JUAN SALON AND SPA is hiring licensed hair stylists, manicurists, esthetician and assistant. Busy salon. All products supplied. Call 731-3004.

CUSTODIAL SERVICES- PAGOSA PEAK Open School is currently accepting bids for after hours cleaning of the Pagosa Peak Open School. Approximately 15,000 sq. ft. of floors, 5 days a week when school is in session. Additional deep cleaning services during school breaks. Must have own liability insurance. Please send letters of inquiry and proposed bids to Chammon@ppos.co or drop off in person at 7 Parelli Way. www.PagosaPeakOpenSchool.org.

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HELP WANTED

CLEANERS, UP TO \$15/ hour. Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable. Text or call Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WANTED. Pay based on experience. Must have excellent customer service and phone skills, be detail oriented and be able to multi-task. Please send questions and resume to marissa@hippsllc.com.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently training and hiring SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS. Possibility to work part time or full time (combined with additional duties). You will make a difference in the lives of students. You start with up to a \$600 bonus upon completion of CDL license. You receive "behind the wheel" training. You are an essential part of the team at ASD. For more information, locate the job description on our website, www.mypagosaschools.com under the "Job Postings" icon. Or contact Laura Mijares at lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is seeking full- and part-time positions in the following positions:
Snow Reporter- Must have interactive web experience, strong organizational and communication skills. Hours 6a.m. to 3p.m., willing to work weekends. **Ski School Instructor-** Duties include teaching guests in a group setting, customer service and other duties assigned by supervisor. **Shuttle Bus Drivers-** Part time. Experienced driver looking to make extra money during Christmas, Presidents Day, MLK Jr. and Spring Break holidays. A Commercial Drivers License is not required, however pay is commensurate with professional experience and licensing. **Lift Operator-** Duties include assisting guests in loading, riding and unloading chairlifts, daily set up and routine maintenance of lift areas, snow removal and providing positive contact with guests. **Treasure Sports-** Part-time- Must have prior experience in POS system. Friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication skills. **Professional Baker/ Food & Beverage-** Line/ grill cooks, bakers and baristas. **Ticket Office Cashier-** Part-time- Must have prior experience in POS system. Friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication skills. **Winter seasonal positions with competitive wages.** Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

CNA CLASS STARTING SOON. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-SHERIFF'S OFFICE. Archuleta County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the position of a Part-Time Administrative Assistant. For job description, wage and benefit details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit a Sheriff's Office application and resume to Undersheriff Woodman at PO Box 638, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, Fax (970)731-4800 or email to jwoodman@archuletacounty.org.

DISHWASHERS NEEDED AT THE Buck Stops Here Market and Eatery. Great way to make some extra money for the holidays. Apply within at 19 Navajo Trail Drive.

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR wanted. Must be experienced and have a wide variety of skills, needs to pass background check and have a valid driver's license. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

HELP WANTED

Are you looking for a NEW career?

If you are a self starter, with the ability to multi-task, The Pagosa Springs SUN has an opportunity for you with our multimedia organization.

We are currently taking applications for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) advertising customer service position.

Position offers salary, plus commission. Reliable transportation is a must.

If you like getting out in the community, meeting new business owners and developing relationships, this is the perfect job for you.

We offer a fun and challenging, team-oriented work environment.

Submit your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com or drop off at 457 Lewis Street. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
(970) 264-2100 • www.PagosaSUN.com
 457 Lewis Street

PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL is accepting bids for snow removal. Must have parking lot clear for parent drop off by 7:30a.m. and student pick up by 3p.m. As well as clear sidewalk entry. Please send bids and letters of inquiry to Chammon@ppos.co or drop off in person at 7 Parelli Way. www.PagosaPeakOpenSchool.org.

LEAD COOKS- Pagosa Brewing seeks kitchen team members. Leadership opportunities available. Applications at 118 North Pagosa Blvd. and online- no phone calls.

RETAIL SALES TEAM ADMINISTRATOR. Need a sharer! Enjoy fun and passion while building community? Includes teamwork, sampling and experimenting along with basic store administrative duties. Requires dedication, curiosity and excitement. Apply in store or email resume to office@thechokecherrytree.com.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR part-time work? Mountain Pizza and Taproom is hiring part-time cooks and cashiers. Apply in person 175 Pagosa Street. Alyssa.

HAVE LOVE AND ROOM in your heart for children? Consider being a foster family or family helper with Human Services. Call 264-2182 for more information.

NEW OPENING: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER? If you are a self starter, with the ability to multi-task, The Pagosa Springs SUN has an opportunity for you with our multimedia organization. We are currently taking applications for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) advertising customer service position. Position offers salary, plus commission. Reliable transportation is a must. If you like getting out in the community, meeting new business owners and developing relationships, this is the perfect job for you. We offer a fun and challenging, team-oriented work environment. Email your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls, please.

PART-TIME BUS DRIVER. The Archuleta County Transportation is accepting applications for a part-time bus driver. For job description and wage details, visit www.archuletacounty.org, submit application and resume to Human Resources, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or fax (970)264-1879 or email tmccann@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Deandra at dberes@peoplecarehs.com or (970)399-8257.

FULL-TIME EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER. Archuleta County is accepting applications for the position of a Full-Time Emergency Services Dispatcher. For job description and wage details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit an application to Archuleta County Human Resources at PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, FAX (970)264-1879, or email it to rsmith@archuletacounty.org.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for an Inpatient RN. The RN provides/ administers nursing care to patients in a safe, efficient, and courteous manner; follows proper nursing procedures in accordance with hospital policies and procedures; demonstrates knowledge of the principles of growth and development over the life span and possesses the ability to assess data reflective of the patient's status and interpret the information needed to identify each patient's requirements relative to his/her age-specific needs. Applicant must have Colorado RN license. Applications may be picked up at hospital registration or human resources office or downloaded at www.pagosaspringsmedical-center.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to Mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EOE.

264-2100

Classifieds

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Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.****HELP WANTED**

FULL-TIME BOOKKEEPER. We are seeking a bookkeeper with QuickBooks and payroll experience. Please submit your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

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IT CAN STOP! Let us help. 24-hour domestic violence or sexual assault hotline. Confidential. 264-9075.

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DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

BANK STEM CELLS FROM your own pet for use later in their life. Elk Park animal Hospital at 9572 West Highway 160 in Pagosa, can help you plan ahead for this. Call for a consultation at 731-6400.

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call 731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

FOR SALE

SCOTSMAN COMMERCIAL ICEMAKER, MODEL CME 656 WE, restaurant grade, \$475. Black and Decker valve resurfacer, complete with grinding stones, new condition, \$625. 1996 Corvette LSI, complete motor and transmission in computer electronics, \$3,475. Pro built by Offenhauser Ford 460, less than 100 hours (used in boat), \$1,300. Small block Chevy, 350/ 375 HP, complete, ready to install, low miles, \$1,850. (970)731-8600.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and/ or Aspen. \$220- \$260 per cord. Free delivery in Pagosa Springs area. (970)661-3888.

32" SHEARED BEAVER/ LAMB SKIN fur coat, women's size 10, in excellent condition. Paid \$4,250, sell for \$2,125. (970)731-1051.

WRIGHT NATURAL BAKERY. Locally owned Whole Grain Organic Bakery. Including pecan, apple and pumpkin pies. Delicious, nutritious items at Choke Cherry Tree and Made in Colorado Shoppe. Wrightnaturalbakery.com. (970)812-8026.

GE PORTABLE DISHWASHER, \$200 OBO. Wood stove, convection, \$300 OBO. Steve or Kathie 731-0715.

ALL STAINED AND ART GLASS SALE at Big Sky Studio! All in stock sheet glass is 25% off through December 31! Call (970)731-5374 for appointment!

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND HOME-OWNERS. Are you remodeling or tearing down? Call Durango Salvage, we buy and sell building materials. Tom, (970)749-2271, Mark, 749-8235.

WOMEN'S DIAMOND HOOP EARRINGS. Inside out design, 34 diamonds, appraisal upon request. Appraised high, will sell low. Serious inquires only. (970)903-6094

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OAK FIREWOOD FOR YOUR warmth and memories. Custom lengths available. Please call Canyon Lee for pricing and delivery schedules. (970)880-4086.

64" LAND PRIDE SNOW blower. 3 point hitch, \$2,500. 264-1771.

SEARS SNOWBLOWER, 2 STAGE, electric start, \$750. 946-7917.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. 731-PAWN (7296).

AIRIEL STEAM SHOWER. Paid \$1,200, asking \$750. Call or text (970)903-4969.

WATER TRANSFER TANKS. 275 gallons. 6 miles west of Pagosa Springs on Hwy. 160. \$200 cash. Call Kurt (801)201-2122.

VACATION RENTALS**FOR SALE**

HAND BLOWN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS on sale for \$5 through December 31st at Big Sky Studio! Hand made in Pagosa Springs! Call (970)731-5374 for appointment!

ALL NATURAL, 100% GRASS finished beef and lamb, pastured pork, and organic free range chicken from GrassRoots Meats. Available at our warehouse on Mondays, as well as the Choke Cherry Tree and Joy's the rest of the week. www.grassrootsmeats.colorado@gmail.com. Call Lois for more information, (970)582-0166.

NEED FIREWOOD? Get the dump truck special for \$375! The wood is a Pine mix. GUARANTEED to be full cords. Price is good till the end of the year. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

AIRSTREAM 2007 CLASSIC LTD Santa Special. Excellent condition. \$38,000. (850)585-5718.

2010 POLARIS SPORTSMAN TOURING 550 eps: 2 person ATV with electronic power steering, snowplow, new top end, front and rear storage boxes. Ready to plow and play. \$4,400 OBO. Call 731-0150 or 585-9754.

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GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

1997 4X4 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE. Runs good, looks good, has good tires. \$1,900. (970)946-3762.

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2012 TOYOTA PRIUS C hybrid hatchback with 146,393 miles, serviced regularly. 4 door, auto transmission and hybrid power plant. New windshield, aftermarket wheels, floor mats, roof rack. \$7,000. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St., Pagosa, (970)731-7296.

2001 FORD SUPER DUTY XLT, 3/4 ton pickup truck. 4 door, long bed, V- 10, gas powered, automatic transmission, 2 wheel drive. Aftermarket trailer brake controller. White, interior is tan cloth. 163,650 miles. \$8,500. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St., Pagosa, (970)731-7296.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

LONG TERM RENTALS available. Call Sunetha, (970)459-4411 or sunethaproperties.com.

LONG & SHORT TERM Rentals available. OWNERS More Properties Needed! www.NextHomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

EATON DR. 2 BEDROOM 1 bath apartment, behind City Market. Water and trash included. No pets allowed. \$800 rent, \$800 security deposit. Call Ginni, 731-2216.

BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM HOUSE: January- June. \$980/ month. Furnished, all utilities paid, high speed Internet. No smoking. Text only: (970)308-1986.

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH on golf course. Garage and water paid. \$900/ month plus deposit. (479)244-7141.

TPRENTALS.COM FOR LONG TERM rental needs. (970)731-8599.

VACATION RENTALS**RESIDENTIAL RENTALS**

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, 2 story. Master on 1st floor. 2 car garage, W/ D, unfurnished. Lakes area, walk to shopping and Recreation Center. Awesome VIEWS. Energy efficient, natural gas fireplace. (970)398-0023.

LONG TERM/ SHORT TERM rental. Master bedroom, bath in 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. Spacious, quiet, clean. 1 dog possible. (970)317-4418.

BEST VALUE IN PAGOSA. Excellent condition 1/1, 2/2 apartment homes. Convenient location, walk to uptown grocery store. 946-9187.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH TRIPLEX. 1 car garage, \$1,200 a month. Laundry room, paved road. Close in. (970)264-9159.

ROOM FOR RENT \$575, plus deposit. Separate entrance. References required. Off North Pagosa Blvd. menergy88@gmail.com.

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, furnished/ unfurnished, ground-level apartment in home with garage parking. No smoking; no pets. \$850 including utilities. Call (970)946-7359.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

HIGH COUNTRY MINI STORAGE. Most sizes available. Paved, lighted, security. Behind The Outfitter. Call 264-9142.

DOWNTOWN OFFICES AVAILABLE UP-STAIRS in the Heritage building, 468 Pagosa Street. Starting at \$250/ month. Includes kitchen, conference room, utilities and WiFi. 946-2728.

COMMERCIAL RENTAL: OFFICE/ MEDICAL with reception and three+ exam rooms. Approximately 1,600 sq. ft. space on ground floor. Location near Hwy. 160 and Piedra Road (near Village Interiors/ Carpet One) on Trinity Lane in Pagosa. Minimum 1 year lease \$1,300/ month, utilities included (first, last, security). Contact Susan (970)799-2559.

SMALL WAREHOUSE SPACE in town. 10'x15' unit with overhead door and electricity. \$80 per month. Michael C. Branch (970)769-2036.

5,000 SQ. FT. PREMIER office, retail/ industrial. Premier Park Ave. address. Home & Ranch Property Management. (970)731-1554.

EXECUTIVE iSUITES. Up to (2) 14x14, (2) 12x12 offices. Conference room use, fast Internet, 2nd floor, utilities, paved parking. FREE month rent with year lease. Conference room with Internet (hourly, daily rates). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, NO STAIRS, \$400. Includes heat, AC, fiber optic internet, security system, cleaning services, and kitchen area. Uptown. (970)444-5144.

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PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE. Locate your business in Pagosa's busiest shopping center. Country Center/ City Market Plaza. High traffic area with abundant parking. Common area maintenance included. For more information, please call Charlotte at (970)903-7690.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

ARBOLES COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 2.54 acres. In the Piedra Park Subdivision with great views of Navajo Lake State Park. \$115,000. Possible owner carry! Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Services for Archuleta County Facilities. Archuleta County is currently soliciting bids for Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Services for the following facilities: Administrative Building; Courthouse Building; Public Works Building; Nick's Hanger (Airport); Extension Office/Western Heritage Building (Fairgrounds). Proposals shall be sent to Archuleta County Public Works Division, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, and attention: Operations Manager. Proposals shall be received no later than January 15, 2020. Envelopes containing proposals shall be marked on the outside with "Proposal for Provide Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Services for Archuleta County Facilities." Archuleta County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informalities or minor irregularities in proposals, and to accept the proposal deemed, in the opinion of Archuleta County, to be in the best interest of Archuleta County. Questions concerning this request for proposals shall be directed to Matt Archuleta at Barchuleta@archuletacounty.org) of the Archuleta County Public Works Division or by calling (970)264-8411.

TURN KEY BUSINESS. CUSTOMER list, equipment and supplies. Call (970)731-4585 or (970)946-1275.

PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS for sale. Oxygen bar and retail shop. For more information, call (405)274-3955.

ANOTHER PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS is for sale. Successful 15 year old local Pagosa Ice Company is being sold because of personal health reasons. For more information, please call and leave a message at (970)731-8600. Very serious inquiries only.

HOUSES FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH on 27 acres, \$310,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

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PROPERTY

DEAL ON 35+ ACRES with national forest access. 3+ bedroom, 4 bath, fireplace, 2-garage. Multi-level generational living floor plan. Prices SLASHED- \$400s! Wen Saunders (970)903-0038 Pagosaconnection.kw.com Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

CONEJOS RIVER FRONTAGE HOME! 3 bedroom, 3 Bath, 3-car garage in gated subdivision, has access to the Rio Grande National Forest. \$797,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

SELLING OR BUYING? I am INDEPENDENT, I work for YOU! 18 years in Pagosa. Peggy Andrews, Independent Real Estate Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

NICE 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH with a third room for an office. All fenced 2 acres, next to Navajo State Park. \$265,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

SANTA'S AFFORDABLE SALE! Condo, 2+ bedroom, 3 bath (\$100s). Townhouse, 2+ bedroom, 3 bath, 2-garage (\$200s). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038 Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

3 BEDROOM, 4 BATH HOME. 7-car garage, views of Navajo Lake and the San Juan Mountain Range. \$565,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

PROPERTY

CONEJOS CANYON RIVER FRONTAGE property in a gated community with awesome views! 3.43 acres. \$125,000. Owner carry possibilities! Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

2260 PIEDRA ROAD. 1/3 acre, \$9,000. Finance available. hoganpagosa@gmail.com.

FANTASTIC LOT. BUILD YOUR dream home. In Timber Ridge, 4.73 acres, \$169,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817, text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

4.89 ACRES IN ASPEN SPRINGS. No HOA! Corners marked and ready for you to take ownership. \$52,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

PROPERTY 5 ACRES with power on the corner and survey has been done. Possible OWNER CARRY! \$52,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

1.0 ACRE IN ASPEN SPRINGS AREA. Price reduced! Septic installed! Great mountain views. \$32,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

WINTER SALE ACREAGES. 107 acres (\$200s). 39+ acres (\$80s). 130 acres with 3 sides national forest! (\$500s). Private finance options. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

SECLUDED 1.50 ACRES. With water tap installed. Close to Navajo Lake State Park. \$60,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

40.0 ACRES IN A GATED COMMUNITY. Power installed in 4 locations of the property, cistern, cabin and a pole barn started. \$275,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

GREAT 5 ACRE LOT to build your dream home! With awesome mountain views. 10 minutes from Wolf Creek. With public water. \$90,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

FSBO. BEAUTIFUL, QUIET 35 acres in gated community. \$65,000, owner financing available. (970)903-2900 or (970)903-0870.

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