



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Schutz inducted into Colorado State University Athletics Hall of Fame

Special to The SUN

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) and Colorado State University (CSU) graduate Jason Schutz was recently inducted into the CSU Athletic Hall of Fame in a Nov. 1 ceremony.

At Colorado State University, Schutz, an Archuleta County native, still stands as one of the greatest discus

■ See Fame A8



Jason Schutz was inducted into the Colorado State University Athletic Hall of Fame in a Nov. 1 ceremony. Photo courtesy Sherry Schutz

County receives \$1.91 million grant for new courthouse

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Archuleta County has been awarded a \$1.9 million grant to help pay for construction of a new courthouse.

The grant, awarded by the Colorado Underfunded Courthouse Facility Commission, requires that the county prove it has secured all the funding for the proposed \$5.8 million courthouse by November of 2020 to receive the money.

The \$1.9 million is the largest grant ever awarded by the underfunded courthouse commission.

County Finance Director Larry Walton has explained in recent months that even with the underfunded commission grant, plus a \$1 million grant the county is expecting to receive from the Department of Local Affairs (DoLA), the county is still about \$2 million short to complete the entire courthouse project.

Commissioner Ron Maez stated Monday he was under the impression that the county would receive the money as soon as he signed for it and didn't believe that the county

would have to prove it has the entire \$5.8 million before it receives the \$1.9 million grant.

"I don't think it says that, that we need all the money. It says that we need to show them how much it's all going to cost," Maez told The SUN Monday, adding, "I think we can start with it and then go back and as we're building it go back and ask for more money."

However, the grant award letter sent to the county from the underfunded courthouse commission reads, "Grant funds shall only be available to the County upon: (i) the County identifying and submitting proof of satisfactory funding sources for the total estimated costs to complete construction for the new courthouse facility."

County Administrator Scott Wall wrote in an email Tuesday that the county's plan to secure the rest of the funding is to continue to apply for grants throughout 2020, continue to build up the county's cash reserves and will reapply for another underfunded courthouse commission grant next year.

■ See Courthouse A8

To the stars

Local teachers looking to raise funds for new planetarium

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

A duo of Archuleta School District (ASD) teachers are leading the charge in an effort to raise funds to purchase a new portable planetarium that will allow local students to experience the moon and the stars within the confines of a classroom.

The planetarium, a StarLab, was described by Pagosa Springs Elementary School first-grade teacher Debbie Moore as a "giant balloon."

"The kids get inside of it, you

crawl in, and then there's a projector that has a cylinder you put on and it displays the stars, constellations," Moore described.

Currently, the district uses one that is more than 40 years old that belongs to Aspen Academy in Bayfield, Moore explained.

For the last four or five years that Moore and eighth-grade Pagosa Springs Middle School science teacher Anita Hinger have used the older StarLab, they have encountered a variety of problems, Moore explained.

■ See Planetarium A8

Dispatch board votes to raise phone surcharge, talks move to Harman Park

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Dispatch Executive Board voted Monday to ask for an increase to the surcharge on local phone lines for emergency services and continued to discuss possibly moving the dispatch center to Harman Park, among other things, at its meeting.

In recent months the board had tasked a subcommittee, chaired

by Greg Schulte, board chair of the Upper San Juan Health Service District, to identify and recommend additional revenue sources for the dispatch center.

Many members of the dispatch board have stated that the current dispatch center is not secure, is in a bad location and is generally an inadequate facility for dispatch purposes.

■ See Dispatch A8



Photos courtesy Linda George

Garrett Frie, Lyla Frie and Grace Webster help load a truck with 2,634 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The generosity Pagosa Country will bless needy children in Ghana, South Africa and Mexico. The boxes were packed to the brim with toothbrushes, soap, pencils, toys, stuffed animals, personal notes and pictures sent with hopes of changing the lives of children this Christmas.

Town, special districts discuss URA board positions

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Some special district representatives are pushing back against the governing structure of the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA), opining that the structure should include more special district representation.

The Pagosa Springs Town Council approved forming the Pagosa Springs URA with a 4-3 vote on Nov. 5.

The resolution forming the URA states that the members of the town council, as well as other members as specified in state statute, constitute the board of commissioners of the Pagosa Springs URA.

Those other members of the 11-person board, as Town Manager Andrea Phillips explained on Nov. 5, include 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.

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

On Nov. 25, town staff and Mayor Don Volger met with representatives of a number of special districts in a work session to discuss the roles and responsibilities of URA commissioners, interest in serv-


■ See URA A8

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Opinion

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SUN STAFF

Publisher/Editor

Terri House, editor@pagosasun.com

Assistant Editor

Randi Pierce, randi@pagosasun.com

Reporters

Chris Mannara, chris@pagosasun.com

John Finefrock, john@pagosasun.com

Advertising and Circulation Manager

Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Advertising Representative

Sarah Fiorenza, sarah@pagosasun.com

Head Pressman

Robert Penton

Assistant Pressman

Brian Maurer-Townsend

Mailing Staff

William Thomas and Kody Penton

Classified Advertising/Front Office

Missy Phelan, classads@pagosasun.com

Shana Young-Gawdun, classads@pagosasun.com

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11/30	30	6	S	2.4"	.26"
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EDITORIAL

Board of Education: correcting course

There are times when we want to praise a public board for its dedication and hard work, but when that work is done in violation of state law, just how can we commend their actions?

In a 1997 decision, an El Paso County District Court judge issued an order restraining the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners from meeting in executive session to interview candidates for a position.

The commissioners had cited "personnel matters" as a reason for the interviews in executive session.

That judge found that the personnel matters exception "is limited to discussions of issues concerning current employees, not applicants for government employment."

The court found that the plaintiff in the case, The Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph, would suffer injury by "denial of his right to attend an open meeting as guaranteed by Colorado's Sunshine Law." The court also noted that "The Colorado Sunshine Law ... is designed to allow greater public accessibility to the workings of government."

We agree with the judge and the plaintiff as we do not consider candidates for a job as personnel.

Failing to vote

Fast forward to this year on Nov. 19, right here in Pagosa Springs.

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) made a motion to enter an executive session at a special meeting that night "pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(e) and (f) to discuss the superintendent interview questions, determine interview procedures and the compensation package."

The subsections of C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (e) and (f), the statute cited by the BOE, pertain to discussing personnel matters along with "determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators."

After making the motion to enter that executive session, the board failed to vote. Sure, that's a technicality, but a very important part of the process. State statute and ASD's board policy both require that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board must take place before entering executive session.

No vote took place.

Obtaining the recording

The SUN made a Colorado Open Records Act request for the recording and received this response from Darryl Farrington with Semple, Farrington, Everall & Case: "This firm represents Archuleta School District 50 JT, and your attached CORA request has been forwarded to me for response. As you know, the Board inadvertently failed to vote on the motion which was made and seconded to go into executive session. Upon information and belief, it was the intention of all Board members present to vote in the affirmative. No Board member voiced an objection, and the action of all Board members in leaving the opening meeting to reconvene in executive session is clear evidence of a unanimous vote in favor.

"The primary purpose of the executive session was the determination and preparation of questions to be used in interviewing candidates for the position of superintendent. This function needs to be done out of the public eye so that (a) no candidate can obtain an advantage in preparing for questions that will be asked, and (b) the Board will receive authentic responses when interviewing candidates, rather than responses that have been Googled and/or constructed after obtaining the advice of others. This is especially critical because there are expected to be local candidates for the position. Accordingly, it is crucial that this phase of the superintendent search process remain confidential.

"Because of this unusual situation, I respectfully request on the District's behalf that you withdraw your request for the recording of the executive session."

We responded that we would not withdraw our request.

The SUN received the recording the next morning.

More than a technicality

Even without the technicality in not voting prior to the executive session, The SUN would have protested the inappropriate executive session, which we believe should have been held in view of the public.

Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402 states: "(3.5) A search committee of a state public body or local public body shall establish job search goals, includ-

ing the writing of the job description, deadlines for applications, requirements for applicants, selection procedures, and the time frame for appointing or employing a chief executive officer of an agency, authority, institution, or other entity at an open meeting. ..."

We equate "interview questions" and "interview procedures" to "selection procedures."

We equate "superintendent" to "chief executive officer."

However, we cannot equate "executive session" to "open meeting."

Making the grade

We would have given the BOE a grade of an "A" for following the rules of executive sessions, if they hadn't gone in for reasons that don't seem to align with state statute.

Nevertheless, in listening to the recording of the inappropriately held executive session, we were impressed by the board members. During the inappropriate executive session, the BOE stuck to the task at hand, developed thoughtful and effective interview questions and didn't sway from the subject they declared for the session.

We heard a board that is deeply concerned about hiring the right candidate to lead this school district, someone who will improve tests scores and move the district forward. We heard an impressive level of intelligence and dedication to the process.

We would love to see more of this open, raw discussion in public meetings of all of our local public bodies.

Many times, we have listened to recordings of executive sessions and more often than not, public officials use that time as a free-for-all to discuss whatever they want to hide from the public. Not this board.

Correcting the course

We were torn over writing this editorial. We believe the BOE is trying to head in the right direction and we believe the board is trying to abide by Colorado's Open Meetings Laws. Perhaps course correction is in order.

The SUN's goal is not to derail the process in hiring a new ASD superintendent but to remind the board to follow the law in doing so.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 6, 1929

An old landmark of Pagosa Springs, the old-time court house of Archuleta county, was destroyed by fire Wednesday morning, nothing remaining except the stone vault. The building was owned by the county and located on east San Juan street near the Pagosa creamery. It was occupied by Mrs. Mike Chavez and children, who lost all furniture and clothing. Mrs. Chavez had spent Tuesday night with her daughter, Mrs. Luis Padilla, at the San Juan hotel and early next morning sent her son home to build a fire. A defective flue was responsible for the flames, which had gained considerable headway before discovered.

About 23 couples gathered at the James Fowler ranch home Wednesday night as a surprise party to Mr. Fowler, and an enjoyable time was had by all present until a late hour. Dancing and games, followed by refreshments, made a pleasant evening for the crowd.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 8, 1944

The railroad station of Pagosa Junction is no more; the Rio Grande having changed its name officially to "Gato," a Spanish word for cat. The name of the postoffice remains, for the present, at least, Pagosa Junction. So-o-o-o-o-o-o, you can go to Gato, yourself, but you must send your mail to Pagosa Junction.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lynch and sons, Larry and Jackie, Durangoed Wednesday.

Mrs. W.H. Diestelkamp publicity chairman for the T.G. Seal Sale, says that 60 percent of the \$300 quota for Archuleta County, has already been raised, and that the promptness with which so many persons made their purchase of seals is most encouraging. The real goal, she says, is not only the raising of the money, but the wiping out of tuberculosis and the rehabilitation of those who already are victims of the disease.

Pagosa Springs, Colo. Dec. 1 Dear Santa Claus: I want a ball and a top and a doll and a toy cat and a toy dog and another toy, Santa Claus. That is all. Love, Jean Macht.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 4, 1969

Buck Goodenberger is managing the Gamble store during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Whitefield. The Whitefields are in Texas where Mr. Whitefield is recovering from a very serious illness. He has just been released from a hospital in Ranger, Texas, after being confined there for more than five weeks. Mr. Goodenberger will be conducting the affairs at Gambles for an indefinite time.

This weekend, December 6 and 7, has been set as official moving day for the kindergarten and the first six grades in the local school. The move will be from the present grade school building to the new building in west Pagosa Springs. There will be approximately 425 students, 18 teachers and 10 teacher aides involved in the move. Some new equipment has been installed but much will be moved to the new school. School in the new building will start at the regular time next Monday morning. Jim Bennett, superintendent, said that it was probable that time will be needed to make necessary adjustments in the new building.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 8, 1994

A plan involving the future status of the Archuleta County-Stevens Field Airport occupied the attention of county officials and airport consultants during a three-hour work session Tuesday afternoon. Attended by the county commissioners, Archuleta County Airport Authority directors, local citizens and representatives of Isbill Associates Inc., Tuesday's meeting was a prelude to a Dec. 21 meeting that will feature completed proposals on the county airport. (Isbill Associates Inc. is an airport consulting engineering firm based in Aurora.)

Local law enforcement authorities are seeking help in finding the perpetrators of numerous acts of vandalism committed Tuesday evening. Chief Don Volger said at least eight and as many as 12 incidents occurred in the late afternoon and evening hours Tuesday. Vandals shot out the rear and side windows of vehicles in town and in the Pagosa Lakes area. Volger theorized the damage was done with a pellet gun.

WHADDYA THINK?

What are you most thankful
for this time of year?

Poll results (151 votes)

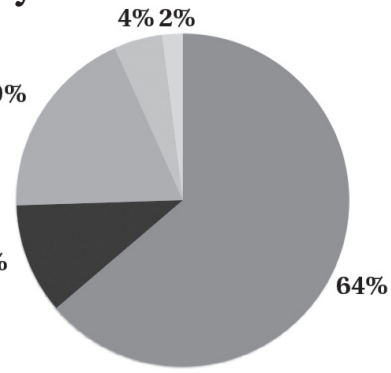
Friends and family — 63 percent

Food on the table — 11 percent

Health — 19 percent

Snow — 5 percent

Other — 2 percent



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YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

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Ron Maez, Chair

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Steve Wadley

264-8304

Alvin Schaaf

264-8305

Pagosa Springs Town Council

Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger

ddvolger@gmail.com

Matt DeGuise

mdeguise@pagosasprings.co.gov

Madeline Bergon

mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov

Nicole DeMarco

ndemarco@pagosasprings.co.gov

Tracy Bunning

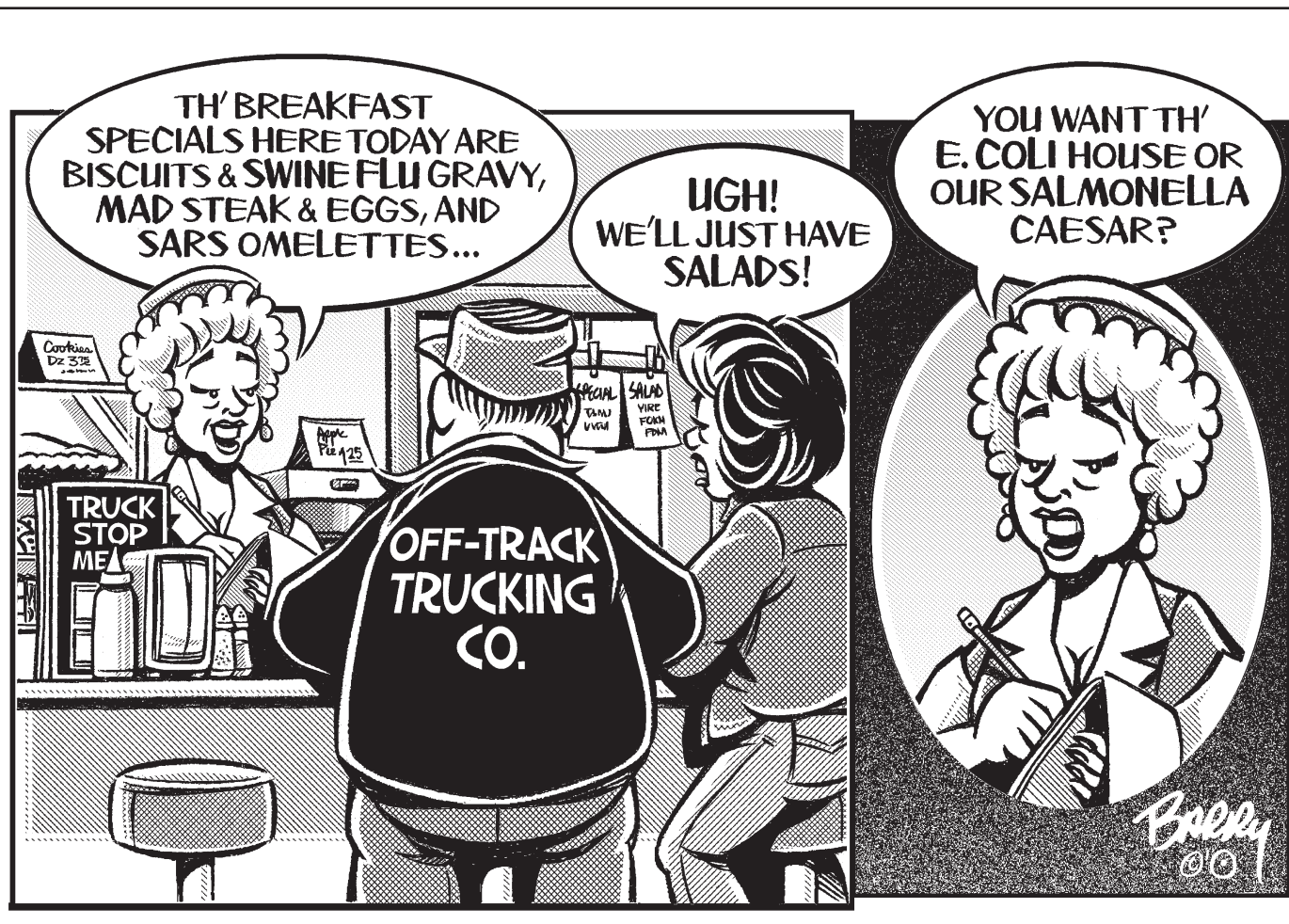
tbunning@pagosasprings.co.gov

Mat deGraaf

mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov

David Schanzenbaker

dschanzenbaker@pagosasprings.co.gov



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.

Valle Seco land exchange

Dear Editor:
The Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange is not merely an exchange of a large section of private land for another significant part of the national forest. Several area ranch owners are offering to exchange a large section of private property for 11 smaller hand-picked areas of national forest that they have wanted to own for some time. All of which would block public and hunter access to these lands once they fall into private ownership. Of particular concern to me is the 55 acres of land in area 7. This area includes the whole length of FS road 660a. This is the road to your left (east) as you enter the national forest on Castle Creek Road. FS road 660a would be no more, as would be any public access to the national forest from this road that hunters and the public now enjoy. El Rancho Pinoso would own it and place a locked gate at the entrance immediately off Castle Creek Road. The boundary of area 7 does not stop at the end of FS road 660a. It extends east another 1/4 mile or so past the end to include a well-

known meadow used by many area hunters. Hunter's access to this meadow would be no more. It would become El Rancho Pinoso's land and fenced off.

Another concern is the loss of scarce camping areas for hunters and the general public. Closing FS road 660a would eliminate three camping areas. The south boundary of area 7 extends along Castle Creek Road (FS road 660) and would remove a large camping area about a 1/4 mile after you enter the national forest on your left. This campground is a large, well-used camping area that will be fenced off and lost to any public and hunter use.

The closing of an entire FS road and the loss of several camping areas is a big deal and needs close public scrutiny.

Maps and full legal descriptions of this exchange are available on the following San Juan National Forest website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57154>.

If you have concerns about any part of this exchange, as I do, you need to make your feelings known by writing to Becca Smith, San Juan National Forest, PO Box 310, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 by Dec. 13, 2019.

Concerns may also be sent via email to rebecca.smith@usda.gov.

If you have questions about this exchange, please contact Becca Smith at (970) 264-2268.

Tom Butler

educated at Harvard University and New York University; holding dual degrees in J.D. (Doctor's Degree in Jurisprudence) and a Masters in Business Administration. He is not an "airhead". Possessing 3 theological degrees, I would not call myself his educational equal.

Kushner's continual dealings with the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, he desires a two-state solution as do I, is thankless as both stiff-necked peoples continue their unending mortal conflicts.

Ivanka's education includes Georgetown University and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania where she graduated Cum Laude. Yes, another woman that stands tall calling for the education of all, not some, women regardless of color. She is tirelessly working to improve the economic empowerment of women and families. But, media bias doesn't report that or its victories.

I am not a rubber stamp of President Trump; I judge him with a fair and unprejudiced mind. He has accomplished many wonderful things but I do disagree with him from time to time just as I did President Obama.

Let's continue to support decent and civil discourses on politics and religion. I, like the majority of Pagosa residents, don't like rants from either side of the aisle.

Be well, Pagosa.

Stan F. Counsell

gossip, Trump must be impeached for what Biden actually did. Even though Congressman Schiff just proved there is no evidence Trump did anything wrong, much less illegal.

And when confronted about these things the first response is "Well, what about so and so?"

It's a good show, lots of laughs watching people twist themselves into knots trying to rationalize these conflicting positions.

Barry Smith

'Twelve Months of Christmas'

Dear Editor:

Well, here we are again, entering the season of love — celebrating the birth of the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, who came to teach us about love. Yes, the wise men brought gifts in celebration of the season, let's focus on the true gift, that of God's love that frees our souls to find comfort from the stress in our lives. It cannot be purchased, it is ours to accept.

For many, it becomes a "season of stress" as so much love gets crunched into so little time. Hmmm. I got to thinking about a Christmas song we enjoy singing: "The Twelve Days of Christmas". It is a fun song, but sadly, it best describes how we "pack" so much love into such a few days. Then, there is that carol that sings about "the presents under the tree". I recall Christmases past — everyone in the family gave to each, one gift, it was a surprise. I recall letting my children out at the "Five and Dime", with a little extra in their allowance, to do their Christmas shopping. Their bald-headed grandpa was surprised to get a beautiful comb. Yes, all the presents fit "under" the tree. That was so much fun.

What to do? Well, I think it would be good if we changed that song to "The Twelve Months of Christmas" — spread that love around for 12 months instead of 12 days and there would be no stress at all. Think about that, can we do it? I bet we can and everyone's lives would be filled with Christmas love the year round.

Ahhh, "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, Sleep in Heavenly Peace".

Merry Christmas to all.

Patty Tillerson

Prejudices and double standards

Dear Editor:

I must confess to getting a laugh out of the prejudices and double standards of the Trump Haters.

There is the standard prejudice that Republicans in general, and politicians in specific are stupid. No matter how accomplished and educated they are, the left calls then stupid.

Then there is the current farce of impeachment. Joe Biden bragged on camera on how, when he was VP, he blackmailed the former president of Ukraine into firing a prosecutor investigating a company, for corruption, on whose board sat Joe's son Hunter. The left's reaction? "Ho hum. Nothing to see here." Yet now these same people are in a high moral rage that, according to presumption, rumor, hearsay and

Beyond-despicable letters

Dear Editor:

It is with sadness that I lament the return of the beyond-despicable letters by one man in the Letters section of The SUN.

For some time, said section had returned to civil discussions on all sides until recently; the return of but one person driven to spins, lies, besmirchment; placing truth in an industrial strength woodchipper. It is beyond sad to see such ongoing reasoning.

As a former pastor, chaplain and counselor, I have woefully seen my full share of such behavioral abuse directed towards spouses, the elderly and children. With such obsessed persons, nothing is ever good enough to restrain the verbal/physical abuse of the innocent parties.

His repeated invectives against religion and churches (particularly Christianity) makes me remember the words of my Lord Jesus Christ, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Yet, in spite the continual response letters exposing his "issues", he continues to pour forth his declamation's ad nauseam.

Not only did he, last week, do another diatribe on religions, he wrongly attacked the intelligence and education of Jared and Ivanka Kushner.

For the record, Jared has been

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
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or fax: (970) 264-2103

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

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

If necessary, only one letter 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.

We wish to thank you, our valued customers, for your continued patronage.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We look forward to serving you in 2020.

Guy, Linda, Toby & Sandy

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to Two Old Crows Gallery artists featured in Southwest Art Magazine!

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Amy Evans
Brad Price

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(970) 264-0800
twooldcrowps@gmail.com

Business



Photos courtesy Art for the Animals

Holiday shoppers were treated to an artisan extravaganza at the fourth annual Art for the Animals event on Saturday at the PLPOA clubhouse. The annual event featured custom works and wares of local artisans. Local artists and shelter animals benefited from the event.

Tri-State credit ratings lowered, LPEA and Tri-State discuss issue

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

On Nov. 14, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc.'s credit rating and senior secured debt rating were lowered from an "A" to an "A-," among other downgrades, according to a news release from S&P Global Ratings.

Additionally, S&P lowered Tri-State's rating on its up to \$500 million commercial paper program to "A-2" from "A-1."

According to S&P, \$228 million was "outstanding" as of Sept. 30.

According to S&P, the downgrade of various ratings reflect the filings made to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by two of Tri-State's member distribution cooperatives.

One such member that has made a filing is La Plata Electric Association (LPEA).

The other cooperative that has filed for the PUC to look into an exit fee with Tri-State is United Power out of Brighton.

Other factors related to the rating decreases outline that three general managers have struggled to placate members, member friction, retail rates, among other things, according to S&P.

"The negative outlook reflects our view that the cooperative's debt reamortization, modest rate increases, and rate restructuring are not achieving customer harmony, thereby exposing the utility to constraints on ratemaking and strategic planning," S&P's press release notes. "In addition, the utility faces the possibility of having to recoup costs over a smaller base. We believe the imminent departure of one member and applications by two other members to the Colorado commission to establish an exit fee, expose the utility to the potential loss of 25% of its members' energy sales, which could erode the revenue stream. Acrimony might frustrate ratemaking flexibility and strategic planning, even if Tri-State prevails before the commission."

Later in the press release, it explains that S&P does not expect to raise the ratings within its two-year outlook horizon.

LPEA is a member of Tri-State, but as of Nov. 5 had filed a complaint with the PUC asking the PUC to come up with a just and reasonable exit charge to allow LPEA to withdraw from Tri-State, according to a press release from

LPEA Communications Coordinator Lonnie Tucker.

According to that press release, LPEA asked Tri-State for an exit charge more than four months ago, but Tri-State has yet to respond to that request.

"Instead, Tri-State has unilaterally declared a moratorium on any exit charge discussions with any of its members, including LPEA," Tucker's press release reads.

In an interview last week, LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock explained that Tri-State's lowered credit ratings don't mean much for the general public and LPEA customers.

"I've been reminding people that this could have been avoided. Their downgrade could have been avoided if that was the true cause of the downgrade," Matlock said, "because Tri-State could have shown their investors, or the rating agencies, that they were working collaboratively with their customers."

By doing this, Tri-State could have avoided the "uncertainty" and downgrading of its ratings, if that was in fact the basis for the rating agency's downgrade, Matlock noted.

All LPEA was asking for in its filings was a reasonable buyout that was fair and just, Matlock said, adding that Tri-State "refused to give us the number."

"We just asked for a number so that we can look at our options," Matlock said. "It's our responsibility to look at different options for our members."

Matlock explained that some ideas LPEA is weighing include working within the current contract with Tri-State, working on a partial contract with Tri-State and determining what a buyout number is.

"We haven't gotten communication back from Tri-State about what the downgrade means," she said.

If LPEA were to pursue a buyout with Tri-State, Matlock noted that she could not see how the rating decreases would affect those conversations.

"Oftentimes, the ratings are tied more to your efforts to borrow money at a low rate. So, does this impact their ability to borrow money to close their coal plants? Maybe," she said. "It's like, what does this trigger down the line that would impact our members? And only Tri-State is able to tell us what that impact would be."

Matlock noted that she spoke

with Tri-State CEO Duane Highley recently and that she was trying to keep "positive communications up."

Tri-State responds

In a press release posted to its website on Nov. 19, Tri-State addressed its ratings decrease.

"Tri-State's ratings remain classified as investment grade, and Tri-State maintains its strong financial position. In addition, Tri-State has been and continues to address many of the items raised by S&P Global Ratings in its analysis," the press release reads.

Within the press release, Highley states that Tri-State's membership remains unified in its direction and that Tri-State maintains a strong financial position.

"Highley noted that Tri-State's member cooperatives and public power districts are continuing efforts to provide members with more contract flexibility for power supply," according to the press release.

Additionally, the press release outlines that Tri-State's contract committee is reviewing options for partial requirements contracts that would provide members with additional flexibility for power supply.

A recommendation is expected in early 2020, according to the press release.

In an interview on Nov. 26, Tri-State's senior manager of communications and public affairs, Lee Boughey, outlined what these rating decreases mean for Tri-State as a whole.

According to Boughey, the ratings that were decreased from "A" to an "A-" are for the long-term ratings of Tri-State, and the decrease from "A-1" to "A-2" are for the short-term ratings.

Despite the decreases, Boughey explained that Tri-State continues to have "strong financial ratings."

Specifically, Tri-State maintains "investment-grade" credit ratings, Boughey explained.

Investment-grade credit ratings are a class of credit rating that are beneficial to Tri-State's members because it allows Tri-State to continue to finance its assets at a low cost, Boughey described.

"We remain in a strong financial position," he said.

In regard to \$228 million of Tri-State's \$500 million commercial paper program being labeled as "outstanding," Boughey explained

that Tri-State has a mixed portfolio that allows the company to capitalize its assets; this includes both long- and short-term debt.

"As a not-for-profit cooperative, we have two ways to capitalize the assets that we have for serving our members," he said. "We can either use equity or low-cost debt, and debt is the lowest-cost way for us to fund the assets that we need to deliver power to our member systems. And our debt is in line with other 'A' investment grade-rated generation and transmission cooperatives."

Currently, Tri-State is a utility that is going through a "significant transition," Boughey commented.

"When you're going through a transition, there is some uncertainty. And that uncertainty is reflected in the ratings actions," he said. "As part of the work of our memberships contract committee, our membership will be looking at the methodology to determine the value of our members' contracts."

To address the long-term and short-term rating decreases, Tri-State will continue to work through all the necessary steps within its responsible energy plan and work with its members to provide more flexibility to them, Boughey explained.

"As that work continues, there will be more certainty in our business. And that, ultimately, will be reflected in our credit ratings," he said.

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Community talk to focus on home weatherization and repair

By Lynne Vickerstaff
Special to The SUN

Need things repaired but can't afford them? Heating and electrical bills overwhelming?

Please join Pagosa Housing Partners on Monday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. for a community discussion on weatherization and home repairs at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

Many programs exist to help citizens in our community with these pressing issues.

Proper weatherization helps to save on energy costs. Residents can receive a free energy-saving audit and rebates to create a more com-

fortable, energy-efficient home. Participants in the program will receive advice on air sealing, attic insulation, crawlspace insulation, efficient showerheads and appliances, high-efficiency furnaces, hot water heaters, windows and more.

Qualified 80 percent area median income and under residents will meet an authorized and experienced CARE energy adviser who will visit the home to advise and install free energy-efficient products, assess the property for major efficiency opportunities and educate homeowners on their energy usage. Once the adviser has completed their assessment, they will coordinate with local contractors to install the most cost-effective

efficiency measures in the home.

Through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) program, low-income homeowners impacted by age, disability and family circumstances who struggle with home maintenance projects receive an opportunity to reclaim their homes.

NHN is an interior/exterior home preservation service that offers painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, weatherstripping and minor repair services for homeowners in need. Also, if you are willing to be that neighbor volunteer, please join us to learn how you can help members of our community in need.

We will also hear about wells, water and waste systems. Programs

available to help finance a portion of the investment costs will be discussed.

Guest speakers include:

- Molly Morris — program manager for 4CORE.
- Marisa Felix-Campbell — Housing Resources of Western Colorado.

- Marcy Child — weatherization program director, Habitat Archuleta.

- Lori Hendrickson — executive director Habitat for Humanity.

- Nancy Jacobsen — Rural Community Assistance Partnership.

Visit our website at pagosahousingpartners.org for more information on many other housing topics and resources.

Consider your choices for health insurance during open enrollment

Special to The SUN

The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), is reminding those Coloradans who are in need of health coverage and who buy individual health insurance plans (meaning not from an employer) that now is the time to enroll in or renew coverage for 2020.

The annual open enrollment for the individual market runs from Nov. 1 to Jan. 15. If you do not get your coverage from an employer or from a government program such as Medicaid or Medicare, this is the only time of the year to sign up for health insurance, unless you have a major life event during the year like losing your job and your employer coverage, having a baby, or getting married or divorced. However, to have coverage in place starting

Jan. 1, 2020, enrollment must be complete by Dec. 15.

Jake Williams, executive director of Healthier Colorado, a policy and advocacy organization, said, "Open enrollment is a critical window for your health and finances that you don't want to miss. It's an opportunity to evaluate your coverage options so that you can get the insurance that best fits your life's circumstances."

The 2020 premiums have decreased all across the state and in all levels of plans — bronze, silver and gold — thanks to the state's Reinsurance Program. However, when it comes to health insurance, the DOI encourages people to take some time to evaluate their coverage options. Your current plan may not be the cheapest, so you will want to do some shopping to find savings.

In Summit County, Glenn Brady,

a real estate agent and a single dad with three kids, has been paying \$1,800 a month for his family's health insurance in 2019. But when he looked at what was available for the coming year, he was happily shocked to see his premium going down to \$1,200 for 2020 due to the reinsurance program.

Brady said this \$600 a month savings is significant for his family and will help pay for his kids' tutoring and day care.

He went on to say that the \$7,000 he'll see in savings in the coming year will mean a lot to his family.

"For 2020, premiums are coming down an average over 20 percent across the state and many places in Colorado will see decreases around 30 percent," said Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "But it's still important for folks to take the time to shop to save as much as

possible for a plan that works best for their health care needs. That's especially true for Coloradans that receive subsidies from the federal government. On average, they can still save 15 percent next year, but they may need to switch to the lowest cost plan in their metal level in order to achieve those savings"

Having health insurance is important in gaining access to health care services and maintaining one's health. But it also helps to protect people financially, as the costs of health care services continue to climb.

Colorado individual health insurance consumers can enroll with insurance agents, directly with the insurance companies or through our state's exchange, Connect for Health Colorado.

Contact Connect at (855) 752-6749 or find in-person assistance through its statewide network of certified experts at connectforhealthco.com/person-help. In addition, Connect for Health offers tools such as the Quick Cost and Plan Finder that can help you check if you are eligible for financial assistance and find a plan that fits your needs.

If you or a family member need help determining what kind of questions to ask when considering health insurance, or you just want some assistance decoding the language of a health plan, contact DOI Consumer Services: call (303) 894-7490 or (800) 930-3745, or email to DORA_insurance@state.co.us.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Monday, Dec. 9

Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors work session and regular meeting. 4 p.m. work session, 5 p.m. regular meeting, 7 Parelli Way.

CSU Extension Advisory Board meeting. 11:30 a.m., CSU Extension office, 344 U.S. 84.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

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

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

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, com-

missioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Archuleta School District Board of Education work session and regular meeting. 5 p.m. work session, 6 p.m. regular meeting, Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 S. 8th St.

Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board meeting. 4:30 p.m., Visitor Center, 105 Hot Springs Blvd.

Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

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, Dec. 11

Upper San Juan Library District board meeting. 4 p.m., Ruby

M. Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St.

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners special meeting — budget adoption. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. *Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosasun.com with "Public Meeting" in the subject line. The deadline is noon Monday each week prior to publication for that week's issue.*

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The National Weather Service (NWS) is calling for a chance for snow showers today, Saturday night and Sunday. On Wolf Creek Pass, the NWS is predicting a 90 percent chance of heavy snow Thursday, with that probability dropping to a 30 percent chance of snow showers as the day progresses. The pass is projected to have a 20 percent chance of snow showers on Saturday night and a 60 percent chance of snow showers on Sunday. Outdoor enthusiasts are reminded to check the avalanche forecast at www.colorado.gov/avalanche before heading out to play.

Avalanches reported on Wolf Creek Pass, snowpack improves over last year

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Thanks to recent snowfall, snowpack levels for the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins currently sit at 106 percent of median.

At the Upper San Juan site, snowpack totals were 89 percent of median as of Dec. 4, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"Obviously it's good historically, I would say we're right around average," NRCS District Conservationist Jerry Archuleta said of the snowpack levels in an interview on Wednesday.

Even with last year's productive winter, Archuleta noted that this year's snowpack totals are "significantly better" than last year's at this time.

"Last year we were around 79 or something like that," he said. "As of today, we're looking better than we were last year. Especially, the watershed as a whole is looking better and especially the Upper San Juan site."

According to Archuleta, at this time last year, the Upper San Juan site was at 57 percent of median.

"It's early, but right now, we're looking decent," he said.

Local snowpack levels could see an increase, with the National Weather Service (NWS) calling for a chance for snow showers today, Saturday night and Sunday.

On Wolf Creek Pass, the NWS is predicting a 90 percent chance of heavy snow Thursday, with that probability dropping to a 30 percent chance of snow showers as the day progresses.

Wolf Creek Pass is projected to have a 20 percent chance of snow showers on Saturday night and a 60 percent chance of snow showers on Sunday.

Other snowpack reports

The Upper Rio Grande Basin has a current snowpack total of 113 percent of median, while the Arkansas River Basin has a snowpack level of 120 percent of median.

At the Yampa and White River basins, snowpack levels are reportedly at 116 percent of median; the Laramie and North Platte River basins are at 107 percent of median this week.

The South Platte River Basin has a snowpack total of 129 percent of median this week, the Upper Colorado River Basin sits at 105 percent of median and the Gunnison River Basin is currently 99 percent of median.

Avalanches

According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC), about 50 avalanches were reported last Saturday and Sunday.

There was even a report of an avalanche on Wolf Creek Pass that was rated as "R4/D2," the CAIC indicates.

According to the United States Avalanche Rating Codes, an avalanche with a code of R4 is "large, relative to the path."

An avalanche with a code of D2 could "bury, injure, or kill people," according to the avalanche rating codes.

In an interview on Tuesday with CAIC Southern Mountains Lead Avalanche Forecaster Mark Mueller, he explained that particular avalanche was not as large as first reported.

"It doesn't take a very large avalanche to injure or kill somebody," Mueller said.

According to Mueller, when CAIC staff go out to record avalanche occurrences, there are times when initial size estimates are refined due to better visibility.

"That may be where that came from. We kind of downsized the one that we thought might have been the largest," Mueller said, noting that was because CAIC staff got a "better look at it from a different position in the mountains."

Mueller added that "nothing extraordinary happened" in regard to avalanches on Wolf Creek Pass, describing it as "fairly routine."

"It's one thing to look at it from the highway where it's a little obstructed," he said. "It just wasn't as big as it first appeared. It happens all the time."

It's also not early in the season for these avalanches to appear, Mueller noted.

"I don't think that there were any

surprises," he said. "It was in the places where we would typically think where we would begin to see the first avalanches of the season appear."

Early season avalanches can often be attributed to early snowfall on the ground evolving into a "fairly fragile structure," Mueller explained.

For those looking to enjoy the winter wilderness, Mueller recommended that they check the CAIC avalanche forecast at www.colorado.gov/avalanche.

According to the CAIC's website, the southern San Juan Mountains had an avalanche risk of "moderate" above, near and below tree line as of Wednesday.

The CAIC describes avalanche danger being on a scale of low to extreme, with moderate being just above low on the scale.

Moderate avalanche conditions are described as being "heightened" on specific terrain and that natural avalanches are unlikely, but human-triggered avalanches are possible.

Additionally, moderate avalanches can range in size from small in specific areas to large in isolated areas, the CAIC website notes.

"I would say there is danger," Mueller said. "Avalanches that are initiated by people on snowshoes, skis or on a snowmobile are possible."

chris@pagosasun.com

Local lakes see changes in levels since last week

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

All five local lakes saw changes in levels since last week, according to a press release from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Manager Justin Ramsey.

Lake Hatcher is currently 20 inches from full, or 93.83 percent full, when last week it was 23 inches from full.

Stevens Lake saw a 1-inch change from last week, going from 38 inches from full to 37 inches

from full this week.

Lake Pagosa is currently 6 inches from full, or 97.83 percent full; last week Lake Pagosa was 8 inches from full.

Village Lake is full; however, last week it was 3 inches from full.

Lake Forest is 13 inches from full, or 90.15 percent full. Last week it was 14 inches from full.

Total diversion flows remain unchanged from last week, staying at 4.5 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The West Fork diversion is still contributing 3 cfs and the Four Mile

diversion is still adding 1.5 cfs.

From Nov. 22 through Nov. 28, water production totaled 9.50 million gallons, a decrease from the Nov. 15 through Nov. 21 water production total of 9.60 million gallons.

Contributing to the Nov. 22 through Nov. 28 total, the Snowball water treatment plant produced 3.27 million gallons and the Hatcher water treatment plant produced 6.23 million gallons.

From Nov. 22 through Nov. 28 of 2018, total water production was

listed at 9.64 million gallons.

River report

As of Dec. 4, the San Juan River had a reported flow of 51.7 cfs, below the average for Dec. 4 of 75 cfs, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The lowest reported flow for Dec. 4 came in 1946 when the San Juan had a flow of just 27 cfs; the highest came in 1987 when the San Juan had a reported flow of 221 cfs.

chris@pagosasun.com

Public Notice Archuleta County, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Archuleta County offices will be closed from 11:45am-2:15pm on Thursday, December 19th to allow all county employees to attend their employee appreciation and holiday luncheon.

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8	\$6,294
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The Archuleta County Department of Human Services can provide application assistance. Call 970-264-8511 to reserve a spot. Appointments will be held at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St., Pagosa Springs, CO. Applications may also be sent directly to Discover My Goodwill at LEAP, PO Box 39200, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9905.

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Town appoints four new planning commissioners

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Planning Commission has four new members following a series of decisions by the Pagosa Springs Town Council on Nov. 21.

Per those decisions, Anne-Marie Sukcik and Jeff Posey are regular planning commissioners, and Bill Hudson and Mark Weiler are alternates.

Prior to the vote, there were three members of the planning commission: Peter Adams, whose term expires July 4, 2021; Peter Hurley, whose term expires Feb. 21, 2021; and Chris Pitcher, whose term expires Nov. 20, 2022.

Section 2.5.2.B.1 of the town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) outlines the composition of the planning commission, including that there can be up to two non-town residents on the commission at a time.

Hurley is fulfilling one of the two eligible seats available for people who do not reside in town, but who own a business in town and reside within Archuleta County.

The town council originally considered the planning commission appointments on Oct. 17, but after a motion to appoint the four to four-year terms failed 3-2 and the council opted to reconsider the matter when all seven town council members and four planning commission candidates could be present.

Then, on Nov. 21, the full council again considered appointing the four candidates, this time with each candidate being considered individually.

Planning Director James Dickhoff explained that each candidate was being considered individually based on input from council in October.

"I think from input we received it seemed like it would be better to bring individual resolutions for each individual appointment so that you weren't compelled to approve all of them if there was a candidate you didn't want to appoint in that group," Dickhoff explained.

Dickhoff also noted that he had provided ideas of questions to the

council since there was interest in October about interviewing the candidates prior to making appointments.

Each candidate was asked why they wanted to serve on the planning commission and what they would bring to the table, as well as other questions posed by the council members.

First up, then, was Posey. Posey explained he has been coming to Pagosa Springs since 1972 to backpack.

He began paying more attention to the town, he said, when he bought a piece of undeveloped property, and he moved to town full-time in June after building a house.

Posey noted that, while he was growing up in Texas, his father was on their town's planning and zoning commission and they used to drive around the town looking at things the commission was considering.

That, he indicated, stuck with him, and he continues to think about planning that went into things.

Posey further explained he was a City Hall reporter for five years in Dallas, Texas, for a magazine and he became familiar with how the town governments operated, budgets and policy.

He noted he also enjoyed researching land use ethic.

Posey outlined that he was a petroleum geologist for five years and holds a master's in finance, as well as being an author.

"I like to think about things," he said.

When asked by council member Mat deGraaf if he sees areas of improvement with the planning commission or just wanted to help with what's currently going on, Posey responded, "Both."

Posey noted he has been attending planning commission meetings since arriving in June and has looked at sites being considered.

He used parking as an example of something that's a constant concern for the planning commission, pointing out that parking requirements should be different for different parts of town.

Posey noted he also admires

capitalists who invest in the town and would like to help them because "that's what brings the energy to this town."

After staff noted that all four applicants were stating they have in-town residences, which is based upon voting address, the council unanimously voted to appoint Posey to a four-year term as a planning commissioner.

Up next was Sukcik, who explained that she owns a lodging establishment and would love to see the town grow as outlined in its comprehensive plan, with that effort being supported by the planning commission.

She explained she has 20 years of experience in project management, strategy, marketing and running multimillion-dollar projects, and holds a physics undergrad and master's in marketing.

When asked by council member Madeline Bergon if, as someone new to the community, there are areas she would like to improve upon and change

within the LUDC, Sukcik stated that the town is disconnected, with the east side of town looking very different than the downtown area.

She noted she would like to see it streamlined and have all of the town have the same look.

With no further questions, Sukcik was appointed to a four-year term on the planning commission with a unanimous vote.

Council then considered a pair of candidates for alternates — Hudson and Weiler.

Hudson pointed out that there are six duties assigned to the planning commission in the LUDC, with the planning commission hardly ever looking at new policies and procedures, or conducting studies and recommending plans and goals.

He noted that he would like to see the planning commission eventually take on a larger role and help take some of the load off of the Planning Department.

Council member Matt DeGuise asked Hudson what changed to make him want to be on the planning commission now, with Hudson responding that the planning commission was down to three people,

which is too small of a number to make "really good decisions" — something he suggested the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners proved — and indicated that the planning commission can make better recommendations with more minds at work.

Hudson was also asked about his role with his opinion news blog and if he could balance issues, as well as if it was a good idea to put media on the board.

To both questions, Hudson stated he didn't see a problem in serving in both capacities, with them being "completely different jobs."

After some further discussion, the council voted 5-2 to appoint Hudson to a four-year term as an alternate member of the planning commission, with council members Tracy Bunning and Bergon voting against.

Last up was Weiler, who explained he has been in Pagosa Springs for 20 years.

"My town asked for people to volunteer and do this," he said of his reason for applying.

When asked about changes he would make to the LUDC, Weiler noted there is no strategy to mitigate the parking problem and there needs to be a financial plan for it.

Bergon asked what area of town Weiler lives in and how he feels about living in and representing the LUDC to the town residents and citizens.

Weiler replied, "7 Parelli Way and I feel very good about it."

Bergon then asked if there was something else Weiler wanted to accomplish while on the planning commission, either for himself or the planning commission.

Weiler outlined that he has skills, a broad view of the world, understands finance "very well" and understands the cost to developers when they go through a "long, agonizing, expensive process to get their project started."

He suggested that if a project complies with the code and comprehensive plan it shouldn't go before the planning commission.

Other questions posed to Weiler touched upon his demeanor and concerns of having multiple strong personalities on the planning commission.

"I'm an acquired taste," Weiler responded to the question about his demeanor, adding that he is confident and fearless, and pointed out that he and Hudson have served on the board of the Pagosa Peak Open School together for two years.

Following a little more discussion on the matter, the council unanimously approved Weiler for a four-year term as an alternate.

randi@pagosahun.com

"I think from input we received it seemed like it would be better to bring individual resolutions for each individual appointment so that you weren't compelled to approve all of them if there was a candidate you didn't want to appoint in that group," Planning Director James Dickhoff explained.

Thanks

Mestas

A surprise birthday party was held this past Saturday night at the Community Center in honor of local Mrs. Emily Mestas. The attendance of family and friends was over 100. All had a fun time reminiscing and catching up with the latest. Music was provided by The Retro Cats. Under threat, Mrs. Mestas' age will not be given here. Happy birthday, Mom.



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URA

■ Continued from front

ing on the URA board and the next steps and process for choosing the special district representative.

Volger welcomed those to the meeting and explained that they hoped to focus in on forming the URA, explaining that everybody has a lot of questions.

Phillips began that work session by providing background information on URAs.

Phillips also outlined tax increment financing (TIF), explaining, "As improvements are made, the incremental property values are what is used to generate the tax increment financing, so it's new financing that is generated by the development itself. So, all of the taxing districts will get what they've always gotten, plus inflationary increase. So it's only the amount above that that could be pledged toward TIF.

Bruce Dryburgh, vice president of the Archuleta School District pointed out that it is on appraised value, with Phillips agreeing and explaining that the county assessor's office is "heavily involved" in the use of TIF financing and would be part of making that calculation.

Phillips then explained that TIF is not a new tax and that the amount of that TIF revenue that might be pledged to specific projects is up to the districts.

"The URA board is not making any determination on any of your TIF revenues," she said, then asking for questions and noting she had heard confusion that the URA board would dictate what it would take for a project, which she noted is not the case. "If a project is proposed and TIF financing is contemplated, then the URA board and the developer will be meeting with each of the special district boards separately to have that discussion. Out of that discussion there might be mediation if we can't come to agreement."

If there's not a need for mediation, there would be an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with each of the districts making the determination of what amount that district wants to pledge.

Phillips gave an example of a district that determined it would

pledge 75 percent of the TIF generated based on the costs of providing service to that project area, such as if a project were to trigger the need for a new fire engine and more firefighters.

In response to a question from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District's (PAWSD) Aaron Burns, Phillips explained that the URA board, special districts and developer would all be involved in TIF negotiations.

Ramsey then suggested if a special district pledged nothing, it could go to arbitration and the district could be forced into providing financing.

Phillips noted that if a district such as PAWSD were to say it was not pledging any revenue for a project, the URA board would decide either to accept that or go to mediation which could go to binding arbitration, which would then require another decision to accept the findings of arbitration or make another deal.

Phillips then cautioned that discussing TIF was "getting ahead of ourselves" because TIF involves specific projects and the gap financing needed to make the project go.

She noted that TIF is all based on assumptions and is specific to the project area.

PAWSD board president Jim Smith then asked how arbitrators are chosen.

"I think we're kind of prejudging an outcome. I mean, I'm trying to be optimistic we won't get there," Phillips said, offering to send information to the special districts and noting that she didn't see the current town council being the "type of folks" who would want to force the districts.

In response to another question, Phillips explained the agreements would last 25 years typically, with Ramsey pointing out that it is 25 years or when the project is paid off.

Burns then asked if TABOR would impact the special districts at the end of the 25 years, with Phillips noting she would have to look into that.

Volger then brought the conversation "back down to the basic level."

Dispatch

■ Continued from front

Schulte presented the findings of the subcommittee at Monday's meeting.

Schulte explained that the subcommittee's recommendation to increase revenue for dispatch is that the executive board raise the E-911 surcharge, which is a monthly surcharge on local phone lines earmarked for emergency services.

Subcommittee member and town council member Tracy Bunning made a motion at last week's subcommittee meeting to raise the E-911 surcharge from \$1.25 per month per line to \$2.25 per month. Subcommittee members Ron Beckman, Bunning, Don Volger, Scott Wall and Schulte all voted in favor of recommending the surcharge increase.

Schulte explained the increase would have to go through the Archuleta County commissioners and then on to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the entire process would most likely take about six months before the dispatch center sees any additional revenue.

The \$1 increase is expected to raise about \$135,000 in additional revenue per year for the dispatch center.

The dispatch center's budget is currently about \$1 million.

It collects about \$225,000 in E-911 revenue annually with the surcharge at \$1.25 and gets the rest of its budget in different percentages from the town, county, and the fire and hospital districts.

Schulte explained at the meeting that upcoming state-mandated costs like the ESnet migration, where the county will transition to Internet protocol-based emergency communications, will increase the county's dispatch costs and that he thought the PUC would be willing to grant the E-911 surcharge increase.

"I don't think they've ever turned anybody down for an increase request," board chair Connie Cook said at the meeting.

The highest E-911 surcharge in Colorado is in Grand County, where the monthly surcharge is \$2.76.

Emergency Communications Director Kati Harr and Schulte stated

"The way I see it, this, the URA, is something that the town decided to do to try to improve the town by looking at these blighted areas," he said, acknowledging that the town board has a lot of questions also.

Volger explained that the URA partners with taxing entities and that the third party is the developer.

At any point in time, he stated, there can be opposition, but if the project won't pencil, the developer won't move forward with the project.

"We're just trying to assist in a public/private partnership to help move forward with our goals and objectives under our master plan and different things that we come up with over the years," he said.

The guidelines of how the URA board makes decisions will have to be decided, he noted.

Greg Schulte, board chair of the Upper San Juan Health Service District, noted the town voted to form the URA and, per state statute, the special districts are entitled to one representative on the URA board.

He then noted he was there to understand the roles and responsibilities of the one representative and how that one person would be chosen to "effectively represent" all of the special districts, how he or she would represent them, and what liability there is.

Bill Hudson, of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD), pushed back against Schulte's statement stating that the urban renewal law doesn't specify that the town council has to appoint itself as seven members of the URA board, but that the law allows the council to pick any 13 representatives from the community.

"The town council could choose to put one town council member on the board and have every special district represented on the board," he said. "They could decide to do that."

"They haven't. They already went the other way," Phillips said, noting that council already authorized a specific structure in the resolution per state statute. "They have already decided on the structure."

"And the town council can change that decision whenever

they both expect counties around the state to petition the PUC to raise the E-911 surcharge in their counties because of the additional costs of the ESnet migration.

The dispatch board voted unanimously to approve the fee increase to \$2.25 per line per month.

The board also discussed the possibility of moving the dispatch center to the former home of Norma and Fred Harman III, which Archuleta County recently purchased.

The county has given dispatch an option of sharing the Harman house with the sheriff's office if the dispatch board chooses to.

Some members of the dispatch board expressed that there were still a bunch of unanswered questions regarding the move to the Harman house and some expressed frustration at the communication between the dispatch board and the county.

Pagosa Springs Police Chief Bill Rockensock, who also serves on the dispatch board, explained that he voted no on allocating funds for a move of the dispatch center because the county wasn't providing answers to crucial questions about dispatch moving to Harman Park.

"That's why I voted no, because nobody knows what this money is going for, where it's going, how it's being spent, what it looked like, whether it's feasible. This is exactly why I said no, because nobody could answer these questions."

County Administrator Scott Wall and Undersheriff Derek Woodman, both representatives from the county who serve on the dispatch board, were not present at Monday's meeting.

Some members of the board explained they were curious to know if the dispatch board would be required to pay preliminary design costs to renovate the Harman house should dispatch choose to move there and if they would be required to pay rent to the county for use of the facility.

"That remains to be determined as [the dispatch board is] still mulling [the decision to move]," Wall wrote in an email to The SUN. "The county is open to options from leasing the space to having the improve-

ments paid out over a term of years."

The dispatch board also explained it wanted clarity on \$57,000 it voted to allocate for "a move" and what would become of that money should they choose not to move to the Harman house.

County Finance Director Larry Walton offered clarity on that money in an email to The SUN Tuesday.

"The \$57,000 transfer is proposed as an 'appropriated contingency' number. When the Commissioners approve the budget, it will be 'appropriated' and therefore available for use in 2020. BUT, it will not automatically be used."

"... The County is offering space to Dispatch, on condition that the Dispatch fund somehow compensate the Justice System Capital Fund for the associated costs. The participating Dispatch entities have not yet decided if they want Dispatch to move in with the SO [sheriff's office]. If no funds are appropriated in the 2020 budget for purposes of at least partial compensation to the County, then the move ceases to be an option for Dispatch. We are trying to keep their options open at this point in time."

"... If the participating Dispatch entities later decide against moving in with the SO, then no transfer of funds from the Dispatch Fund to the Justice System Capital Fund will occur. The appropriated \$57,000 will simply remain as Dispatch Fund Balance. If they decide they will move Dispatch in with the SO, then appropriated funds will be available to allow some compensation to the Justice System fund for the additional cost to that fund. Which, of course, is only fair," Walton wrote.

The dispatch board also voted to change Harr's title from emergency communications manager to emergency communications director, citing that was a more accurate representation of her role.

Correction

In last week's article about the county's computer virus, CAD was mistakenly defined as computer-aided design instead of computer-automated dispatch.

john@pagosasun.com

they want," Hudson responded.

Schulte suggested that Hudson could go to town council and advocate for them to do that, but until they do that, "that's not where we are today."

Phillips noted that the structure that has been approved is the same structure that several other communities are using and provided more information on the makeup and terms as well as examples of other URAs around the state that were formed in recent years and outlined laws, such as the Colorado Open Meetings Law, that would apply to the URA.

Phillips noted the URA board will consider any powers listed within the state law that should be taken off the table (such as eminent domain).

Phillips then circled back to the special district representation.

The final three-quarters of the meeting involved discussion on representation of the special districts, with the thread of questioning the town's chosen structure for the URA board continuing

Fame

■ Continued from front

throwers in school history, picking up successive AU-American honors, placing eighth and sixth, respectively, in the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 2007 and 2008.

"Induction into the Colorado State University Athletic Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor," Schutz wrote in a statement to The SUN. "I am extremely grateful to the CSU community for my amazing experience, particularly Coach Brian Bedard for giving me the opportunity for his incredible coaching and mentoring, and my teammates and all of those that supported me during my time as a

Planetarium

■ Continued from front

explained.

"It has shocked us because the electric is shorting out. There's a fan that keeps the balloon part inflated and that doesn't work," she said. "It's just old. It's outdated."

Eventually, Moore and Hinger looked into what it would cost for a new StarLab, Moore explained.

The StarLab that the two determined would be good for the district includes software, training and a warranty, but would cost \$49,040, Moore noted.

This new StarLab would not only cover constellations and mythology, but things like weather, ocean currents and plate tectonics, Moore added.

The district would also have unlimited use of StarLab's library of programs, Moore explained.

"It's a big purchase, but considering how long the other one lasted and how much use we can get out of it, we just really feel like it's important for us as a district to allow kids to have that hands-on, transport you into a different level of learning," she said.

There have been times that the older StarLab has even broken down in the middle of a lesson, Hinger added.

"This is a really important thing for kids to learn. It's in the curricu-

Courthouse

■ Continued from front

Wall confirmed in his email that the county planned to include the amount of next year's underfunded commission grant award to prove they had secured the entirety of the money for the courthouse project.

Marty Galvin, finance director for the Colorado Judicial Department, explained that the county "can't operate based on that kind of hypothetical" in assuming it will be awarded another underfunded courthouse commission grant.

"I think that the [underfunded] commission would bank on the fact that the county comes up with the remaining money, whether that's through DoLA, whether that's through the Department of Agriculture, or whether that's through county reserves at the end of the next calendar year... I mean, yeah, theoretically it's possible, but, I mean, you can't operate based on that kind of hypothetical like that. If the county wants to build a building, and they want to do it as soon as possible, then they should capitalize on the \$1.9 million that is available to them by finding the rest of the money to build the building 100 percent," Galvin said.

The Sixth Judicial District and

throughout the meeting.

Among the comments made during the meeting were that the URA could take binding arbitration off the table but that a pro-URA town council could add it back into the mix in the future, that the full boards of each district will be involved when there is a project, that the process being used to form the URA was recommended by the town's attorney and handbook on URA, and that there is potential for the mayor to appoint a second special district representative to the final seat on the URA board.

JR Ford, representing the Southwestern Water Conservation District, suggested that the town consider having four town council members on the URA board and representatives from the three largest special districts.

"I just think you need to take a step back," Ford said, encouraging that the town "start wisely."

Also during the conversation Phillips noted she would probably take the feedback to the town coun-

cil on Dec. 19.

Those present also discussed how one representative would be chosen, with those present ultimately deciding to go to back to their respective boards for each special district board to choose one potential board member.

Those potential board members, as well as a biography and resume, will be submitted to Phillips by Dec. 20 and Phillips will create a ballot.

Ways to help all of the special districts to be represented by that one individual were banded about, including having a special district advisory board, rotating which district holds that seat each term and more.

As the meeting wrapped up, John Porco, of the SJWCD, pointed out that the special districts should be careful not to shoot themselves in the foot since, based on examples provided by Phillips, the URA could move forward with vacancies on its board.

randi@pagosasun.com

Ram. Lastly and most importantly, I am grateful for my family and all the sacrifices they made so that I could have the privilege of competing in college."

Schutz won the title in the event in 2008 at the NCAA Midwest Regionals, leaving the Rams with the third-best throw in program history.

He was a three-time All-American at CSU, twice in the discus and once in the indoor weight throw. He also reached the NCAA Outdoor Championships once in the hammer throw. Schutz competed at three straight USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the discus from 2007-2009, including

the 2008 Olympic Trials, where he placed 16th. He was also a multiple time Academic All-American during his athletic tenure.

Schutz attended Archuleta School District and was a three-sport athlete at PSHS.

He earned a state title in discus during his senior year in 2003.

Schutz is now a collegiate track and field coach specializing in the throwing events. His 10-year coaching career has included stints at the University of Pittsburgh, Cal State Northridge, University of Washington and, currently, Northern Arizona University. A native of Chromo, he now resides in Flagstaff, Ariz.

coming local," Hinger said. "We really firmly believe that now, at this point, we really want the community behind us."

Despite the price tag, Hinger explained that a new StarLab holds "decades of value."

There is no set deadline for purchasing a new StarLab, but Moore and Hinger both noted that they would like it for this year's students.

"We're looking to have this before the end of the school year," Hinger said.

If they do not get the StarLab before the end of the school year, they will not quit trying, Moore noted.

"The thing that makes this fundraising project different from other things that the school might ask for is the product goes directly to the students," Hinger said. "It's from the community right to the kids. I think that's pretty meaningful."

"I think it's really pertinent to understand that, of the monies that we've got, we've tried for grants far and wide, but our support is

Raising the funds

So far, \$19,500 has been raised for the new StarLab, Moore noted.

Contributing to that total are a \$10,000 grant from La Plata Electric Association, \$7,000 from ASD, \$1,500 from the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs and a donation from the San Juan Stargazers, Moore explained.

"I think it's really pertinent to understand that, of the monies that we've got, we've tried for grants far and wide, but our support is

coming local," Hinger said. "We really firmly believe that now, at this point, we really want the community behind us."

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Future fundraisers

On Dec. 11 at 6 p.m., a free screening of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" (rated PG-13) will be held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium in which donations will be accepted that will go toward the purchase of a new StarLab.

For more information, contact gstarlab@pagosa.k12.co.us. chris@pagosasun.com

For more information, contact gstarlab@pagosa.k12.co.us. chris@pagosasun.com

county's new 54-bed jail opens next summer, it will be operating close to, or at, capacity, citing that as a reason to build the courthouse "right" by including three courtrooms.

Maez also noted that the longer the county waits to build the courthouse, the more it will cost.

He cited that the cost of the county's jail went up about \$2 million from the time it was proposed a few years ago to when construction began earlier this year due to inflation and an increase in materials costs.

Galvin explained what the underfunded courthouse commission's process with the county will be over the following year.

"The way we're going to look at this over the next 12 months, I was going to check in with them occasionally and find out what their success was and how their strategy was looking for coming up with the funding," Galvin said, adding, "We want to have a courthouse built there probably more than a lot of people."

Wall estimates construction on the county's courthouse will begin within 12-18 months.

john@pagosasun.com

Pagosa Housing Partners mulls long-term funding options

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Pagosa Housing Partners (PHP) is exploring options for long-term funding strategies for workforce housing.

PHP's Lynne Vickerstaff outlined several of the options for the Pagosa Springs Town Council during the council's Nov. 21 meeting. Vickerstaff presented four options for developing a long-term funding stream for workforce housing projects and programs.

"The purpose of developing a long-term funding stream is to provide a consistent, yearly revenue source to be dedicated to workforce housing," a document outlining the options states.

That pool of money could be spent on things such as support of groups working to create workforce housing, education of the public about needs within the community, financial preparedness for rental or homeownership, deed restriction monitoring, purchase of land parcels, and more.

"Additionally, the fund is designed to be flexible and does not need to be used in its entirety, but can be rolled over, thus increasing the pool of funds for future investment in workforce housing. Fund distribution is to be determined by Town Council and can be distributed at any time throughout the year," Vickerstaff's report notes.

Vickerstaff later noted that adding options together is also a possibility.

Option one

The first option, as Vickerstaff outlined, would be to reallocate 10 percent of the lodging tax collected into a workforce housing fund.

"The Lodging Tax is to be spent primarily on marketing and promotion of tourism in our community. The nexus between increasing seasonal tourism, the required need for increased employees to support tourism businesses, and the limitations of affordable housing available are strong. In order to maximize our tourism dollars spent it, is imperative that tourists coming here to Pagosa Springs have a welcoming and enjoyable experience, or they will choose a different vacation elsewhere, or submit poor reviews.

Vickerstaff referenced two town ordinances relating to the lodging tax.

The first of the ordinances, Ordinance 647, from 2005, imposes a lodgers' tax of 3 percent of the purchase price of lodging within the town.

Per that ordinance, the revenue from that tax can be used for tourism and tourism-related marketing and capital improvements; special events sponsored, funded or assisted by the town; and "Such other tourism uses determined reasonable and necessary by the Town Council."

The second ordinance, Ordinance 663, from 2006, imposes an additional lodgers' tax of 1.9 percent to be used for the same purposes, but leaves out the word "tourism" on the last listed use of the funds, making it read, "Such other uses determined reasonable and necessary by the Town Council."

"This appears to open the door to a decision on reallocation of funds based on the Town Council and should not require a vote by the citizens of the town," Vickerstaff's report notes.

Vickerstaff suggested to the council that the town should have legal advice if it opts to pursue real-locating funding.

Vickerstaff noted that the town's lodgers' tax could bring in \$668,000 in 2019, which would mean a 10 percent reallocation would put \$66,800 into a workforce housing fund.

Option two

The second option outlined by Vickerstaff would include increasing the lodgers' tax by 1 percent, which would require a vote of the town's electors in April of 2020.

That option, she noted, would generate an estimated \$80,000.

Option three

Option three presented by Vickerstaff would increase the short-term rental registration fee to a yearly fee of \$400.

"Right now, after the initial registration the fee of \$400.00 is paid the subsequent year's fee drops to \$200.00. Half of the yearly fee is allocated to housing. The pool of money generated is approximately \$16,000, based on 80 STRs in the town. With reduced fees in subse-

quent years this pool would drop to approximately \$8,000.00. The assumption is that \$100.00 covers the costs of the Town to process the registration and follow up when there are violations," Vickerstaff's report reads.

Vickerstaff noted that that option could generate \$24,000 for housing over the next several years based on 80 short-term rentals paying \$300 toward housing each year.

Option four

The fourth option outlined by Vickerstaff would apply a 2.9 percent excise tax on short-term rentals within the town.

"An excise tax applies to a short-term rental property that is not a hotel, motel, lodging house or bed and breakfast, where at least one room or unit is rented out through the use of advance reservations. ... However, it does not include property that is rented out through tenancies at will or month-to-month leases. Short-term rentals are defined, in this case, as rentals under 30 days and are not owner occupied," the report explains.

The option would also be subject to a vote of the town's electors.

Vickerstaff informed the council that other communities have looked at excise taxes and Crested Butte had approved a 5 percent excise tax.

She estimated that, if the tax were approved, it would generate about \$70,000.

Council and public comment

Following Vickerstaff's presentation, council member Madeline Bergon suggested she would like to see the options brought before the tourism board and the local lodging establishment owners.

Vickerstaff responded that she had had informal discussions with eight about how they would be affected and that seven suggested reallocating revenue versus raising taxes.

All, she stated, recognized the importance of affordable housing.

Council member Nicole DeMarco suggested allocating legal resources to look into the matter and noted she was not in support of a new tax on just the lodgers.

DeMarco further noted she was interested in the reallocation, that

option three should be considered, though council member Mat DeGraaf suggested he was not in favor of the third option "whatsoever."

Over the course of the conversation, several town council members spoke in favor of a dedicated funding stream for housing and that other options should be looked at, including a sales tax, county involvement and an optional tax similar to one Del Norte implemented.

Mayor Don Volger suggested that the town and Pagosa Housing Partners needed to get together and talk sometime in early 2020.

Prior to Vickerstaff's presentation, members of the Pagosa Area Tourism Board and public spoke about the suggestions during a public comment period.

Michael Whiting, who introduced himself as a tourism board member and "architect" of housing as a joint strategic priority for the town and county, suggested that as soon as possible in the process, the town should let the tourism board look at the suggestions and make recommendations.

Lauri Heraty, who also sits on the tourism board, suggested that options three and four have to do with penalizing owners of short-term rentals, while option one also wouldn't be the best.

She noted she would be in favor of option two, with the additional funds collected allocated for a certain purpose.

She added that the numbers of what the funding would support, such as salaries, staff and hours, isn't there and there needs to be a budget first.

She further noted that some services are provided by HomesFund, which she described as a well-established, well-run program that is coming back into Archuleta County "in a big way" in February.

Audience member Bill Hudson spoke about the history of the town's lodging tax and the town's associated ordinances and the latter ordinance allowing "such other uses."

Hudson noted there isn't an entertainment crisis or trail crisis — referencing recently approved uses for a portion of the lodging tax revenue — but that there is a housing crisis.

randi@pagosasun.com



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New app helps design buildings that use biomass for heat

By **Teddy Parker-Renga**
Special to The SUN

With the coming of the winter heating season, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is debuting a new tool to help builders make new buildings more climate conscious and less dependent on nonrenewable sources of energy.

The Biomass Ready tool helps builders, architects, engineers, planners and others in the building trade to design new buildings that can incorporate biomass as a heating source.

Biomass is woody plant material derived from the trunks and branches of trees. Firewood, for example, is a commonly known form of biomass that provides fuel for heating. Like firewood, wood chips can be used as fuel for wood-burning systems that heat buildings.

"Woody biomass is a clean and renewable alternative for heating today's new buildings," said Tim Reader, wood products program

specialist with the CSFS. "Unfortunately, many builders are not aware of the simple design considerations that make it easy and inexpensive to incorporate a biomass heating system as part of their new building construction."

To address this dilemma, the CSFS worked with the USDA Forest Service's Wood Innovations Program and the Wood Education and Resource Center to develop the Biomass Ready app. This online tool walks builders through five steps to ensure new buildings can incorporate a biomass heating system.

Even if a biomass heating sys-

tem is not a viable option for a builder today, this tool ensures that the new building would be able to incorporate one in the future.

"Applying some simple and low-cost design elements in a building's design today can make it easier to transition to a biomass heating system in the future," Reader said, "so the building is biomass ready."

He added that biomass is a good option for buildings in the public sector, such as schools, correctional facilities or community centers. Several cities and towns in Colorado, such as Boulder, Fort Collins and Fairplay, have public

buildings with biomass heating systems.

Reader noted communities that have active wildfire mitigation programs are good candidates to design buildings that use biomass as their primary heating source. By removing trees to reduce wildfire fuels on the land, these communities produce the wood, or biomass, needed for wood-burning systems.

To view the Biomass Ready app, visit www.biomassready.org.

For more information on biomass as a fuel for heating buildings, contact Reader at 247-5250.

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Sports

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates to open season at home Saturday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team is back on the court and is looking to carry on the team's traditions, including making a run for the state title.

The Lady Pirates have made it to at least the Great 8 round of the state tournament every year since 2013.

The Lady Pirates went 22-4 last season (including a perfect 10-0 in Intermountain League play) and ended last season as the No. 4 team in Colorado girls' 3A basketball behind St. Mary's, Colorado Springs Christian and Eaton.

Thanks to that performance and only losing one of the starting five to graduation after the season, the Lady Pirates are opening the 2019-2020 season as 3A's No. 2 girls' team in the preseason poll, behind the reigning state champion, St. Mary's.

"Our tradition, I mean, I think it goes without saying that our goals or expectation is to make it to the state tournament," coach Wes Lewis said. "And then, you know, it's that old saying, 'You've got to be in it to win it.' And ... when you get to state you ... hope that you can be playing good at that time of year and be healthy and that you can put together three nice games in a row and take it where it goes."

But, before that, the team will have to tackle short-term goals that are also team tradition: winning home games, winning the league title and winning districts.

Saturday afternoon, the Lady Pirates will look to take the first step toward accomplishing those goals as they open the season with a home matchup against the Salida Spartans, who finished with a 13-10 record last season.

Despite not knowing what to expect from Salida in the 2019-2020 season since the team boasted a lot of seniors last season, Lewis noted,

"I think it'll be a good opener for us to try to ... work out some kinks before we head into that tough tournament and Buena Vista."

Saturday's game is slated to begin at 3:30 p.m. at Pagosa Springs High School.

The team had to contend with fall break in preparing to open the season, with Lewis explaining, "We had a lot of kids that were gone over the break and so it was hard to get ... everything in that we felt like we needed to get in 'cause we had just kids, different kids gone at different times over the break."

But, despite that, the team looked "good on the whole" in a Monday scrimmage against the 4A Durango Demons.

"I thought, you know, at times we looked pretty good and did some things real well and then I think there were some other times that we ... made some mistakes," he said. "I think the mistakes are correctable or fixable, so that's encouraging."

The coach added that, while the scrimmage showed room for improvement in areas, it was good overall.

Lewis further indicated that the team will look largely the same on the court this year, with a few different things thrown in.

"We definitely have some really nice post players and we think we've got some really good guards and, you know, you hope to be balanced. We want to establish our inside game but at the same time not just be an inside team," Lewis said, noting he likes the comple-

mentary nature of the team in terms of height, guards, depth, experience, leadership and more.

The girls' basketball team has 26 student-athletes this year between the varsity, junior varsity and C teams.

Schedule

The following schedule is accurate as of Tuesday afternoon, but is subject to change.

Following this weekend's opener, the Lady Pirates will head to Buena Vista for the Buena Vista Tournament on Dec. 13 and 14, with opponents and game times not yet released as of Tuesday afternoon.

The team will then turn around and head to the Lutheran Tournament the following week.

Pagosa will open its tournament play at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 20 with a game against Manitou Springs, with tournament play dictating who the Lady Pirates face off against on Dec. 20.

Following a hiatus for the holidays, the Lady Pirates will return to action and tournament play on Jan. 3 and 4, 2020, when they play host to the Wolf Creek Classic.

The Pirates are slated to take on Eaton (No. 5 in the preseason poll) and Colorado Springs Christian (No. 9 in the preseason poll) at the tournament.

On Jan. 11, 2020, the Lady Pirates will head to Sanford to take on the Indians, who are the No. 2 2A team in the preseason poll, at 6 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will open

league play on Jan. 17, 2020, when they welcome the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers to town for a 5:30 p.m. affair.

The following night, the Centauri Falcons (No. 6 in the preseason poll) will come to town for a 5:30 p.m. game.

On Jan. 24, Pagosa will welcome Monte Vista for the first Pirates-versus-Pirates matchup of the season, with that game also slated to begin at 5:30 p.m.

The following day, Pagosa will head to Alamosa to take on the Mean Moose (No. 7 in the preseason poll) at 5:30 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will take on the Bayfield Wolverines in Bayfield on Jan. 31, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

On Feb. 1, the Lady Pirates will head to Cortez for another matchup with the Panthers at 5:30 p.m.

The team's second matchup with Centauri is set for 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, 2020, in La Jara, and the Lady Pirates will head to Monte Vista the following evening for another 5:30 p.m. game.

The Lady Pirates will host the Mean Moose on Feb. 14, 2020, and the Wolverines the following day, with both games slated to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Pagosa will close out regular-season action in Ignacio at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21, 2020, in a game against the 2A Bobcats, who are the No. 10 team in the 2A preseason poll.

"It's an awfully tough schedule, and I wouldn't want it any other way," Lewis said, pointing out that the team will play several of the top 3A and 2A teams in the state. "We definitely have a very loaded schedule, if you will."

That, the coach indicated, is a benefit to the team.

"We love a tough schedule," he said, adding, "You need to be battle-tested and put in all those different elements and, you know, you need those tough games for sure."

randi@pagosahun.com

Saturday afternoon, the Lady Pirates will look to take the first step toward accomplishing those goals as they open the season with a home matchup against the Salida Spartans, who finished with a 13-10 record last season.

SWIM

Lady Pirates to compete in two swim meets this weekend

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team returned to the waters yesterday to compete in the Salida swim meet against the Salida Spartans and multiple other opponents.

Results for the Salida swim meet were not available by press time Wednesday. Check next week's issue of The SUN for results.

Following the Salida meet, Pagosa will dive right back into competition with a meet against the Durango Demons tomorrow at 4 p.m. and then travel to Farmington to take part in the Scorpion Invitational Saturday at 9 a.m.

Last season, Pagosa swam twice against Durango. Early in the season, the Lady Pirates lost by a score of 216-44. Later in the season, Pagosa fell 836-370.

At the Scorpion Invitational last season, Pagosa finished third out of six teams with 343 points.

"For the next two meets we are looking at trying some different events where we can," coach Heather Miller wrote in an email.

The Lady Pirates have been consistently working to improve stroke techniques and hopefully improving times in events, Miller noted.

"With one day between Salida and Durango we will just work on recovering from the meet and making any quick improvements we can," she wrote.

chris@pagosahun.com

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100



Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week
Dylan Tressler
Wrestling



Favorite subject: Strength and conditioning

Comments from coach Dan Janowsky: "Dylan is a great example of what we want our wrestling team to look like. He is humble and unassuming off the mat, but in competition he is a relentless fighter. A two-time state placer Dylan has strong credibility with

his teammates, and he uses it in the most positive way. So far this year Dylan has been a superb leader in the offseason and preseason practices; he participates willingly in all team functions and then goes beyond with his personal time. Dylan Tressler a great example of the Triple Impact Athlete."



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BASKETBALL

Pirate boys' basketball to open season Saturday against Salida

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At 5 p.m. Saturday, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' basketball team will be returning to the court for the first time since last March and will be taking on the Salida Spartans.

The team is looking to keep the ship steady and make a deep postseason run this year.

Coach Randy Sorenson explained in an email to The SUN that practices have been going well, with kids working hard.

In total, 28 kids came out for the team this year, Sorenson noted.

"We have kids that are pretty big and long this year and we are hoping to use that to our advantage," Sorenson wrote. "We need to get kids hitting outside shots so that teams will not be able to pack the defense in on us."

Sorenson added that he is seeing early on how unselfish the kids are and how well they play as a team.

However, the Pirates are going to have to get some depth off of the bench, Sorenson noted, adding that younger and inexperienced kids are going to have to help out the team.

Defensively, Pagosa has looked good so far in practice, Sorenson explained, adding that the Pirates had a scrimmage against the 2A Ignacio Bobcats last weekend.

"Our rebounding was good and we will have to continue to do that," Sorenson wrote. "We are going to have to be more patient offensively and do a better job of taking care of the basketball."

Pagosa will also need to finish at the basket better, but Sorenson noted that will come around with time.

Last season, Pagosa finished with a 9-12 overall record which included a 3-7 record in league play.

Pagosa finished fifth in the Intermountain League standings last season, behind Centauri, Bayfield, Alamosa and Cortez.

In the opening round of the 3A state playoffs, Pagosa fell to DSST: Montview by a score of 44-32.

Opening tip

To begin the 2019-2020 season, Pagosa will host the Salida Spartans on Saturday, with varsity action set for 5 p.m.

Last season, Pagosa defeated Salida in the season opener by a score of 38-30.

"Salida is a good basketball

team that plays hard," Sorenson wrote. "We are going to have to be able to handle pressure."

Schedule

The following schedule for Pirate basketball was up to date as of Dec. 4, but is subject to change.

Following the game against Salida, Pagosa will hit the road on Dec. 13 and 14 to take part in the Buena Vista tournament.

Opponents and game times for the Buena Vista tournament are to be announced.

On Dec. 19, Pagosa will take on the 4A Palisade Bulldogs at the Montrose tournament, with varsity action set for 4:15 p.m.

Also at the Montrose tournament, on Dec. 20, the Pirates will face the 4A Montrose Indians, with tipoff set for 7:45 p.m.

To close out the Montrose tournament, Pagosa will face the Roaring Fork Rams on Dec. 21 at 10:45 a.m.

Opening the new year, Pagosa will return for the Wolf Creek Classic facing the Eaton Reds on Jan. 3, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. and the

Colorado Springs Christian Lions on Jan. 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

The Pirates will then travel on Jan. 11, 2020, to take on the 2A Sanford Indians, with varsity action set for 7:30 p.m.

Returning home for three straight home games, Pagosa will take on the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers at 7 p.m. on Jan. 17, 2020.

Pagosa will then play host to the Centauri Falcons on Jan. 18, 2020, at 7 p.m.

On Jan. 24, 2020, Pagosa will take on the Monte Vista Pirates, with action set for 7 p.m.

Pagosa will then hit the road for a five-game road trip, with the first coming against the Alamosa Mean Moose at 7 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2020.

The Pirates will then take on the Bayfield Wolverines on Jan. 31, 2020, at 7 p.m.

On Feb. 1, 2020, Pagosa will face Cortez again at 7 p.m.

On Feb. 7, 2020, at 7 p.m., Pagosa will take on Centauri.

To end the five-game road trip, Pagosa will face Monte Vista on Feb. 8, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Pagosa will then return for the final two home games of the regular season.

On Feb. 14, at 7 p.m., Pagosa will play host to Alamosa.

To close out the regular season Pagosa will face Bayfield on Feb. 20, 2020, at 7 p.m.

chris@pagosahun.com

"We have kids that are pretty big and long this year and we are hoping to use that to our advantage," Coach Randy Sorenson wrote.

WRESTLING

Pirate wrestling prepared for first match of the season

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team is set to kick off the season on Friday, hosting the Piedra Vista High School Panthers before heading to the Buena Vista Tournament on Saturday.

In an interview Monday, coach Dan Janowsky highlighted some of the returning Pirate wrestlers.

"I want to first acknowledge our two returning seniors: Dustin Clark and Tay Barker," Janowsky said. "They're extremely hard workers, extremely dedicated to the sport of wrestling and our program. They're tough and they're good leaders."

The Pirates have six wrestlers returning who qualified for the state tournament last season: Trevor Torrez (106-pound weight class), Erik Wyman (113-pound weight class), Dylan Tressler (126-pound weight class), Brae Bergdolt (138-pound weight class), Skyley Hill (220-pound weight class) and Cam Lucero (145-pound weight class).

Lucero won the state championship in February.

"We have a returning state champion in our lineup and that's a big deal for any program, and in addition to him, we have Trevor Torrez and Erik Wyman and Dylan Tressler are all returning state placers," Janowsky said. "That's a pretty good start."

Janowsky noted there are some holes in the lineup at some of the higher weight classes and that the

first few weeks of the season will be "a searching process" to figure out the best lineup the team can produce.

Janowsky explained the Pirates scrimmaged with Piedra Vista on Nov. 23, which gave them a good snapshot of the team for its match on Friday.

He stated the Panthers "got the best of them" during the scrimmage and pointed out that the Pirates have some wrestlers who are out with injuries that occurred in the fall, including Torrez and Lucero, who will not wrestle on Friday.

Janowsky explained that Lucero, who won the state championship as a sophomore, could win two more times in his high school career.

"Cam [Lucero] for example, is kind of in uncharted territory. He could be a three-time state champion for us," Janowsky said.

Asked if he was ever a state champion when he wrestled in

high school, Janowsky said, "I was not... It's something that gives me a certain sense of pride to help kids accomplish the things I wasn't able to do myself."

Janowsky also stated he looked forward to the return of EJ Monterroso, Bergdolt, Hill, Aaron Thompson and Grant Aucoin, who missed all of last season with an injury but is returning to the mat this year.

"I'm optimistic always. We've had some unfortunate breaks the last month of the season of the last couple of years," Janowsky said. "I think if we can avoid those injuries and those kind of things, we're a contender... We've been a contending program, top five program, for the last few years."

Asked about who the Pirates' biggest rival is in the Intermountain League, Janowsky said, "Alamosa, they're the reigning state champions. They did graduate a pretty good chunk of wrestlers, but

"I'm optimistic always. We've had some unfortunate breaks the last month of the season of the last couple of years," coach Dan Janowsky said. "I think if we can avoid those injuries and those kind of things, we're a contender... We've been a contending program, top five program, for the last few years."

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Outdoors

Nordic ski trails are open for the season

Special to The SUN

With the fresh snow received during the Thanksgiving snowstorm, the Pagosa Nordic Club (PNC) is pleased to announce that three Nordic trails are currently groomed.

Alberta Park has been groomed by Wolf Creek Ski Area, and the West Fork and Cloman Park have been groomed by PNC. Trails have been groomed wide for skate skiing with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing, and conditions are surprisingly good.

Nordic ski trails are groomed specifically for Nordic skiing use. Fat tire biking, snowshoeing and walking can damage groomed Nordic ski trails, thus, the following multiuse trails are recommended for these uses: Wolf Creek Road, Lobo Overlook, East Fork, Jackson Mountain, Reservoir Hill and the Turkey Springs recreation areas.

PNC is hosting a number of events this season including:

Jan. 11, 2020, is the first race of the Southwest Nordic Race Series. This 20 km freestyle Nordic race will be held at Cloman Park with the following races at Chama, Durango and Telluride. Additional races this day will include a 5 km freestyle, 3 km youth freestyle, 5 km classic, 3 km youth classic and a KidK race.

On Jan. 26, 2020, PNC will host the WinterFest Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon, a local favorite ski race for all ages and abilities. A 16 km competitive, 4 km citizens and KidK course will be available with races starting at 9:30 a.m. downtown in

Yamaguchi Park.

The first Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic of the season is scheduled for Jan. 12, 2020. This is an excellent clinic for never-evers, beginners and intermediate classic and skate skiers. Some of Pagosa's best Nordic skiers will be teaching skate skiing and classic cross-country skiing techniques that will improve your skiing and make these activities even more enjoyable. The next clinic dates are Jan. 25, and Feb. 8. Registration is required and attendees are asked to show up at 9:30 a.m. to register and gear up to be ready for the 10 a.m. clinic start time.

Moon Rise Ski Socials are planned for Jan. 10, 2020, and Feb. 7, 2020, at sunset at Cloman Park.

Check out pagosaanordic.com for event registration and details.

PNC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, 100 percent volunteer organization with a mission "To enhance winter recreational opportunities in Pagosa Springs by maintaining accessible groomed winter trails for skate skiing and classic cross-country skiing for all ability levels and to encourage and promote the use of these winter trails through education, marketing and events."

PNC serves as the local advocate for groomed cross-country ski trails, and you can find current cross-country ski trail grooming reports, trail maps, activity and event schedules at pagosaanordic.com. PNC relies on annual club memberships and sponsorships to cover expenses associated with providing groomed Nordic ski trails.

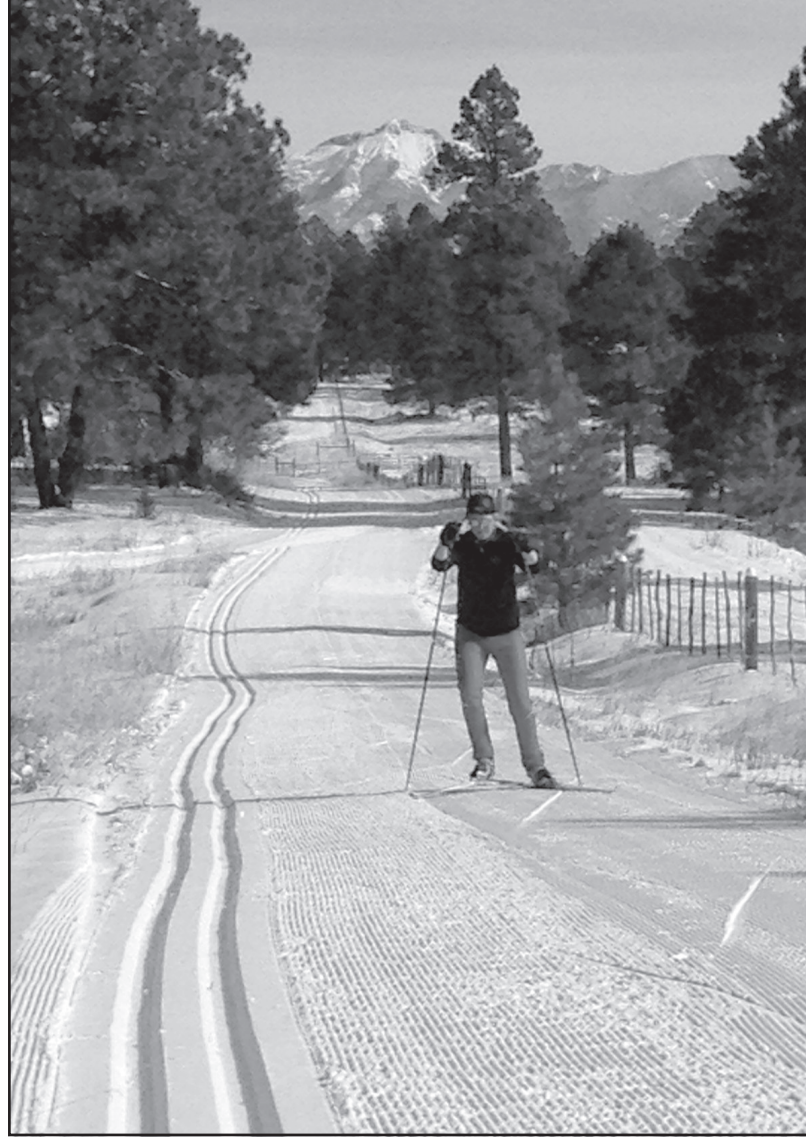


Photo courtesy Pagosa Nordic Club

With the fresh snow received during the Thanksgiving snowstorm, the Pagosa Nordic Club is pleased to announce that three Nordic trails are currently groomed: Alberta Park, West Fork and Cloman Park. Trails have been groomed wide for skate skiing with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing.

Support local children's education programs on Colorado Gives Day

By Nadia Werby
Special to The SUN

What is Colorado Gives Day and how can you continue to help support Chimney Rock Interpretive Association's (CRIA) and Sonlight Christian Camp's missions?

Colorado Gives Day is more than just a day. It's a movement that inspires and unites thousands of donors to give where they live and support Colorado nonprofits.

CRIA and Sonlight Christian Camp have joined forces with 70 other nonprofits in southwest Colorado to highlight our region on the statewide giving day of Dec. 10. These two Archuleta County nonprofits share the common goal of creating educational programs that benefit future generations.

CRIA

For over 20 years, CRIA and its volunteers have shared the story of the ancestral Puebloan people with thousands of visitors through tours and special programs at Chimney Rock National Monument. Historic places like Chimney Rock reflect the past while enriching our future, but without public support, CRIA would be unable to provide the interpretive program that keeps Chimney Rock's history alive for

future generations.

Chimney Rock offers free programs that were developed for families. In 2017, CRIA introduced "School Week at Chimney Rock" in which students from across the Four Corners and beyond enjoy hands-on cultural activities and a tour of Chimney Rock pre-season, at no cost. In 2019, CRIA provided this free program to 14 classroom groups, totaling 475 students.

CRIA's Education Committee, a group of experienced educators, has developed special projects and an outreach mobile classroom kit. Life at Chimney Rock is a free two-day festival where families can shop at a Native American marketplace and participate in cultural interactive activities that give them a glimpse of the daily life of the ancestral Puebloans 1,000 years ago. Both of these programs enhance the experience for these young people so that they may value sites such as Chimney Rock and preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

To support the free programs at Chimney Rock, CRIA is participating in Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Please help CRIA reach its goal of \$3,000 this year on Colorado's largest day of giving.

For more information about

CRIA and Chimney Rock National Monument, please go to www.ChimneyRockCo.org.

Sonlight Camp

For 40 years, Sonlight Camp has provided summer resident camps, backpack trips and retreat space for southwest Colorado groups. Sonlight Camp offers mountains, programming that intentionally creates community and a place for kids to be who God created them to be.

The camp is supported financially in three ways: Camp and retreat fees provide the operating budget. Donations allow Sonlight to provide scholarships to make camp affordable to all, and to go above and beyond its operating budget to keep programs and program equipment relevant and well maintained. Sonlight also maintains an endowment to ensure that the camp will be available to future generations.

One comment received from a 2019 camper parent: "Your excellent training and your desire to help young people know the love of God is what made my son's week so special and successful. You all should be so very proud about the work you do at Sonlight."

Sonlight Camp participates in

Colorado Gives Day to support all three of these areas: camp scholarships, program excellence and the future of Sonlight Camp. Join Sonlight and Give Sonlight to Kids Today (scholarships and program excellence) or Give Sonlight to the Next Generation (the endowment).

These are some of the reasons why it is important that the greater community support these local nonprofits with donations. Give where you live and support local Archuleta County nonprofits participating in Colorado Gives Day by going to www.swcogives.org. Gifts can be scheduled now for Dec. 10.

You can find more information about Sonlight Christian Camp by visiting its website at www.SonlightCamp.org.

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This season, give the gift that grows

By Esther Godson
Special to The SUN

Plant-A-Tree holiday gift certificates are now on sale at San Juan National Forest offices for the person on your Christmas list who has everything.

"Each \$20 donation to the Plant-a-Tree Program will result in 10 seedlings being planted locally to help reforest burned areas of the National Forest," said Gretchen Fitzgerald, San Juan National Forest reforestation forester. "This covers our costs to collect, store and grow native seeds, then ship and plant the seedlings."

Donors to the program receive a certificate, which can be presented as a gift and is suitable for framing on behalf of a person or family.

Donations can be made at most San Juan National Forest offices by cash, check or credit card. The purchase is considered a charitable donation by the IRS. Contributions above are not refunded.

The U.S. Forest Service established the Plant-A-Tree Program in 1983 to allow donors to contribute money toward reforestation on national forests to memorialize

loved ones or commemorate births, weddings or special events, while helping to improve the environment. Seedlings planted with the donations are not designated on the ground as a memorial or individually recognized, but instead become part of the forest ecosystem.

For more information, contact the San Juan National Forest at 247-4874.

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CPW seeks comments on big game management plans in southwest Colorado

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is seeking public comments on proposed big-game management plans for the San Juan mule deer herd and the Dolores River desert bighorn sheep herd in southwest Colorado.

Interested parties must submit comments to CPW by Dec. 22.

According to CPW, herd management plans take into consideration things such as available habitats, hunting preferences, population trends and recreation impacts, among other things.

The location for the desert sheep plan is from the Dolores River below McPhee Reservoir to the Paradox Valley in Montrose County; in this plan game management units are referred to as S-63 and S-64 with CPW estimating that five animals are part of that herd.

The location for the deer herd plan extends from the Animas River east to Wolf Creek Pass; CPW notes in a press release that it includes Game Management Units 75, 77, 78, 751 and 771.

Additionally, CPW estimates

that the population of that herd is about 27,000.

According to a draft of the San Juan mule deer herd management plan, a concern within the draft analysis unit is loss of critical habitat, more specifically winter range and migration corridors due to human population growth.

"Exurban development is occurring in Archuleta and La Plata counties and homes are replacing open lands currently supporting wintering deer," the draft plan reads. "Wildlife biologists and the public are concerned over cumulative and prolonged impacts disrupting migration and decreasing quality and quantity of winter habitat."

The draft plan notes that winter range is a critical component for deer and is already limited; that habitat is also the most at risk by development.

"Deer eat less and lose weight during the winter and, to conserve energy, they limit physical activity," the draft plan states. "Any type of disturbance will cause a deer to use more energy during this critical time and lead to a higher chance of that animal dying."

Migration corridors are needed

for deer to get to important summer and winter ranges, and development that disrupts migration can impact deer in regard to health, survival and reproductive success.

Not only do housing developments increase with a growing population, the draft plan states, but traffic also increases in areas like on U.S. 160.

According to the draft plan, U.S. 160 5 miles east of Durango has an average annual daily traffic (AADT) count of 13,000; in the next 20 years that is expected to increase by 38 percent.

"It is common to drive Hwy 160 east of Durango when mule deer are on winter range and see several fresh deer carcasses along the road. Increased vehicle density logically will intensify deer mortality," the draft plan notes. "It is a concern for both herd welfare and human safety. Also, highways can be a barrier to wildlife movement, short-stopping animals from reaching critical habitats."

"Overall, the way the plan is written is pretty much status quo for that area," CPW Southwest Region Public Information Officer Joe Lewandowski said in an interview on Wednesday.

The deer herd in that area, unlike other areas in southwest Colorado, has been doing very well, Lewandowski noted.

"We've got good age distribution of animals; good fawn production," he said. "Keeping it the same seems the best way to go. We're not trying to decrease the herd or increase the herd. It's maintaining a good number of animals."

CPW notes that both of these plan proposals are seeking to maintain stable to increasing populations and that after public comments are evaluated proposals will be sent to the CPW Commission for review and approval.

Comments on the bighorn plan can be sent via email to: Montrose Terrestrial Biologist Brad Banulis at brad.banulis@state.co.us. Comments on the deer plan and the bighorn plan can be sent to: Durango Terrestrial Biologist Brad Weinmeister at brad.weinmeister@state.co.us.

The proposed plans are posted on the CPW website. Both can be found at: <https://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/HerdManagementPlans.aspx>. chris@pagosasun.com

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Child care resources available at Colorado Shines website

Special to The SUN

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is sharing resources to support families and parents looking for or utilizing child care around the state. These resources are available through the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement Program.

Colorado Shines connects Colorado families with licensed, quality child care programs in their community and resources to support early learning.

Many parents and families can feel overwhelmed when selecting child care and may not know the questions to ask a child care provider. CDHS created a guide to help families choose a program that suits their needs. The guide includes questions to ask of a provider, as well as a checklist of what to look for in the areas of health and safety, teacher-child interactions,

environmental basics and daily activities.

"We want all parents to feel confident and enabled to ask questions of their child care providers, to ensure children are getting the best care" said OEC Office Director Mary Anne Snyder. "When it comes to choosing a child care program, you have options and we want to be a resource when you make these important decisions. We are proud of the variety of quality and safe providers in Colorado, which are laying the foundation for lifelong success for our children."

"The state of Colorado licenses child care programs to make sure they meet health and safety requirements. Licensed child care programs are inspected every year," said Director of Child Care Licensing Carin Rosa. "Licensed child care is the best, safest option for your child. The early years of life — from birth to age 8 — are very important

for learning and development, so it's important that children are with caring adults who ensure they are safe and able to participate in a variety of activities that help them learn."

Parents should:

- Visit programs in-person and talk with the providers.
- Talk to your child's provider regularly about how your child is doing at home and in child care.
- Ask questions like "Is your program licensed by the state of Colorado?" and "What training have you and your staff had?"
- Look for their license posted in plain view, a daily schedule and that each child has a safe place to sleep, a place to store belongings, and that the space is warm and inviting.
- Your provider should always allow you to have access to your child regardless of the time of day. Visit your child care at different hours of the day if you can.

These tips and more can be found at www.coloradoshines.com.

The Colorado Shines website has more information, including types of child care, a program search tool and resources for families. It is available in English and Spanish.

If families prefer to speak to someone, the Colorado Shines Child Care Resource and Referral phone line provides assistance in English or Spanish Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (877) 338-2273 or text "child care referral" to 898-211.

If you have concerns about a child care program or if you see something concerning, call the child care complaint line at (800) 799-5876. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, call the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (844) CO-4-KIDS [(844) 264-5437]. Anyone witnessing a child in a life-threatening situation should call 911 immediately.

Taxpayers urged to enhance online security

Special to The SUN

The fourth annual National Tax Security Awareness Week is this week.

Security Summit partners urge taxpayers, businesses and tax professionals to enhance their online security as the holiday shopping season kicks off and identity thieves step up their efforts to steal personal and financial data.

"While people are shopping online, identity thieves are trying to shoplift their sensitive information. As the holiday season and tax season approach, everyone should remember to take basic steps to protect themselves," said Chuck Rettig, IRS commissioner. "The Security Summit has made progress in fighting back against tax-related identity theft, but we need people to watch out for common scams that can put their financial and tax data at risk."

Protect personal and financial information online

The IRS and Security Summit remind people to take these basic steps:

- Use security software for computers and mobile phones — and keep it updated.
- Protect personal information;

don't hand it out to just anyone.

- Use strong and unique passwords for all accounts.
- Use two-factor authentication whenever possible.
- Shop only secure websites; look for the "https" in Web addresses; avoid shopping on unsecured and public Wi-Fi in places like shopping malls.
- Routinely back up files on computers and mobile phones.

Learn to recognize phishing emails and phone scams

- Know that email scams often:
 - Pose as companies people know and trust, and
 - Tell an urgent story to trick victims into opening a link or attachment.
- Watch out for scam phone calls, too. Remember:
 - The IRS does not call demanding payment with threats of jail or lawsuit.
 - The IRS does not demand payment via gift or debit cards. The IRS does not accept tax payments by iTunes cards.
 - The IRS does not send unsolicited emails about refunds or payments, or requesting either login credentials, Social Security numbers or other sensitive information.

Create strong passwords to protect online accounts

The password standards have changed. Here are some simple guidelines:

- Use long phrases combined with characters and numbers. For example: SomethingOneCanRemember@30.
- Use a different password for each account; don't use an email address if that's an option, and use a password manager.
- Use two-factor authentication whenever it's offered, for example on email accounts, financial accounts and social media accounts.

Recognize clues of identity theft

A business taxpayer may be an identity theft victim if:

- An e-filed return is rejected because a duplicate is already on

file with the IRS.

- Routine extensions to file requests are rejected.
- An unexpected receipt of a tax transcript or an IRS notice is received.
- Failure to receive expected and routine correspondence from the IRS, which can be an indicator an identity thief has changed the address.

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FBI requests assistance in child sexual exploitation investigation

Special to The SUN

The FBI is seeking the public's assistance nationwide in obtaining identifying information regarding an unknown female who may have critical information pertaining to the identity of a child victim in an ongoing sexual exploitation investigation.

Initial videos of the unidentified female, Jane Doe 37, shown with a child were first recorded by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in June of 2014. The EXIF data embedded within the video files also indicated that the files were produced in April of 2012. In addition, audio from the animated film "The Land Before Time" can be heard in the background of the videos.

Jane Doe 37 is described as a white female with brown hair and wearing dark-framed glasses. Due to the age of the images, it is possible that the individual's appearance may have changed over the years. Information regarding this individual was originally released in late 2016 under a John Doe title. However, further investigation has led the FBI to determine the gender of this individual is female and not male. Therefore, this individual is



Photos courtesy FBI

The FBI is seeking the public's assistance nationwide in obtaining identifying information regarding an unknown female who may have critical information pertaining to the identity of a child victim in an ongoing sexual exploitation investigation. Jane Doe 37 is described as a white female with brown hair and wearing dark-framed glasses.

now known as Jane Doe 37.

Color photographs and an informational poster depicting the unknown individual, known only as Jane Doe 37, can be found online at the FBI website at <http://www.fbi.gov/wanted/ecap>.

Anyone with information to provide should submit a tip online at <https://tips.fbi.gov/>, or call the FBI's toll-free tip line at (800) CALL-FBI [(800) 225-5324]. The public is reminded no charges have been filed in this case and the pictured

individual is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

This individual is being sought as part of the FBI's Operation Rescue Me and Endangered Child Alert Program (ECAP) initiatives, both of which represent strategic partnerships between the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Operation Rescue Me focuses on utilizing clues obtained through in-depth image analysis to identify the child victims

depicted in child exploitation material, while ECAP seeks national and international media exposure of unknown adults (referred to as John/ Jane Does) who visibly display their faces and/or other distinguishing characteristics in association with child pornography images.

For additional information, please visit the following FBI websites: <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted>, <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/ecap> or <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac>.

Trooper Tips: Safe and proper passing

By Trooper Gary Cutler
Special to The SUN

One of the things about living in rural parts of Colorado means often having to travel on two-lane roads. Where it is sometimes a lot more pleasant than driving on a big highway, it can have its drawbacks.

One of those is not having a passing lane you can access the entire time you are traveling that roadway. In Colorado, there are 11 state statutes that talk about the proper way to pass another vehicle. I'm going to hit on a few of them this month.

Passing on the left in an unsafe manner: This is one I see a lot of times. When you are going to pass a vehicle going the same direction, there are a multitude of items to make sure you are going to be able to pass safely. The law states you must do so in a safe manner. This

means not getting too close to the vehicle you are about to pass. In other words, don't ride their bumper. The second part of this is when you pass, make sure you give the vehicle being passed a safe amount of space before going back into their lane. If you cause the other vehicle to slow or, worse yet, brake hard because you came in too close to them, you are in the wrong.

Also keep in mind the area you are making your pass needs to be sufficient enough to be able to complete the pass before the lines dividing the lanes go back to a solid line. So this means if you start your pass when there is a dotted line and you do not get back over to the right lane prior to the lines going solid, you may be cited for passing in a no passing zone. You are also not allowed to go over the speed limit to pass another vehicle.

When being passed on the left by another vehicle: This is another violation I see quite often. When being passed on the left, the driver is required to give way to the passing vehicle and shall not increase speed while being passed.

Passing a bicycle on the left: If passing a bicycle on the left will cause you to go into the oncoming lane of traffic, you must wait for the lane to be clear of vehicles that are coming from the other direction. You cannot force the other car to have to slow or move onto the other shoulder because you are passing a bicycle, even if you are only going partially into the other lane. The same goes if you are passing a vehicle — you cannot force them to slow or divert from their path.

Passing within 100 feet of a bridge, tunnel or viaduct when the view is obstructed: Any time you are

unable to see far enough to make sure it is clear of vehicles is a good time to wait until you are sure such a pass can be made safely. The same goes for trying to pass on a curve or hill. Most times, the roadway will be marked with solid lines, but in case there aren't any markings, just know this is also against the law.

Passing within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing: This one is just common sense as far as I'm concerned. Please just wait until you are past the railroad or intersection.

Remember to always use your turn signal when passing so you let everyone know your intentions. Each of these violations I have mentioned above is a \$113.50 fine and a four-point hit on your driver's license. So be kind when passing and being passed.

As always, safe travels.

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: No report.
- Nov. 15 — Found property, County Road 600.
- Nov. 18 — Information only, East Golf Place.
- Nov. 18 — Violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, County Road 600.
- Nov. 18 — Under investigation, Surrey Drive.
- Nov. 18 — County warrant, Divot Place.
- Nov. 19 — Death investigation-death investigation, Divot Place.
- Nov. 19 — Information only, Village Drive.
- Nov. 19 — Vehicular eluding, aggravated motor vehicle theft, driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, failed to observe or disregard traffic control device, Pinon Causeway/U.S. 160.
- Nov. 19 — County warrant, Pinon Causeway/U.S. 160.
- Nov. 20 — Agency assist, Great West Avenue.
- Nov. 20 — All other thefts, Tall Pine Place.
- Nov. 20 — Crimes against at-risk adult/juvenile-theft no force, East Golf Place.
- Nov. 21 — Found property, North Pagosa Boulevard.
- Nov. 21 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.
- Nov. 22 — County warrant, Crooked Road/Indian Land Road.
- Nov. 22 — Under investigation, North Pagosa Boulevard.
- Nov. 22 — Violation of restraining order, menacing-intimidation (including stalking, threats), violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, Colo. 151.
- Nov. 22 — Disturbance, Woodsman Drive.
- Nov. 23 — Expired license plates, drove vehicle when license suspend-

- ed, vehicle plates not clearly legible, Talisman Drive/Village Drive.
- Nov. 23 — Warrant arrest, Talisman Drive/Village Drive.
- Nov. 23 — Second-degree burglary, criminal mischief, Crooked Road.
- Nov. 25 — Domestic violence, Gun Barrel Road.
- Nov. 26 — Agency assist, U.S. 84/U.S. 160.
- Nov. 26 — Second-degree burglary, criminal mischief, Susan's Place.
- Nov. 26 — Third-degree criminal trespass, first-degree criminal trespass other intent, second-degree burglary, Wandering Hills.
- Nov. 26 — First-degree criminal trespass other intent, second-degree burglary, all other thefts, County Road 500.
- Nov. 27 — Animals running at large, Cloman Boulevard.
- Nov. 27 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, Hersch Avenue/U.S. 160.
- Nov. 27 — Warrant arrest, Hersch Avenue/U.S. 160.
- Dec. 2 — County warrant, South 9th Street.
- Dec. 2 — Accessory to crime if crime was misdemeanor, South 9th Street.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

- Calls for service over two weeks: 155.
- Nov. 17 — Warrant arrest, 14th Street.
- Nov. 19 — Theft, South 7th Street.
- Nov. 19 — Agency assist, Pinon Causeway.
- Nov. 21 — Warrant arrest, Holly Tree Circle.
- Nov. 22 — DUI, Hot Springs Boulevard.
- Nov. 24 — Shoplifting, Aspen Village Drive.
- Nov. 27 — Trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.
- Nov. 29 — DUI/careless driving, U.S. 160.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

- Nov. 19 — Kenneth G. Praytor, speeding 20-24 over limit, total fines and costs — \$274.50.
- Nov. 20 — Walter David Birdsell, harassment-repeat telephone calls,

- 18 months probation, total fines and costs — \$1,197.50.
- Nov. 20 — Rex Anthony Abbey, registration-unregistered vehicle, total fines and costs — \$126.50.
- Nov. 20 — Jelyn A. Moore, speeding 1-4 over limit, total fines and costs — \$83.50.
- Nov. 20 — Gary J. Warmink, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.
- Nov. 20 — Eric A. Walker, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.
- Nov. 20 — August C. Schicke, driving too slowly, total fines and costs — \$168.50.
- Nov. 20 — Matthew L. Poma, seat belt not used, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$235.50.
- Nov. 20 — Seymour Y. Katso, lane usage violation, total fines and costs — \$202.50.
- Nov. 20 — Stephen Hartman, license plates-unlawful display, total fines and costs — \$113.50.
- Nov. 20 — Jeffrey B. Englander, seat belt not used, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$235.50.
- Nov. 20 — Leroy Bazan, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$263.50.
- Nov. 20 — Adrianna N. Martinez, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$198.50.
- Nov. 20 — Jessie K. Lee, seat belt not used, seat belt not used, total fines and costs — \$170.50.
- Nov. 20 — Justin Scott Keen,

- speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$198.50.
- Nov. 20 — Voivod C. Benavides, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$198.50.
- Nov. 20 — Jeremy L. Taylor, speeding 5-9 over limit, total fines and costs — \$127.50.
- Nov. 20 — Angela D. Brousseau, driving under restraint-outstanding judgment, total fines and costs — \$46.50.
- Nov. 20 — Shari L. Atole, green light-fail to yield, total fines and costs — \$137.50.
- Nov. 20 — Aaron K. Paul, driving while ability impaired, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, one year probation, total fines and costs — \$616.50.
- Nov. 20 — Joey Garcia, driver's license-driving outside class, total fines and costs — \$162.50.
- Nov. 20 — Octavio Avila, obstructing a police officer, total fines and costs — \$1,491.50.
- Nov. 20 — Samantha Lynn Martinez, driving under the influence, 25 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, total fines and costs — \$1,341.14.
- Nov. 26 — Rebekkah Well Thornton Hopkins, speeding 20-24 over limit, total fines and costs — \$279.50.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Clayton Buchner

No report.

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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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EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

CSU Extension announces producer programs available in 2020

By Robin Young
SUN Columnist

The Colorado State University Extension Agriculture and Business Management (ABM) Team will present two programs in 2019 and 2020 that are designed to assist farmers and ranchers in managing these difficult financial times in agriculture.

The Financial Management Strategies program will cover topics including risk management, business planning, enterprise budgeting, record keeping, interpretation of financial statements and selecting farm financial software.

The program will be hosted by ABM economists Jenny Beiermann, Dr. Brent Young and Dr. Norm Dalsted. Program dates and locations are Dec. 12 in Glenwood Springs; Jan. 15, 2020, in Fairplay; Jan. 16, 2020, in Westcliffe; Jan. 20, 2020, in Julesburg; Feb. 12, 2020, in Pagosa Springs; and March 11, 2020, in Steamboat Springs.

For more information and to register online, visit: <http://2020fms.eventbrite.com>. The cost of the program is \$15 and includes lunch. This program is funded in partnership by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Risk Management Agency.

The 2019 Ag Outlook and Strategy Forum program will cover topics including market outlook, breakeven analysis, using commodity insurance as a part of a comprehensive marketing plan, using futures and options to manage risk and cross-hedging weaned calves. The program will be hosted by Young and Bei-

ermann. Program dates and locations are Jan. 22, 2020, in Burlington; Feb. 11, 2020, in Cortez; March 10, 2020, in Delta; and March 12, 2020, in Steamboat Springs.

For more information and to register online, visit: <http://2020agoutlook.eventbrite.com>. The cost of the program is \$15 and includes lunch. This program is funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency.

For further questions on this program, please contact Beiermann at (970) 241-3346. The local program will be held at the CSU Extension office on Feb. 12, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and to register online, visit: <http://2020agoutlook.eventbrite.com>.

Colorado Master Gardener program applications being taken

The Master Gardener program is innovative and flexible in its outreach and works to match volunteer skills and schedules. Each year, Colorado Master Gardeners all over the state help people make the right choices for their garden care. Anyone who would like to play an active role in the education of gardeners of all ages is invited to join our Colorado Master Gardener team.

Classes typically meet once a week on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for 11 consecutive weeks. The cost of the Master Gardener apprentice training is \$170 and the Colorado Gardener Certificate is \$530. Partial scholarships are available as well for the apprentice program.

If you would like to learn more about suc-

cessful gardening in Archuleta County, be sure to call the CSU Extension office in Archuleta County today at 264-5931. To register for the 2020 Colorado Master Gardener Program, which tentatively begins Jan. 23, 2020, please go to www.cmg.extension.colostate.edu. Hard copies are accepted at the local office, too. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 15. Apply today.

Testing of dial pressure canner gauges

The CSU Extension — Archuleta County office is now offering to test dial pressure canner gauges for \$5 to Archuleta County residents. For more information, contact Terry Schaaf at 264-5931.

Save the dates

- Jan. 18, 2020: Cottage Foods Class.
- Feb. 11, 2020: Beef Symposium.
- Feb. 12, 2020: Agricultural Financial Management Strategies.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered monthly by the CSU Extension office on the second Monday and Wednesday of each month from 6 to 10 p.m. Anyone needing to receive or renew certification can register by calling the Extension office at 264-5931.

We will also attempt to schedule classes on additional dates with five or more registrations. Cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. The type of first aid information provided will vary by the needs of the audience.

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week aims to keep seniors safe on the road

Special to The SUN

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is joining with local programs to observe Older Driver Safety Awareness Week.

The goal of the program is to promote understanding of the importance of mobility and transportation for older adults and to ensure they can remain active in their communities without transportation becoming a barrier to their mobility.

In 2018, there were 129 drivers over 65 years old involved in fatal crashes. In that same year, 74 older drivers died in car crashes. Older drivers are more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a crash due to the greater fragility of their aging bodies.

Research suggests that older adults can expect to outlive their ability to drive safely by seven to 10 years.

"Older adults want to maintain

their independence as they age and their independence is linked to their cars," said Maile Gray, executive director of Drive Smart Colorado. "Drivers who use self-management to review their driving skills can retain their independence longer, while limiting risks to themselves and others."

A proactive way for older adults to enhance their safety behind the wheel is to be sure their car is properly adjusted. In 2019, CDOT sponsored 57 CarFit events around the state. At these events, volunteers check for:

- A seat belt that holds the driver in the proper position and remains comfortable while driving.
- The tilt of the steering wheel and position of the airbag.
- Plenty of room (at least 10 inches) between the chest and the airbag.
- A properly adjusted head restraint.
- A clear line of sight above the steering wheel and dash.

• Easy access to gas and brake pedals.

• Properly adjusted mirrors.

• Ability to see around the vehicle by reducing the driver's blind spots.

• The ability to turn the vehicle's ignition key with ease or operate an ignition system.

• Easy operation of vehicle controls, including turn signals, headlights, emergency flashers, windshield wipers and the parking brake, among others.

As part of the aging process, some people experience physical, cognitive and sensory changes that can affect driving. Taking notice of changes such as having trouble seeing at night can be remedied by choosing to restrict driving to daylight hours. Those experiencing anxiety about driving in heavy traffic may find errands to be more pleasant if they plan to drive at times other than rush hour.

"With increasing age come changes in physical, mental and sensory abilities that can challenge a person's continued ability to drive safely," said Sylvia Cordy, a traffic

safety advocate with the Denver-based Reaching Older Adult Drivers program. "But there are a variety of safe travel options and focusing on these solutions is key."

There are a variety of ways older adults can get around in their communities without driving. These include:

- Asking for rides from friends, family members and neighbors.
- Using public transit or ride share programs.
- Taking advantage of transportation services offered by grocery stores, places of worship and others.

Additionally, Colorado's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families is available for free and can serve as an excellent resource to answer most questions including license reexamination and laws, resources for Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, Area Agency on Aging centers, and more. The guide can be downloaded at www.drivesmartcolorado.com, or hard copies can be requested by sending an email to info@drivesmartcolorado.com.

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Region 9 receives additional loan funds through the State Community Development Block Grant

By Terry Blair-Burton
Special to The SUN

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. has received \$500,000 of additional loan funds through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) contract between the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and La Plata County on behalf of the five counties in southwest Colorado.

The CDBG is one of several sources of funding for the Region 9 Business Loan Fund (BLF) program that provides "gap" financing to support job creation and retention in La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores and San Juan counties. In addition to larger loans of \$100,000 or more, the CDBG program provides microloans to small business and entrepreneurs.

"CDBG funding has been key to assisting numerous small businesses that are unable to receive financing through traditional means,"

said Laura Lewis Marchino, executive director of Region 9.

Region 9 is a public/private partnership improving economic conditions in southwest Colorado. For more information on the Business Loan Fund, visit www.scan.org or contact Jenny Stollar, loan officer, 247-9621 or jenny@scan.org.



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SENIOR NEWS

Legal services, tax help and more coming to Senior Center

By Cheryl Wilkinson
SUN 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.

Yet another use for those pretty cards that you hate to throw away: a Christmas globe

A free one-hour art class will be held on Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

No art skills are needed. Bring old cards if you have them or use the ones provided. No materials are needed, just come and have fun. We will be learning how to make a globe using 20 identical circles, glue and topping it off with ribbon. This is the perfect craft to teach to any young people who will be visiting with you over the holidays. Instructions will be provided to take home along with your finished globe.

The instructor will be Denise Fisk, former art teacher in Iowa.

History (Book) Club

Are you interested in reading and 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 Pagosa 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.

There will not be a group discussion on Dec. 18, but the group will continue to study the history of England on Jan. 15 and Feb. 19.

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 Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 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, Nov. 28 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 29 — Closed.

Monday, Dec. 2 — Tuna melt, sweet potato fries with smoked paprika, cream of zucchini soup, milk, salad bar and oven baked apples and pears.

Tuesday, Dec. 3 — Hot turkey salad, snap pea medley, corn chowder, milk, salad bar and pumpkin pie.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 — Beef meatloaf with gravy, macaroni and cheese, honey garlic green beans, milk, salad bar and peach cobbler.

Thursday, Dec. 5 — Pork baked ziti, roasted cauliflower soup, glazed carrots, milk, focaccia bread with butter and salad bar.

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. Please cancel if you cannot attend on your standing reservation days.

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SAN JUAN BASIN AREA AGENCY ON AGING NEWS

Holiday tips for caregivers

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 trained Senior Medicare Patrol and State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselor. Information on the many aging and care concerns

will be included here.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I am grateful for the many advocacy groups who testify before Congress and fight to improve or at minimum maintain the quality of life and care for elders and who work to create laws to help keep people in their homes as long as possible. I also am thankful to encounter, try to help and learn from elders in this community.

Tips for caregivers during the holidays

As noted in an online AgingCare article by Carol Bradley Bursack, caregivers may focus too much on making holidays perfect for others and neglect their own health and enjoyment. Here are some ideas from the author to avoid caregiver guilt.

Wipe out memories of "perfect" holidays of other decades and celebrate in a new way that fits your current life. Add a funny and touching, but perhaps imperfect, holiday movie to your traditions,

and watch even more than once to elevate everyone's mood.

If we accept where we are in life, it is easier to work toward gratitude; even slight feelings of appreciation may improve our attitudes and see what is truly important, Bursack notes.

Communicate to everyone how you need to also spend time with others, from the very young to an elder in your care, even if that person lives with dementia. They might gain more realistic expectations and even give you a hand or encourage you to spend time with others.

Simplify your plans and forgive yourself if you limit your decorations, shopping and holiday cards to increase everyone's quality of time. Your own health and peace of mind are your gift to those you love.

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.

Birth

Addison Elena Alexander

Proud parents Bryce and Sarah (Schultz) Alexander announce the birth of their daughter, Addison Elena Alexander, who was born on Oct. 5. Addison weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 inches long at birth. Addison's maternal grandparents are Sandra Gallegos and Dean Schultz. Addison's maternal great-grandparent is Juanita Gallegos. Addison's paternal grandparents are Wayne and Sabrina Alexander, and paternal great-grandparent is Nancy Alexander. The entire family — aunts, uncles, great aunts, great uncles and cousins — are all very excited Addison has arrived and is bringing so much joy.



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LIBRARY NEWS

Our thanks to special people at Thanksgiving

By Carole Howard
SUN Columnist, and the library staff

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

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

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

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

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

- Library Director Meg Wempe said she has always appreciated the quote from Elizabeth Andrew, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart."

If you're interested in becoming a library volunteer or joining the Friends, please contact Wempe at 264-2208. You will be warmly welcomed.

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

Library closures

Your library will be closed Nov. 28-30 for Thanksgiving, and Tuesday, Dec. 3, for staff development training.

Save the dates for two special events

"Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo!" takes place Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. This is an all-ages holiday celebration with lots of fun seasonal crafts to make and take home while you enjoy hot chocolate.

Then, on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to noon is the first of a two-part workshop called "Growing Readers Together: Play, Learn and Grow" for anyone involved in child care. You'll learn easy, fun ways to infuse everyday activities with literacy projects. Children are welcome to come also. Watch for more details in next week's "Library News" column.

LGBTQ youth group Monday

A support group to help LGBTQ youth with age 16 to young adults deal with social stigma, bullying, violence, hate crimes and discrimination convenes the first Monday of every month from 4 to 5:30 p.m., this month on Dec. 2. Under the leadership of Ana M. Sancho Sama, Ph.D., licensed psychologist, the purpose is to provide a safe and confidential place to share experiences, ask questions and talk about

how to cope in this challenging world. If you have questions, her phone number is 264-1986.

Computer classes

There is a free program to learn a useful technology skill or application. Monday, Dec. 2, from 1 to 2 p.m. will focus on saving and finding files as you learn how your computer is organized. No registration is required. Dec. 16 looks at protecting your privacy online as you learn how your online behavior is tracked and used.

Tween gaming

Free gaming for those in the fourth through eighth grades is Monday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. Enjoy Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks.

Teen gaming rescheduled

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

Teen role-playing

The free role-playing game for seventh- through 12th-graders takes place next Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Use your imagination to go on adventures and battle monsters. You can join this group any time.

Medicare 101

Do you have questions about Medicare? San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging Medicare counselor Katy Deshler will help you understand your rights, options, deadlines and where to get more information at a free class next Thursday, Dec. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Kay Kaylor at 264-0501, ext. 1.

Teen advisory board today

Next Thursday, Dec. 5, the teen advisory board meets from 4 to 5 p.m. Sixth- through 12th-graders are invited to bring your fun and innovative ideas to help us plan teen programs. Share an idea to pick out a free book.

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 three times in December: Mondays, Dec. 2 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 7 p.m. Come to your library to get help from Mark with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

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, teens/teens and adults. We look forward to seeing you at your library. Se habla español.

How-to and self help

"Solar Electricity Basics" by Dan Chiras is the revised second edition of this guide to powering your home or office with solar energy. "Insomnia" is a School of Life Press guide to sleeping well using methods other than medicine.

Other nonfiction

"A Life on the Edge" by Sheila Weller is a biography of the actress and writer Carrie Fisher, daughter of Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds. "The Fall of Richard Nixon" by Tom Brokaw takes readers inside the Washington press corps during the fall of an American president. "The Plot to Betray America" by intelligence expert Malcolm Nance explores the author's view of the Trump administration's damage to national security. "I Am C-3PO" by actor Anthony Daniels is a behind-the-scenes tale of all nine "Star Wars" movies. "Finding Chika" by Mitch Albom celebrates a young Haitian orphan whose short life exemplifies the true meaning of family.

"The Beatles from A to Zed" by Peter Asher is an alphabetical journey into the music of the Beatles and reminiscences of John, Paul, George and Ringo. "This Land is Their Land" by David Silverman looks at the troubled history of the "first Thanksgiving" 400 years after the event in Plymouth. "Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister" by Jung Chang documents the stories of three women at the heart of 20th century China. "The Great Pretender" by Susannah Cahalan explores an undercover operation into U.S. asylums to test the legitimacy of psychiatry's labels. "Guilty by Reason of Insanity" by David Limbaugh lays out the author's belief that the left is a threat to America. "She Came to Slay" by Erica Armstrong Dunbar is an

informative and illustrated biography of Harriet Tubman. "National Geographic Atlas of the World" is the 11th updated version. "Rocket Man" by Elton John is a lavishly illustrated biography of the famed singer just in time for his farewell world tour.

Books on CD

"Health Justice Now" by Timothy Faust explains what a single-payer health care system is and explores its benefits. "A Gift from Bob" by James Bowen documents how a street cat helped one man learn the meaning of Christmas.

DVDs

"Good Omens" is a comedy about an angel and a demon who have lived on earth for 6,000 years. "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" is a horror film. "The Lion King" is the Disney epic film. "Going to War" is the PBS documentary of war from the soldiers' point of view.

Large print

"Final Option" by Clive Cussler and Boyd Morrison is an Oregon Files adventure. "Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry" by Mary Higgins Clark is a thriller featuring investigative journalist Gina Kane.

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.

Downloadable e-books

Current New York Times best-seller downloadable e-books are being added regularly to our free 3M Cloud Library. Access them by clicking on the 3M Cloud Library icon on the home page of our website. While there, browse through a multitude of other adult, juvenile and children's books, both bestsellers and classics in many genres.

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For your viewing pleasure, we offer IndieFlix, a free streaming movie service that gives you unlimited access to more than 7,500 award-winning and popular independent shorts, feature films and documentaries from more than 50 countries — on your device, PC or Mac, with no apps needed.

Access IndieFlix through the Downloadable Content icon on the library's website. Use "Quick Pick," the discovery tool that lets you sample movies like you would music.

Thanks to our donors

For books and materials this week, we thank our anonymous donors.

Quotable quote

"You've got nothing more valuable than time. Time is the final currency. Not money, not power." — David Crosby, 78, American singer-songwriter and musician. In addition to his solo career, he was a founding member of both the Byrds and Crosby, Stills and Nash.

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

NOTICE OF EXCHANGE PROPOSAL

Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange
San Juan National Forest
Pagosa Ranger District
Archuleta and Hinsdale Counties, Colorado
Notice is hereby given that the Forest Service (FS), United States Department of Agriculture, is considering an exchange of land with Kelsey Warren, Manager, Bootjack Ranch, LLC; David C. Lindner, Trustee and Grantor of the David C. Lindner Trust and the David C. Lindner Dynasty Trust; Robert D. Lindner Family Trust; David K. Skidmore, Cynthia A. Sites; and Will C. Beecher, General Partner, Double Springs Partnership Ltd; acting by and through Western Land Group, Inc., under the authority of the Weeks Act of 1911 (16 U.S.C. 516 et seq.); General Exchange Act of March 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 465, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 485, 486); Federal Land Policy Management Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716, 1717); Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of August 20, 1988 (102 Stat. 1086; 43 U.S.C. 1716).

The lands proposed for inclusion in the land exchange are summarized below. Maps and full legal descriptions are available on the following San Juan National Forest website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/Project=57154>.

The lands under the jurisdiction of the FS that are being considered for exchange are located in the following townships described as:

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Archuleta County, Colorado
Township 34 North, Range 1 East, Sections 1, 10, 11
Township 34 North, Range 2 East, Sections 5, 6
Township 36 North, Range 1 West, Sections 1, 13
Township 36 North, Range 1 East, Sections 7, 18
Township 36 North, Range 3 West, Sections 17, 20, 29

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Hinsdale County, Colorado
Township 37 North, Range 3 West, Section 10
All totaling: 472.06 acres, more or less.

The non-Federal lands are described as:

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Archuleta County, Colorado
Township 33 North, Range 1 West, Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Hinsdale County, Colorado
Township 37 North, Range 3 West, Section 10
All totaling: 900 acres, more or less.

Any or all of the above-described lands may be exchanged if the values are equal. If the values are unequal, either party may equalize the values by making a cash payment, not to exceed 25 percent of the value of the lands transferred out of Federal ownership.

The Forest Service proposes to acquire land with floodplains associated with the Middle Fork Piedra River. The Forest Service proposes to exchange lands with floodplains associated with Deer Creek, Johnny Creek, San Juan River, White Creek, and Middle Fork Piedra River.

The Federal lands have been segregated from appropriation under the public land laws and mineral laws for a period not to exceed 5 years from the date of the publication of this notice.

Persons claiming such properties or having valid objections to this proposed exchange must file their claims or objections with the District Ranger, Pagosa Ranger District, San Juan National Forest, United States Department of Agriculture, PO Box 310, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, within 45 days after the initial date of publication of this notice.
Published November 14, 21, 28 and December 5, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District (PPMID) Board of Directors for the calendar year 2020. The proposed budget is available for public inspection at 55 MILTON LANE ARBOLES, CO. Copies are also available upon request by email at PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or phone at (970) 749-5968. The proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the PPMID board of directors to be held on December 11, 2019 at 55 Milton Lane, Arboles, Colorado at 6 PM.

Any interested party may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto in writing at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Any objections may be submitted to the PPMID Board of Directors by email PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or letter P.O. Box 1609 Arboles, CO 81121.
Published November 28 and December 5, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Pagosa Springs Town Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday December 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers to amend the 2019 approved budget for the Town of Pagosa Springs. Copies of the proposed budget amendments are available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.
Published December 5, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

Notice of Liquor Board Hearing

Pursuant to C.R.S. §44-3-311(1) notice is hereby being given that A Body of Art Gallery, LLC, dba A Body of Art Gallery has applied for a Beer and Wine Liquor License. The premises being located at 333, #B2, Bastille Dr. and a public hearing being set by the Board of County Commissioners as the Local Liquor Authority for 1:30 p.m. on December 17, 2019 in the Board's meeting room located at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
Submitted this 25th day of November, 2019 for publishing in the Pagosa Springs Sun in the December 5, 2019 issue.
Flora Goheen
Planning Technician
Archuleta County
PO Box 1507
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-264-8386
Published December 5, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

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 SOUTHWEST 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°45'08"E., 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. 9901912; 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 S.89°01'58"E., 435.02 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 on 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:

1. An allegation that it is desirable and necessary that the Property be annexed to the Town;
2. 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:
 - a. 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;
 - b. 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;
 - c. 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;
 - d. (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
 - e. (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.
3. No annexation proceedings have been commenced for the annexation to another municipality of part or all of the Property.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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;
9. A request that the Town approve annexation of the Property;
10. The signatures of such landowners;
11. The mailing address of each Petitioner signer;
12. The legal description of the land owned by each Petitioner signer;
13. 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;
14. An affidavit of each circulator of the Petition that each signature is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be;
15. 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 recitals 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 of Liquor Board Hearing

Pursuant to C.R.S. §44-3-311(1) notice is hereby being given that Stone & Sky LLC, dba Ole Minors has applied for a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License. The premises being located at 3821 E. Hwy 160, and a public hearing being set by the Board of County Commissioners as the Local Liquor Authority for 1:30 p.m. on December 17, 2019 in the Board's meeting room located at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
Submitted this 21st day of November, 2019 for publishing in the Pagosa Springs Sun in the December 5, 2019 issue.
Flora Goheen
Planning Technician
Archuleta County
PO Box 1507
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-264-8386
Published December 5, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

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In our property management division, we strive to offer peace of mind to you as you leave your home in our care for the seasons you can't be here.

Your Right to Know

From weeds to words: Ethan Proud uses real-life knowledge for fantasy books

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Archuleta County Weed and Pest Supervisor Ethan Proud battles noxious weeds locally, but in five published books he's written, his characters battle witches and werewolves, among other antagonists.

Proud grew up in the Wind River Mountains, about 70 miles south of Jackson, Wyo. Even as a kid, he would often carry a notebook and scribble stories that would later contribute to his first published works.

"In Wyoming, you pretty much have to drive two hours to go anywhere," Proud said. "We went on a lot of long car rides so we needed something to keep us busy."

Proud's first book, "Rebellion," written with his older brother, came out of those childhood scribbles. Proud noted he started writing that book when he was in seventh grade.

Proud explained that ideas for books come to him in different ways.

"In 'Rebellion,' I came up with a scene in the middle that I wanted to happen, then I had to figure out the plot around that. 'Witchwood' I kind of had to track down what I wanted to do," Proud said.

Proud explained his process of crafting the story for "Witchwood," which he wrote after his younger brother suggested he do something in the horror genre.

"I knew I wanted to do something with witches if I was going to write horror, and then I had to come up with an antagonist — well, werewolves — but I had to add my own spin, so I kind of came up with my own pantheon of gods and goddesses that were going to be involved and some inter-planar travel," Proud said.

To date, Proud has five published books. "Rebellion," "Vengeance" and "Onslaught" are the three books in the Rebellion Trilogy, and "Witchwood" and "Terra Mortem" are his most recent works.

To publish his books, Proud went the "hybrid self-publishing route," as he described it.

He explained The Rebellion Trilogy was published through a company that provides a cover artist, does formatting for the book, relays the book to various distribution channels and gives advice on how to market the book.

Proud noted "Terra Mortem" and "Witchwood" were published with a self-publishing e-book platform.

Proud explained his extensive training in plants helped to inform some of the situations in his books.

"When I wrote 'Witchwood,' the character who's a witch is also an herbalist, so a lot of her potions I'd look up or a spell I'd use, I'd look up what certain plants were actually used for as far as witchcraft goes and tie them back into the science a little bit," Proud said, adding, "To evade the werewolves in one scene they have to take monkshood, which is also [called] wolf's bane, and that will kill you pretty quickly. So once they get away from the werewolves they counteract it with brew made from foxglove and henbane, which will also kill you by themselves, but they counteract each other."

As a disclaimer, Proud noted that low doses of these plants are lethal and "it's a fine line between medicinal and toxic."

Asked what his advice is for aspiring writers, Proud said, "Get in the habit of writing when you aren't inspired, because it's kind of like any muscle, the more you practice, the better you'll be at it and then you won't need that inspiration."

Proud added that it can be easy for new writers to get stuck nitpicking every detail of their first book.

"You could rewrite and rewrite and rewrite it until it's perfectly polished, but if you do that, you could've had five books out in the time it takes you to publish one and a lot of people do get hung up with their first work," Proud said, adding, "But at some point you have to move on and write in different worlds. Unless you're J.K. Rowling and your first book out the gate makes you a success... For those of us who aren't that lucky, we kind of have to work a little harder."

Proud discovered Pagosa Springs when he was applying for jobs during his last semester at Chadron State College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in environmental resource management.

"I saw [Pagosa] was near New Mexico and I was like, 'I don't want to live in a desert,' but once I started to do a little research and I saw Wolf Creek [Ski Area] and the San Juan



Ethan Proud

Mountains, that appealed to me," Proud said.

Proud landed the job with Archuleta County and has been the weed and pest supervisor since January of 2017, just two weeks after he graduated college.

Proud explained he enjoyed writing his first three books with his older brother, Lincoln, because he liked having someone to bounce ideas off of.

"It was easier to write because you have a springboard for ideas. Instead of one person that has to come up with everything, you have two people," said Proud.

He noted that there was some brotherly competition when it came to characters that were killed

off in the last two books of the Rebellion Trilogy.

"I had a character that had a rivalry with one of Lincoln's characters, and Lincoln's character was the favorite, so, naturally, my character had to die, so to kind of get past that, I kind of just killed off a lot of his characters," Proud said, adding, "He killed off one of mine and I killed four of his."

After discussing writing during his interview with The SUN, Proud offered one of his favorite quotes about reading.

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads only lives once." — George R. R. Martin

john@pagosasun.com

Letters to Santa



Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole! Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN. Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 13.

You can also email your letter to editor@pagosasun.com or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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preview

ARTS & CRAFTS



Holiday Hoopla



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Holiday Hoopla continuing through Dec. 15

By **Mary Jo Coulehan**
Special to The PREVIEW

What was once the Parade of Stores weekend shopping extravaganza has now morphed into the Holiday Hoopla, giving stores and shoppers more time to embrace the concept of “Shopping Local.”

The Hoopla event technically takes place through Dec. 15 whereby shoppers can reap the rewards of special discounts and chances to enter the prize packages. However, remember that you always shop local.

This year, more than 35 retail stores and restaurants are participating in the Hoopla.

To start, stop by any of the participating retail stores and sign up and receive your Hoopla card. Keep

this with you to use at the other participating retail stores and restaurants during this shopping period. When shopping, for spending at least \$10, you will be entered into drawings for special prize packages to be awarded after Dec. 15.

Different from the Parade of Stores rules, it doesn't matter whether you spend \$10 or \$100, you get one entry, not one entry for every \$10 you spend. However, the same concept remains: the more you shop, the more times you can be entered in the drawings. You can also be entered multiple times in the same store if you make multiple visits and purchases.

Also, use your Hoopla card at participating restaurants to receive restaurant discounts for food and beverage specials. After all, we

need sustenance when we shop 'til we drop.

There are many opportunities to shop local during this time frame. Many stores will be offering specials only on certain days.

How do you know how to take advantage of these specials? Check out the Holiday Hoopla pages in this week's PREVIEW.

Not only does your shopping dollar give almost three times the value of circulation by shopping local, you also support your friends, neighbors and community residents. Sometimes online shopping is just tough to beat. However, be thoughtful in your gift giving and try to send gifts from your community and support Pagosa Springs.

Live Performers



Thursday
Riff Raff downtown:
Terry Rickard, 6 p.m.

Friday
Pagosa Brewing Company: The San Juan Mountain Boys, 5:30 p.m.
Riff Raff downtown: Bo DePena, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Bar and Grill: Karaoke with Lisa Saunders, 9 p.m.
The Springs Resort Atrium: Jack Ellis, 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Pagosa Brewing Company: Open Mic, 6 p.m.



The Liberty Theatre

FROZEN 2

Rated PG • Fri- Wed. Dec. 11
Mon-Sat 7pm
Sunday matinee 2pm

Thursday Dec. 5, 6pm WINTERLAND
a ski and snowboarding film fundraiser for Winter Outdoor Learning Fund. Buy a beer and a ticket to support W.O.L.F.

Sunday Dec. 8, 5pm HOME ALONE
a free film sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Barber Shop.

418 Pagosa Street • Call 264-SHOW
Current movies: pagosamovies.com 

For advertising or rental of the Theatre email Phil at pagosamovies@gmail.com or call 264-4578.



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Mariah H., Facebook

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Calzone and Fountain Drink
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& Grill



NFL SUNDAY TICKET - SIX BIG SCREENS!

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SUN

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Physical address: 457 Lewis Street
Mailing address: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Publisher/Editor
Terri House, editor@pagosasun.com

Assistant Editor
Randi Pierce, randi@pagosasun.com

Reporters
Chris Mannara, chris@pagosasun.com
John Finefrock, john@pagosasun.com

Advertising and Circulation Manager
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Advertising Representative
Sarah Fiorenza, advertising@pagosasun.com

Head Pressman
Robert Penton

Assistant Pressman
Brian Maurer-Townsend

Mailroom
William Thomas and Kody Penton

Classified Advertising/Front Office
Missy Phelan, classads@pagosasun.com
Shana Young-Gawdun, classads@pagosasun.com

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Holiday Hoopla

Support our community by attending the events and sales at these local businesses this holiday season. These owners and managers have worked hard to make this a magical shopping season for you!

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

Seventh-day Adventist Church to host Neville Peter concert

By Seventh-day Adventist Church
Special to The PREVIEW

A free Christmas concert featuring Neville Peter will be held on at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church, 40 Oren Rd., located at the corner of Oren Road and Majestic Drive in Piedra Estates (one block north off U.S. 160 on Piedra Road/ County Road 600).

Peter was diagnosed with glaucoma at an early age and was completely blind by the age of 12. While in college, he was voted National College Jazz Vocalist of the Year by Downbeat Magazine. Peter gave his life and career completely to God in 1998 and has since penned more than 100 gospel songs.

He was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian home, but strayed away from God in his youth. He is very grateful to God for demonstrating His love by pursuing him when he was in the world. He is now looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

His music was featured on the gospel project of the legendary Gladys Knight, and his music videos have been featured on BET's Video Gospel Program. He has performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, and appeared on many television programs, including 3ABN Presents, TBN's "Praise the Lord" program, Bobby Jones Gospel Show and many others.

All of Peter's musical projects (CDs and DVDs) will be available. Christmas social and refreshments will be served after the evening concert.

Terry's
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SUPPLY
Pagosa Springs, CO

It's a
Christmas Party!

Santa
STOPS HERE

SAT. & SUN. ONLY SALE!



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FREE DELIVERY*



*with mattress purchase, within 10 miles



Sat., Dec. 7th
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Bring the kids, family & a camera!
Treats will be served!
Hot cocoa & cookies

★ Giveaways! ★

Take a photo with Santa, get a coupon for **50% OFF** any one item under \$30
* Limit one per customer

Stop in for the Special Savings Below Thursday, Dec. 5 through Wednesday, Dec. 11

<p>20% off</p> <p>Kitchen Aprons</p>	<p>20% off</p> <p>All Christmas</p> <p>in stock items only, string lights are included</p>	<p>20% off</p> <p>Dishware</p> <p>cups • plates • sets</p>	<p>20% off</p> <p>Books & Puzzles</p>
<p>We have:</p> <p>Trees, Lights, Gifts, Home Goods, Clothing, Heaters, Shovels & so much more!</p>	<p>20% off</p> <p>Hammonds Candies & Cocoa</p>	<p>20% off</p> <p>ALL Apparel</p> <p>Men's & Women's</p>	<p>15% off</p> <p>Dining Table Sets</p>

Prices are as marked. All sales final on discounted items, cash and carry, no returns on sale items, discounts do not apply to sale items, sale prices may not be combined with other discounts. Delivery and set up or installation not included. Some other exclusions may apply. Limited to stock on hand.



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Mon-Fri 7:30-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sun 9-4

Community news.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100



Merry Christmas!



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HOLIDAY HOOPLA
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST!
T-SHIRTS • NATIVE AMERICAN JEWELRY • FINE GIFTS
ROCK SHOP • KNIVES • KNICK KNACKS
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FREE GIFT WRAP WITH PURCHASE
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Shoppe 'til You Drop!
Thursday, Dec. 5 Only

50% OFF Store-wide
regularly priced merchandise only

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. only at
Colorado Christmas Shoppe
136 E Pagosa Street, Unit 11 • 264-1022
In the River Center, next to the Malt Shoppe

2 p.m. - 7 p.m. only at
Made in Colorado Shoppe
2105 Eagle Drive • 731-2264

Dec. 6, 7 and 8 — Draw for a discount at both stores!

Meet the Artist
FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Charla Ellis
Painter & Ceramicist
Friday, Dec. 13 • 4-6 pm
Enjoy wine & antipasto!
Live music by Steve Rolig
Raffle
Ikebana-style ceramic pot \$40 value

Holiday Hoopla
through Dec. 15
Stop in for great deals on handmade gifts!

Belvedere Arts LTD
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belvedereceramicarts.com
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THURSDAY NOV. 14 — WEDNESDAY DEC. 18

20% OFF
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Sakroots & Chala bags

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Fri-Sat 10-6 • Sun 11-4

SWEETS & TREATS
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M-Th 10:30-4:30
Fri-Sat 10:30-5 • Sun noon-4

SAN JUAN LIFE STYLE
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(next to Rosie's Pizzeria)
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W-Sat noon-6

10% OFF through Dec. 15 at all 3 locations!

Shop local — shop Pagosa Springs





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christmas SALE

Come in each week to see what the WEEKLY SALE is!

458 Pagosa Street
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footprintspagosa.com
970-264-3668

Delivery for Christmas!

Stop in for our Holiday Hoopla In-Store Discounts
Now through Dec. 15

Order by Dec. 2 to insure delivery in time for Christmas.
We can make it happen!

Holiday cooking couldn't be easier!
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Mt. Allison Grange to host free community breakfast and canned food drive

By Larry Corman

Special to The PREVIEW

On Saturday, Dec. 7, Mt. Allison Grange will host a free community breakfast.

This will be held from 8 until 10

a.m. and will include biscuits and gravy, sausage, eggs, ham, hash browns, juice and coffee. Canned food donations are also appreciated for a food basket distribution for Christmas.

Everyone is invited. So, come join your neighbor and do some so-

cializing before you go off to town for Christmas shopping. Hope to see you there.

For more information or directions, contact Trish Corman at 884-4762 or Yvonne Chapman at 799-3064.



Support our local businesses!



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\$10 OFF PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE
[WITH VERIFIED GOOGLE REVIEW]

Mary B. ★★★★★
We really enjoy this store. Great fun clothes. Beautiful jewelry.

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565 Talisman, Unit H (near Cafe Colorado)
Mon to Sat 10 AM - 5 PM
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4th Annual One-Stop Holiday Shopping Event

Saturday, Dec. 14th
10 am to 4 pm

Archuleta County Fairgrounds
344 Hwy. 84

Support Small Business

Purchases at any of our vendors qualify for Holiday Hoopla drawing entries as well!

Shoppers can enter to win a Gift Basket, full of items donated by vendors!

AD Cakes DoTerra Essential Oils LipSense by SeneGence LuLaRoe Plunder Jewelry Impressions by Hannah	Juice Plus+ Quilted Soft Goods Rodan & Fields ColorStreet Nails Youth Trip Fundraisers ... AND MORE!
--	---



Holiday Hoopla at The River Center

Open Late until 8 pm
Thursdays in December!
Dec. 5, 12, 19 & 26



Heralds of Christmas right around the corner

By Rick Artis
Special to The PREVIEW

The Heralds of Christmas concert series will once again be hosted by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.

The church is located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

This year's event promises to be better than ever. More than 15 musical numbers, featuring many of Pagosa's favorite performers, will fill the hall. Festive seasonal favorites combined with a few less traditional arrangements promise to delight the audience.

In addition, Noel, a local caroling quartet, will entertain before the concert and the finale will be an audience favorite, "The Hallelujah Chorus" sing-along. Following the concert, everyone is invited to meet the performers during a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

Heralds of Christmas is presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS). PSIMS is dedicated to music education in Pagosa Springs, providing

equipment, instrument repair, private lessons and more to several of the schools in town.

This year, the schools have a variety of needs. From providing pairs of drum sticks or a series of lessons to a set of chimes, and many items in between, there are many ways that you can help. At the concert, an ornament tree will highlight a particular need. Concert goers may select the ornament of their choice, make a donation in the amount indicated and take the ornament home as a reminder of the difference they are making in the life of a music student here in Pagosa. Donations for many of the larger items can be made as well.

Plan to join us next week at the Heralds of Christmas. Tickets are available now and can be purchased at the Choke Cherry Tree and Airport Self Storage on the west side of town, plus Bookends and the Chamber of Commerce in the downtown area. Prepurchase tickets are \$10. Should any seats be available at the door, day of show tickets are \$15. Plan on getting your tickets early as these performances usually sell out well ahead of time.



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One Day Only Specials!

Dec. 5 - 20% Off all Turquoise Jewelry
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Spend \$50 and enter to win a coral necklace set.
Free Gift Wrapping!



(970) 264-6446
dancer@lanterndancer.com

All About ME Event

Thursday, Dec. 12 6-8 pm
Chocolate, Wine & Foot Massage
(by All About You Day Spa)
Buy One, Get One 50% Off Wine and Dessert

Drop by for some stress relief!

Heartfelt Handmade

art & craft gallery

15% Off

Hand Printed Dish Towels and Sponge Cloths by Kei and Molly





Holiday Hoopla

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

HOLIDAY HOOPLA

Enter our drawing for a **Bookends Basket** drawing will be held Dec. 16
One entry for every \$10 spent

BOOKENDS
 466 PAGOSA STREET

Holiday Hoopla

at Happy Trails Ladies Boutique

Free GIFT REGISTRY!
Come in & sign up to get what you really want for Christmas!

Free GIFT-WRAPPING!
Of purchases, including Gift Certificates!

WEEKLY 25% DISCOUNTS!
Available on selected merchandise to Hoopla Card Members (Excludes sale items.)

Weekly Drawing for a Free Holiday Sweater by Berek New York!
(Qualify with purchase) (Valued at \$127.99)

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photography	mineral specimens
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Holiday Hoopla Savings!

Every Friday & Saturday
Get 15% ONE full-priced item of your choice.

In stock items only. Sale good through Dec. 15, 2019 only.

Dec. 2-Dec. 7 ONLY
All Jeans
 Buy 2 pair, get a 3rd pair of equal or lesser value
25% OFF
Excludes sale jeans.

Enter to Win!
Gift Basket Drawing

One ticket for every \$50 spent.
 Basket is valued at over \$100.
 Drawing to be held at end of day on Dec. 15.

Must show Holiday Hoopla card for savings

Our family serving yours since 1899
 970-264-5460 ~ 970-264-2222
 Located in Downtown Pagosa Springs

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Photo courtesy Bob Hemenger

The Americana Project students will be playing a free concert in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium Thursday, Dec 12. The show starts at 7 p.m. and will feature all 30 students performing both cover and original songs.

12 HIKER HANDOUTS²

BE A PART OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS HOLIDAY HOOPLA

NOVEMBER 15-26
AND REPEATED
DECEMBER 1-12

EXPLORE 2020 OFFERINGS AT OUR WEBSITE
StepOutdoorsColorado.com/hiker/holiday-hoopla-2019/
DIFFERENT HIKER HANDOUTS DAILY
COURSE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

GET REGISTERED – BUY LOCAL – WIN PRIZES

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P.O. Box 5451 * Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 * 970.946.5001 * Info@StepOutdoorsColorado.com

Gift certificate purchase for your holiday shopping!

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or call 970.422.7161
pagosawellness.com

One hour Massage for \$69 (retail \$89)	One hour Facial for \$69 (retail \$89)	One hour new patient Chiropractic \$69 (retail \$90)
--	---	--

Luxurious Chopra Center Product gift bags also available!
Gift Certificate Special available for purchase from Nov 15 Dec 24 2019, gift certificate may be redeemed for one year from date of purchase.
Monthly memberships available, inquire at the Pagosa Wellness Spa reception

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

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PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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Signature _____



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

The Pagosa Springs Girls Choir will present its Christmas concert, "Christmas at the Movies," tonight at 7 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church.

Shuttle to Wolf Creek!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call 970-731-4081 24 hours prior to reserve your spot!

\$20 One Way • \$30 Round Trip*

*Return time must be selected when booking round-trip.
Changes will be accommodated subject to availability.
Don't be late! We are running on a tight schedule!

Monday-Friday from				
Wilderness Journeys	Alpen Haus	Quality Inn	Ski & Bow Rack	Wolf Creek
7:30 am	7:40 am	7:50 am	8:00 am	4:15 pm
Saturday-Sunday from				
Wilderness Journeys	Alpen Haus	Quality Inn	Ski & Bow Rack	Wolf Creek
7:30 am 11:30 am	7:41 am 11:41 am	7:54 am 11:54 am	8:05 am 12:05 pm	4:15 pm 4 pm

CUSTOM rides may be scheduled based upon availability

Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc
970-731-4081 to reserve your ride!
 Or, book online at GoWJP.com

Pagosa Springs Girls Choir holiday concert tonight

By Linda Parker
Special to The PREVIEW

Come join the Pagosa Springs Girls Choir tonight for a wonderful holiday treat as the Pagosa Springs Girls Choir present its holiday concert, "Christmas at the Movies." The concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church.

Presenting favorite music from Christmas movies, the Girls Choir will be joined by Beth Filiowich, featured soloist. Filiowich will delight the Pagosa community with traditional carols and will also sing with the Girls Choir. Also on hand will be the choir's vocal coaches,

Darcy DeGuise and Jeanette Hill. The Girls Choir will be offering Rocky Mountain Chocolate bars for purchase to help fund its summer educational trip scheduled for August.

Please join us tonight and support these outstanding young musicians for "Christmas at the Movies" at the Community United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but your donations will be gratefully accepted.

Trustworthy.
 The Pagosa Springs SUN
 264-2100



Locals — Renew your annual pass for only \$50 over 2018 pricing!

Promotional rate offer valid through December 7.

THE
SPRINGS
 RESORT & SPA
 PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

pagosahotsprings.com

Join us for a

Christmas Party

December 7

Cookies • Coffee • Hot Chocolate
Door Prizes

The United Methodist Thrift Store

427 Lewis Street

Chorale Society Christmas concerts this weekend

By Richard Bolland
Special to The PREVIEW

The Pagosa Springs Choral Society has completed its final dress rehearsals for this year's edition of the annual Pagosa Springs Community Christmas Concert series. These concerts are free to the community on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.

All are welcome to come to the auditorium at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) to enjoy these performances.

Singing under the direction of PSHS Music Director Dan Burch, the 60-70 voice choir will present Christmas favorites of both a sacred and seasonal nature. "Winter Wonderland of Snow," "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," "Ding-a-Ding-a-Ding" and the traditional "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah" will be among the featured selections offered.



Photo courtesy Richard Bolland

Dan Burch, music director at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS), directs the 2018 Pagosa Springs Choral Society Christmas concerts. This year's free concerts will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings and at 4 p.m. on Sunday in the PSHS auditorium.

A select jazz ensemble will also provide a light-hearted offering of "Childhood Christmas Favorites" and "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!"

Venita Burch will provide ac-

companiment for the choir. There is no admission charge for the concerts, but donations will be received to support music scholarships for students at PSHS. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Masonic Lodge invites public to installation of officers

By Briana Stewart
and Richard Wholf
Special to The PREVIEW

The installation of the Masonic lodge officers for the 2020 year will be held at 227 Lewis St. on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., and a special invitation is extended to the public as well as all Masons residing or visiting Pagosa Springs.

Masons are men who profess a faith in God, and they use the tools of moral and ethical truths to serve mankind. Freemasonry is not a religion, rather it is a wonderful moral system that's veiled in al-

legory and illustrated by symbols.

Freemasonry is a human institution and is set up to inspire and assist its members to live the life of a gentleman. It is a brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, social, cultural and educational differences. Each Mason recognizes his responsibility for justice, truth, charity, enlightenment, freedom, liberty, honesty, civility, tolerance, patience and integrity in all aspects of human endeavor. A Mason is all this and more.

Pagosa Springs Masonic Lodge, A.F. and A.M. No. 114 was established in 1902 and will be celebrat-

ing its 118th year in our community. Over the years, many prominent members of the community have served as worshipful master and in other offices. Many of our nation's early patriots were Freemasons, as well as 13 signers of the Constitution, and 14 American presidents have been Masons, beginning with George Washington.

Refreshments will be served following the installation.

If you plan to attend, please call Drake Stewart at 946-0511.

Stewart is worshipful master for Pagosa Springs Masonic Lodge, A.F. and A.M. No. 114 for the 2020 year.



ROSS ARAGON COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESENTS

14TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M. + TREE AUCTION 7 P.M.

Live music by Steven Blechschmidt
Cash Bar and Hors d'oeuvres

Advanced ticket sales only \$25 per person
Table reservations available

For more information: (970) 264-4152

PUBLIC VIEWING AND VOTING
DEC. 5TH + NOON-6 P.M.

*Come and vote for your favorite tree
while enjoying cookies, hot cocoa, cider and coffee*
Meet and take pictures with Santa 3-6 p.m.

From all of us at



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

And thanks for a wonderful 2019

We are filled with gratitude for all the love and support we received this year, and have many exciting plans to share it with the community in 2020, stay tuned!



aspenhousepagosa.org

970.398.1636

SUPPORTING LOCAL ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Bar D Wranglers Annual Christmas Jubilee



Come join in the fun as the Bar D Wranglers sing songs, tell stories and celebrate the Christmas season at the Pagosa Springs High School.

Doors Open 6:30PM
Show Time 7:00PM

Tickets available at Chamber of Commerce & The Door
Adults \$17.00
Children 12 and under \$12.00



Photos courtesy Linda George

Pagosa Springs filled 2,634 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year, with 14 business owners, 21 churches and five youth clubs participating this year, among others.

Pagosa Springs fills 2,634 boxes of love

By Linda George
Special to The PREVIEW

Together we filled 2,634 red and green boxes of love and hope for Operation Christmas Child (OCC), the world's largest Christmas project.

The generosity of this small town will bless needy children in Ghana, South Africa and Mexico this year. Our simple gifts packed to the brim with toothbrushes, soap, pencils, toys, stuffed animals, personal notes and pictures will change the lives of children this Christmas.

A huge thank you goes to 14 business owners, 21 churches and five local youth clubs that participated this year. The OCC drop-off

center kept busy with 37 hardworking volunteers greeting donors, receiving boxes, packing cartons and filling every empty box available.

We loaded up a 20-foot truck donated by a local storage company to capacity and headed to Denver in preparation for outgoing

flights.

As the team leader for Archuleta County, I'd like to thank every person that gave valuable time, money and personal touches to 2,634 boxes of love. Your gifts will provide hope and show children around the world that Pagosa cares.



THE HISTORIC PAGOSA BAR

Draft Beer \$2.75 in 12 oz. frozen mugs
Well Drinks \$3.75 • Cigar Bar
Wednesday & Thursday from 5-10 - Pitchers \$8.50
Happy Hour 5-7 • \$2.25 draft • \$3.25 well

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5 Shrimp, 3 Catfish, slaw, bread and fries

Shrimp
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Gift Certificates:

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\$25⁰⁰ OFF!

Good towards any 60 or 90 minute massage. Expires 1/1/20.

All massage services include **Complimentary Soak** at time of service!

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Holiday Sale!

10 Punches + 1 Free

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Enjoy soaking in our 100% mineral water pool, hot tub & hot baths.

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— **Massage Special** —

Book a 60 or 90 minute massage thru January 1, 2020 & we will add some extra pampering... our treat:

Soothing, Peppermint-Infused Hot Rocks!

Peppermint essential oil added to your massage is known to

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 5

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.

Russ Hill Wreath Bazaar. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Two sizes are available. The standard wreaths, about 25 inches wide, are \$35. Extra large wreaths which are about 45 inches wide, are \$70. Each wreath will be decorated with pine cones and a bow that can be selected from several colors. Wreaths can also be customized with special bows and other embellishments for an additional charge. Table arrangements can be created by custom order. Both walk-in and phone orders can be placed Monday through Friday through Dec. 9. Call 264-4538 for more information and to place your order.

A Course in Miracles Study Group. 10-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Call Karen LeCour at 264-0111 for more information.

Medicare 101. 10:30 a.m.-noon., Sisson Library. Do you have questions about Medicare? Katy Deshler will help you understand your rights, options, deadlines and where to get more information. Katy is a certified counselor and volunteer for the state Health Insurance Assistance Program. Contact Kay Kaylor at 264-0501 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.

14th Annual Festival of Trees Public Viewing and Voting. Noon-6 p.m., Community Center. A free event for you to enjoy Christmas music, hot cocoa, cookies and coffee. Santa will also be making an appearance from 3-6 p.m. for pictures. If you choose to vote for your favorite tree, the cost is \$1 per vote. For more information, contact Jamie Carothers at 264-5152, ext. 521.

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.

PALS Adult Education. 2-7 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.

Teen Advisory Board. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For youth in the 6th-12th grades. Bring your fun and innovative ideas to help us plan teen programs. 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 cost of the class is \$25 for the three-week session. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

Social Media Email Marketing Class. 5:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce

conference room. Classes are \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for nonmembers. Space is limited. For more information, contact Hilarie at admin@pagosachamber.com.

Main Street Bethlehem. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A free 30-minute walking tour.

San Juan Outdoor Club. 6:30 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Speakers are Chris and Debbi Plemons. The program will be on their recently completed Tour du Mont Blanc. The presentation will feature a talk, photos and statistics. Light refreshments at 6 p.m. Guests welcome. For more information, visit sanjuanoutdoorclub.org.

WOLF (Winter Outdoor Learning Fund) Presents 'Winterland.' 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre. A film celebrating the culture of skiing and snowboarding. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and beer will be available for purchase. For more information, visit www.winteroutdoorlearningfund.com.

Pagosa Springs Girls Choir Concert: 'Christmas at the Movies.' 7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Featuring local musician Beth Filliowich. Filliowich will perform some Christmas favorites before joining the Girls Choir to close the concert. During the concert, the

■ See Calendar on next page

Karaoke Dance Party

Saturday at 9 pm
with Lisa Saunders

Join us at Coyote Moon



120 Piedra Rd. • Top of Put Hill/ Mid-Town



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A Time For You Salon
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(970)731-4301
117 Navajo Trail Dr

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

at Rosie's Pizzeria
Pictures with Santa
Treats & Activities for Kids

25% Off A Pizza with the donation of a toy
(Unwrapped Gifts for infants through 18 Year old Children)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

A Call to Artists

a **BoA** Contemporary gallery

333 Bastille B2
Pagosa Springs

Presents
"Affair of the Art"
Feb 8th-29th

Submission Deadline January 6th

For submission guidelines visit our website
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

audience will be invited to get into the act with the annual sing-along.

Friday, Dec. 6

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.

Literary Ladies Holiday Potluck. 10:30 a.m., Marilyn Stroud's home. Further information about our holiday potluck will be emailed.

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.

PAWS to Read with Kate. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Come and share your favorite book with Kate, a therapy dog who loves listening to stories. PAWS to Read is a great way for beginning readers to build confidence. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Spin and Weave Group. 2-5 p.m., 197 Navajo Trail Drive. A fun and instructional fellowship of fiber artists with creative ideas to share and all ages are welcome. All those interested in hand spinning, free lessons and drop spindles will be available. For those weavers, continuing instruction in warping and correcting errors and a loom for all to try weaving. Bring your show and tell and current portable projects. Email anniemay123@yahoo.com for more information.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Open Gymnastic Gym Time. 5-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Ages 5+, (younger allowed with parent). Cost is \$5 per session. Open gymnastic gym is a great time to come in and practice those special skills you are determined to learn, or just get in some extra practice time. We will play some fun games and top it off with a handstand contest. There will be supervision, but this is not a structured class. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

14th Annual Festival of Trees. 5:30 p.m., Community Center. You will see 15 beautifully decorated trees all representing different nonprofit

organizations. You will enjoy live music, a cash bar, door prizes and hors d'oeuvres. All 15 trees will be open to silent bidding. The live auction will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at the Community Center. Tickets are only sold in advance. For more information, contact Jamie Carothers at 264-5152, ext. 521.

Main Street Bethlehem. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A free 30-minute walking tour.

Pagosa Springs Choral Society Christmas Concert. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presenting a free community concert of sacred and seasonal Christmas music.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Christmas Party. United Methodist Thrift Store, 427 Lewis St. Join us for cookies, coffee, hot chocolate and door prizes.

Mt. Allison Grange Free Community Breakfast and Canned Food Drive. 8-10 a.m., Mt. Allison Grange. Everyone is invited. Canned food donations are also appreciated for a food basket distribution for Christmas. For more information, contact Trish Corman at 884-4762 or Yvonne Chapman at 799-3064.

Archuleta County Genealogical Society. 11 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The meeting will focus on remembering Pearl Harbor day, focusing on a show and tell for attendees to share family stories about Pearl Harbor or World War II with their photographs and heirlooms. Visitors are encouraged to attend and participate. Treats provided.

St. Patrick's Annual Christmas Tea. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. We are creating a Dickens Christmas in our Parish Hall. There will be the Tea Shoppe, The Olde Bookshoppe and the Speckled Hen Pub to choose to sit and enjoy tea, scones, delicious savories and desserts. Music will be provided by the Nightsong Trio and The Dickens Carolers. Tickets are \$15 and will go on sale Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. in the church Parish Hall.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit Terry's Colorado Home Supply/ACE Hardware. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 525 Navajo Trail Drive. Bring your list and wishes.

The Dickens Christmas Concert. 12:45 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Presented by the Dickens Carolers and The NightSong Trio. The concert will be filled with your favorite

■ See Calendar on next page

HEADLINES BY CARMEN

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday, Dec. 14 • 6:30 PM
Free Admission



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Seventh-day Adventist Church**
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Main Street Bethlehem

December 5, 6, 7

Centerpoint Church

2750 Cornerstone Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

A free 30-minute walking tour
anytime between 6-7:30 p.m.

www.centerpointpagosa.com



Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

Christmas tunes, sung and played by a sampling of Pagosa's most revered musicians. This Christmas concert is free and open to the public.

St. Patrick's Annual Christmas Tea.

2-3:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. We are creating a Dickens Christmas in our Parish Hall. There will be the Tea Shoppe, The Olde Bookshoppe and the Speckled Hen Pub to choose to sit and enjoy tea, scones, delicious savories and desserts. Music will be provided by the Nightsong Trio and The Dickens Carolers. Tickets are \$15 and will go on sale Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. in the church Parish Hall.

Family Storytime: Snowflake Science.

3-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Investigate the wonderful world of snowflakes and make some of your own. Join us for great stories, fun songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move. Storytime a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Main Street Bethlehem.

6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A free 30-minute walking tour.

Pagosa Springs Choral Society Christmas Concert.

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presenting a free community concert of sacred and seasonal Christmas music.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Christmas in Arboles. Noon-4 p.m., Tara Community Center, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles. A Christmas craft fair. There will also be a cookie contest and cookies for sale.

Pagosa Springs Choral Society Concert.

4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presenting a free community concert of sacred and seasonal Christmas music.

Sunday Night Unplugged.

5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. The service of music and meditation will feature the talents of Jason Rose, Denise Chaney and friends who will bring music to calm your minds and hearts and set our thoughts toward the mystery of Christmas.

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. 9

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 informa-

tion, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Russ Hill Wreath Bazaar.

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Two sizes are available. The standard wreaths, about 25 inches wide, are \$35. Extra large wreaths which are about 45 inches wide, are \$70. Each wreath will be decorated with pine cones and a bow that can be selected from several colors. Wreaths can also be customized with special bows and other embellishments for an additional charge. Table arrangements can be created by custom order. Both walk-in and phone orders can be placed Monday through Friday through Dec. 9. Call 264-4538 for more information and to place your order.

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.

Pi Beta Phi Christmas Angel Luncheon.

11:30 a.m., home of Carole Howard. Activities will include a concert, potluck luncheon and angel gift exchange. Guests are asked to dress in festive holiday attire. Bring an anonymous wrapped angel gift as well as 10-15 canned or packaged goods and toiletries for the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church food pantry.

Bridge for Fun.

1 p.m., Senior Center.

Bingo.

1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game.

1 p.m., Senior Center.

Knitting Club.

4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For teens in the 4th-12th grade. Bring your knitting, crochet or needlepoint projects and hang out with other crafters. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga.

4-5 p.m., Community Center.

Pagosa Housing Partners: Community Talk Event on Weatherization and Repair.

5:30-6:45 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. A community discussion on weatherization and home repairs. Many programs exist to help citizens in our community with these pressing issues. Guest speakers will be Molly Morris, Marisa Felix-Campbell, Marcy Child, Lori Hendrickson and Nancy Jacobsen. Visit pagosahousingpartners.org for more information.

Incredible Years Parenting Class.

5:30-8 p.m., Seeds of Learning. A free opportunity offered to anyone who wants to build positive

relationships with their children, needs more effective discipline or would like new ideas to help their children learn and grow. This class is created for families with children between the ages of 2 and 8 years. A free dinner will be offered for the entire family and childcare will be provided at no cost. For more information and to register, call Michelle Carpenter at 946-0664 or Lynne Bridges at 264-5513.

CPR Certification Training.

6-10 p.m., CSU Extension Office. Anyone needing to receive or renew certification can register by calling 264-5931.

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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Letters to Santa



Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!
Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 13.

You can also email your letter to
editor@pagosasun.com
or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Tuesday, Dec. 10

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.

Seeds of Learning Dragonflies Caroling. 11 a.m., Senior Center.

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.

Mahjong. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Book Club for Adults. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. We will discuss "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah. Stop by to pick up a copy. Light refreshments will be served.

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. An all-ages celebration with lots of fun seasonal crafts to make and take home while you enjoy hot chocolate. Call 264-2209 for more 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 cost of the class is \$25 for the three-week session. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A program for children ages 3-5 years old. Includes Bible time, songs, crafts, games and more. For more information or to register, call Frank and Connie Porter at (303) 901-5290 or email ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. 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.

Yoga Flow Class. 10-11 a.m., Community Center. Please bring a mat and a towel. For more information, call Amy at (609) 204-1998.

Seeds of Learning Ladybugs Caroling. 11 a.m., Senior Center.

Play, Learn and Grow Workshop. 11 a.m., Sisson Library. Hosted by the Growing Readers Together Early Literary Specialists. Introducing ways to prepare young children for reading and school success. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Jelly Beans After School Fun Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, room 9. All ages welcome. For information, call 903-8104.

Yoga. 4-5 p.m., Community Center.

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

American Legion Post 108. 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St. Veterans group meeting.

First Aid Certification Training. 6-10 p.m., CSU Extension office. Anyone needing to receive or renew certification can register by calling 264-5931.

The Most Excellent Way. 7 p.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship Church, 1044 Park Ave. The Most

Excellent Way offers Bible-based relief from addictions and compulsions, with men and women meeting separately for utmost confidentiality. Call 507-0123 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 12

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.

Seeds of Learning Butterflies Caroling. 11 a.m., Senior Center.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community

■ See Calendar on next page

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.

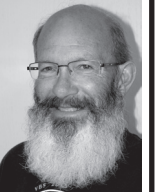
The birth of Jesus is a wonderful story. At this time of the year it seems that many people are a little kinder and more joyful, even among the hustle of the season.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus during the season. But let us live each day the life to which Jesus calls us.

Time of Services		
Sunday	Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
	AM Worship	10:30 a.m.
	PM Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Church of Christ

277 Lewis Street • 264-2552



Dorman Diller, Minister



FRIDAY **DEC 13** 2019 1-4 P.M.

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2839 Cornerstone Drive, Unit 4 North

www.TeamPagosa.com (970) 731-8599 office



2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Home-school Social Hour. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Stop by for a chance to visit with fellow home-school families, discuss curriculum and learning opportunities and look through resources while the kids participate in crafts and other activities. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Christmas Globe Art Class. 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 cost of the class is \$25 for the three-week session. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

Weminuche Audubon Society: Birding 101 Class. 6-8 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Each class will feature different types of birds, so try to attend all three. For more information, contact Keith Bruno at kbruno@audubon.org.

Our Savior Lutheran School Presents 'A Sola Christmas.' 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran School gym, 56 Meadows Drive. The school children in grades K-9 will present their program focusing on the five solas of the Reformation.

Americana Project Concert. 7 p.m.,

Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Friday, Dec. 13

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.

Santa Claus Visits Bank of Colorado. 1-4 p.m., Bank of Colorado, 205 Country Center Drive. Come get your picture taken with Santa.

Meet the Artist: Charla Ellis. 4-6 p.m., Belvedere Arts Studio and Gallery, 2363 Eagle Drive. Live music with Steve Rolig, refreshments.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Open Gymnastic Gym Time. 5-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Ages 5+, (younger allowed with parent). Cost is \$5 per session. Open gymnastic gym is a great time to come in and practice those special skills you are determined to learn, or just get in some extra practice time. We will play some fun games and top it off with a handstand contest. There will be supervision, but this is not a structured class. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

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.pagosa-center.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Breakfast with Santa. 8:30-11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Start the morning with a full breakfast, enjoy games and face painting. Hear inspiring Christmas songs from high school musicians and complete the morning with a picture with Santa.

There is a \$5 fee at the door and it covers all the morning's events.

Meditation and Dharma Discussion. 10 a.m., Pagosa Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Suite B-15, 70 Greenbriar Drive. All are welcome.

Weminuche Audubon Society: Bird Count Wrap-up Party. 4-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Christmas Concert. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church, 40 Oren Rd. Neville Peter will be performing. Christmas social and refreshments after the evening concert.

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.pagosa-center.org or call 731-SHOW.

Sunday, Dec. 15

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.pagosa-center.org or call 731-SHOW.

Heralds of Christmas Concert. 3 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

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

Save the date for Veterans for Veterans fundraiser

By Tari Woods
Special to The PREVIEW

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County will be enjoying a happy new year: A fundraiser event in their honor will be held at the Best Western Lodge on U.S. 160 at 6 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2020. We will be celebrating "Love around the World" with Capt. John Barry III, who lives right here in Pagosa Springs. He will give a slide presentation and share stories from his sailing

trip around the world. Hang on to your hats; they just may be blown away. We will have appetizers from around town, with local restaurants sharing their bites. There will also be live and silent auctions, a cash bar and fun for all. Tickets are \$20 at the door; children under 5 are free. We are looking for donations for both the silent and live auctions. Anyone who may want to volunteer, assist in anyway or make a donation, please contact Tari Woods by phone or text at 398-0023.

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BAR
- BUSBOY
- CHARGE
- CHECK
- CHEF
- COUNTER
- DELIVERY
- DINING
- DISHWASHING
- GRATUITY
- GUEST
- HOUSE
- MEAL
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'A Sola Christmas' set for Dec. 12

By Leah Hellerich
Special to The PREVIEW

The students of Our Savior Lutheran School invite the community to attend their traditional children's Christmas program and to hear them speak and sing the ancient and joyous account of

the birth of Jesus. Their program, named "A Sola Christmas," will be presented on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School at 56 Meadows Drive.

We all know how important a solid foundation is for a building. A building with a weak foundation

may stand for a time, but eventually it will topple.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:11, "No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

The student's story in word and song will help us to live on a foundation of scripture alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone, under grace alone and to His glory alone.

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society, Audubon Rockies and Kelle Bruno's Pagosa Peak Open School second-graders, is the golden eagle.

Known as "King of the Birds," the golden eagle is well-respected for its ability to hunt a wide range of prey, including animals as large as young deer and bighorn sheep. Primary prey include mice, rabbits and snakes. These birds are also rather opportunistic and know to scavenge heavily.

With a wingspan known to exceed 7 feet, this species has a remarkable capacity for soaring. Despite their size, they have been clocked at speeds nearing 200 mph when pursuing prey. Their eye structure, complete with two retinas and a complex array of cones and rods, allows them to see a mouse's whiskers twitch at nearly 2 miles away.

Golden eagles live in open and semi-open rangeland across the northern hemisphere. They oftentimes nest in unseen places, such as tall trees, cliffs and steep escarpments. Nesting sites, known as aeries, are large (5-6 feet wide), cup-shaped structures, built of large branches and lined with grasses and leaves. Adults attempt one clutch per year, as young take up to two months to fledge from the nest.

Comprising 59 different species across the world and in all continents aside from Antarctica, eagles are a diverse group of birds. We only have two species in North America.

How do you differentiate golden eagles from bald eagles? First, golden eagles have a characteristic golden "casing" on their neck and head feathers. When viewed from underneath, the white patches on a young golden eagle's wings and base of tail tend to look much tidier and consolidated than when compared to a juvenile bald eagle, which appears "messy" until 3 to 4 years of age. Second, golden eagles have feathering all the way down the leg and have a smaller bill than that of the "baldy." Lastly, these two eagles tend to be specialists of different habitat types: bald eagles tend towards access to water; golden eagles prefer open rangeland.

For information on local bird-watching events, visit www.weminuche-audubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

Youngsters will have a chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well as tell him what they want for Christmas, at the Dec. 14 Breakfast with Santa. The annual event features a full breakfast, crafts, games, face painting for the kids, Christmas songs from high school musicians and a picture with Santa.

Breakfast with Santa set for Dec. 14

By Dan Burch
Special to The PREVIEW

Christmas is a time for family and tradition. The Pagosa Springs High School music department will once again host Breakfast with Santa. Many families have made this event a good way to start off the Christmas season with a great tradition.

Saturday, Dec. 14, you and your family can come to the high school commons and start the morning with a full breakfast, enjoy games and face painting for the kids, hear

inspiring Christmas songs from our high school musicians and complete the morning with a picture with Santa.

This event is a fundraiser for the high school music department. All proceeds go towards the music department's events in the spring, including the Music in the Parks Competition.

There is a \$5 fee at the door and it covers all the morning's events. Breakfast will be ready at 8:30 a.m. and will go until 11 a.m. Make plans now to make this morning

part of your Christmas season plans.

Deadlines*

Display advertising: Noon, Monday

Classified line ads (regular categories): 10 a.m., Tuesday

Classified line ads (Too Late to Classify): 3 p.m., Tuesday

Legal advertising: 4 p.m., Friday

Letters to the editor: Noon, Tuesday
(500 word maximum, email to editor@pagosasun.com)

Cards of thanks: Noon, Tuesday
(50 word maximum, email to editor@pagosasun.com)

Obituaries: Noon, Tuesday
(We accommodate obituaries after this if at all possible.)

Articles: Noon, Monday
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**Deadlines are earlier if there is a holiday.*

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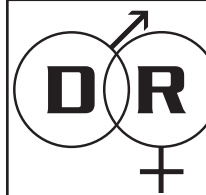
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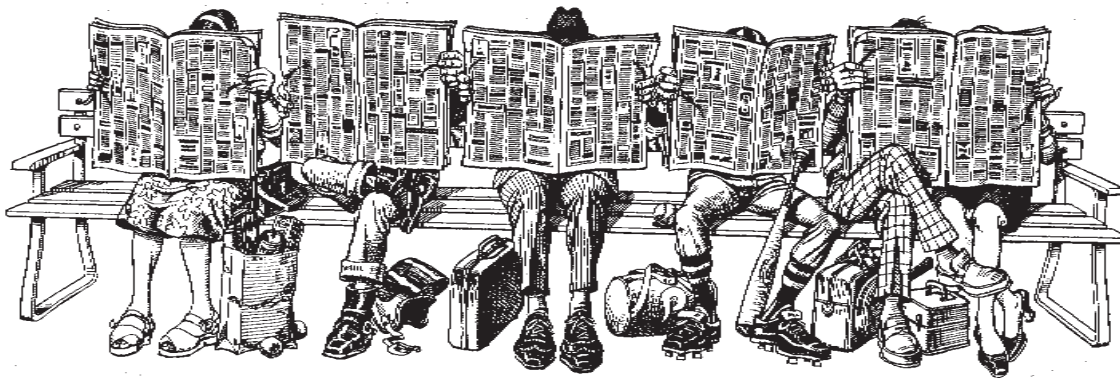
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Sunday Night Unplugged to feature Jason Rose and Denise Chaney

By Sally Neel
Special to The PREVIEW

This Sunday evening at 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., will offer its monthly Sunday Night Unplugged service. The service of music and meditation will feature the talents of Jason Rose, Denise Chaney and friends who will bring music certain to calm your minds and hearts and set our thoughts

toward the mystery of Christmas. Rose is the minister of music at Grace Bible Church in Pagosa Springs. He and singer Chaney have made numerous recordings of their music, mostly original compositions. They will be accompanied by Nicole Cotts on vocals, Jarret Chaney on bass and Samuel Hughes on cahone.

"This ensemble is always a joy to hear," said the Rev. Douglas Neel, rector of St. Patrick's. "Their music

provides the perfect setting for the season of Advent, a time when we prepare to receive the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. I look forward to hearing them and being a part of this time of quiet meditation, prayer, and music."

The public is invited to attend the service free of charge. Following the service, you are invited to the parish hall to watch the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life." Bring snacks to share.

WOLF to host 'Winterland' at Liberty Theatre today

By Darcy DeGuise
Special to The PREVIEW

For the past five years, the Winter Outdoor Learning Fund (WOLF) has been busy fostering outdoor awareness among the youth of southwestern Colorado.

Most of WOLF's involvement has been in the form of providing scholarships for Avalanche 1 and Wilderness First Aid courses; in fact, this nonprofit has awarded more than 25 scholarships since its inception. Many of its board members spend the winter months as ski patrollers, making sure that Wolf Creek Ski Area is safe for all winter enthusiasts. They know the importance of being knowledgeable and prepared in the snowy backcountry and want to pass that along to our community.

They also enjoy all the outdoor

recreation that skiing has to offer. That's why this Thursday, Dec. 5, WOLF will host a fundraiser at the Liberty Theatre. It will be showing Teton Gravity Research's film, "Winterland," a new film celebrating the culture of skiing and snowboarding from its humble beginnings to its modern day pioneers. Filmed in British Columbia, Austria, Norway, Alaska and Wyoming, these breathtaking terrains are "crushed" by today's winter athletes.

The doors to the Liberty Theatre open at 6 p.m. and the viewing

begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and beer from Riff Raff Brewing Company will be available for purchase, as well. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit WOLF scholarship recipients.

For more information, check out WOLF at www.winteroutdoor-learningfund.com. Like WOLF on Facebook or follow WOLF on Instagram.

Community news.

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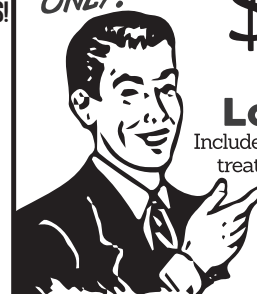
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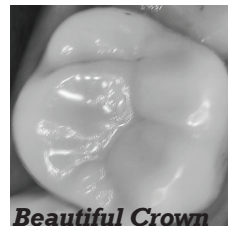
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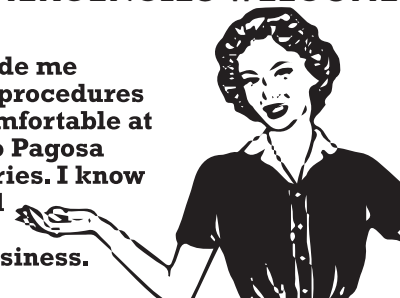
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Finding your voice

“Don’t sound like a grandmother with all your emotional Christianese when you talk to him,” my son said reprovingly.

“Then what do I say?”

One of my grandsons called me a couple weeks ago. He is an up-and-coming screenwriter in Hollywood and on a mission to make a difference in the movie industry as a Christian author. He just finished a new script and asked if he could send it to me. It felt special to know that my grandson was entrusting his creative work to me, so I told him to email it over.

He asked me if I would read the script and then tell him if I could “see the light.” I did, but I certainly didn’t. As I read, I found myself asking the same thing over and over, “Whose voice is this?”

The writing didn’t sound anything like I would have expected from this grandson. It is almost as if he has plunged headfirst into the same darkness as that of some of his colleagues. He had written a generational piece which seemed to lose his voice while trying to appeal to a specific audience.

As a writer, I know just how important it is not to dash another person’s confidence. I have had that done to me a few times and have even done it to others in the past. It is a lesson we can’t learn quick enough when dealing with the like body of work of others. It is important to approach the work of a creative person seeing things from the value of an artistic accomplishment, not a critical point of view.

His screenplay is professionally written, creative and engaging. It is a complete page-turner from start to finish. It is something that I would think someone would want to grab ahold of. But, some of the dialogue was too hard for me to swallow.

I asked my son how to approach my grandson, how to provide feedback on writings that beat against my moral convictions. He said, “Approach him as a writer, not his grandmother.”

He told me not to dwell on the darkness I felt. “As a writer, tell him how to appeal to his generation without the need for shock words. Ask him if he knows he is opening a door that may become difficult to shut. Specific to the original ask, you don’t have to ask someone if they can find the light, if it is not hidden.”

I have walked a creative path for years and have asked myself if my viewers and readers can “see the light” in my own work. Now I have grandchildren following the same creative bent, asking the same question.

As a Christian artist, there is an interesting balancing act that takes place when putting yourself

Artist’s Lane

Betty Slade



out there, all the while maintaining your own voice — meaning something to others while staying true to yourself.

We all need to express ourselves, that’s how we are made. Painting was my expression. I threw myself into it for 45 years. Words never came easy for me. Even naming a piece of art work seemed much harder than it should have.

A friend whose words trickled off her tongue like honey always gave me such swelling titles for my paintings. I loved hearing what she would come up with, but when all was said and done, they weren’t my words. They were words that were missing the true expression of who I was as an artist.

How do we find a persona that is our own voice when certain passions scream inside us? It probably starts by recognizing and appreciating what our voice sounds like in the rough. Dare I say that it is important to honor the direction we think we want to go, before we ever move an inch. If we move before we think, we may find ourselves mindlessly off course. Once we acknowledge where we want to go, it makes it easier to determine the width of the lane in which we want to run.

I can’t kid myself. Even my voice has evolved over the years, but never outside of certain guardrails that I have put in place. That is the beauty of truly knowing our own voice. We always know just how much we can move to the left or right before falling in to a ditch that we may or may not be able to get out of.

Final brushstroke: So, what did I tell my grandson? “Give your main character strong ethics and unmovable morals. Do not let your hero fall below a certain standard. This way others will see his light through the darkness — not in spite of it. It is OK if the protagonist needs to evolve as the story unfolds. Just make sure his transformation doesn’t take him further than you yourself are willing to go.

Readers’ comments

Send your comment to betty@bettyslade.com.

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The Weekly Crossword

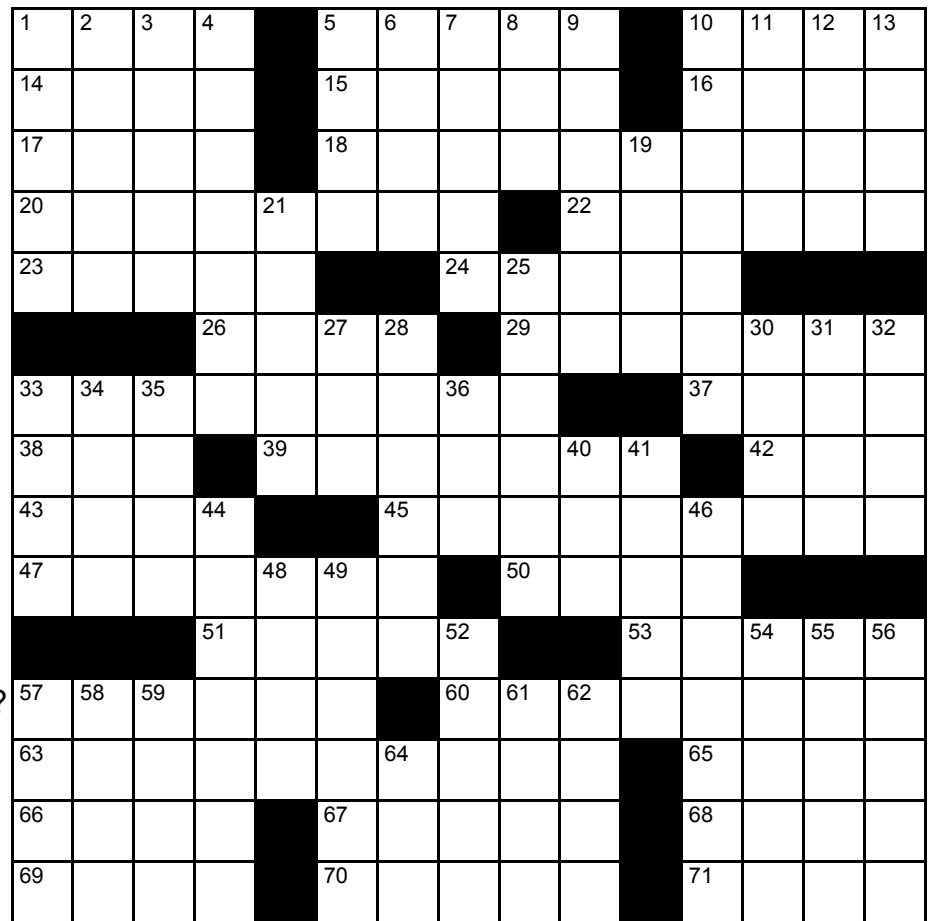
by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Type of bag
- 5 Like some cheddar
- 10 Ho-hum
- 14 Throw, as dice
- 15 Coke's bear
- 16 Unsophisticated sort
- 17 Not being used
- 18 Wind instrument
- 20 Trucker in a union
- 22 Linen closet items
- 23 Kind of boom
- 24 Scouting group
- 26 Remote location?
- 29 Consumer
- 33 Part of TKO
- 37 Indonesian island
- 38 "Without further _____"
- 39 Boastful person
- 42 Hightailed it
- 43 Small stream
- 45 Day of _____
- 47 Armchair companion
- 50 Pitchfork part
- 51 Lightweight wood
- 53 Gentle push
- 57 Seward's state
- 60 College age
- 63 Cold season
- 65 Smallest pup
- 66 Hathaway of Hollywood
- 67 Tablelands
- 68 Something to build on
- 69 Vintage designation
- 70 Appears
- 71 Salacious look

DOWN

- 1 Southern staple
- 2 Where to see chaps



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- 3 Haggard's hero Quartermain
- 4 Flaw
- 5 Squabble
- 6 Fine-tune
- 7 Open-eyed
- 8 Pro-footballer in L.A.
- 9 Part of an atom
- 10 It creates drafts
- 11 Pear-shaped instrument
- 12 Genesis brother
- 13 His partner
- 19 State of mind
- 21 Biscuitlike pastry
- 25 Surviving organism of old
- 27 Pudding fruit
- 28 Squirrel's cache
- 30 Rani's wrap
- 31 Enthusiasm
- 32 Saturn feature
- 33 Edible root
- 34 Anagram for "tide"
- 35 Stable youngster
- 36 Absorbed, as a loss
- 40 Enjoy Aspen
- 41 Heavy metric weight
- 44 Maine entree
- 46 On the fence
- 48 Put together
- 49 Burglar deterrents
- 52 Licoricelike flavor
- 54 Tennis tie
- 55 Horror or sci-fi, e.g.
- 56 Sign above a door
- 57 Not at home
- 58 Pickup shtick
- 59 Oscar winner Paquin
- 61 Mosque leader
- 62 Bitter end?
- 64 Pipe fitting

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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Photo courtesy Sally Neel

St. Patrick's Pipers, the newly formed bagpipe band, debuted at the St. Andrew's Day celebration at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church last Sunday morning.

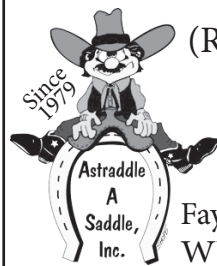
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New Thought Center to celebrate blessings of traditions

By Lisa Burnson
Special to The PREVIEW

The New Thought Center for Inspirational Living (NTC) celebrates all spiritual paths. All are welcome this Sunday, Dec. 8, at 10:30 a.m., as we join to celebrate the blessings of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa traditions.

If you are not familiar with all of these traditions, please come to learn. If you know of them, please join us in celebrating them and discussing how these traditions bless us all.

Also on Sunday, Dec. 8, 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.

Upcoming events

Monday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.: Center for Spiritual Living Study Group.

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.: free movie — "The Matrix."

Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:30 a.m.: "Planetary Energies and How They affect Our Lives."

Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.: movie — "Joyeux Noel," a moving, true story.

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 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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UUs to consider the Christmas tree tradition

By **Pauline Benetti**
Special to The PREVIEW

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is a living tradition and we look to many sources for our inspiration. Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries, it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits and illness.

This Sunday, John Buehler, our lay service leader and speaker, will explore the origins of our Christmas tree traditions and tie that into our local forests and the best type of tree to harvest for our community. Following service, he will lead our community in search of the perfect tree for our fellowship. To add to the fun of the search, we are invited to bring a hot drink and something to share.

Buehler and his wife, Cindy, retired in 2017 and are enjoying life in Pagosa Springs. He worked for the USDA Forest Service for 37 years serving in a number of states — Wisconsin, Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, California, Washington and Arizona — and with all Forest Service programs, including developed recreation, trails, surveying, timber, outfitter guides, wilderness, roads, minerals, lands, fire, range, wildlife, fisheries, soils, hydrology, botany, weeds and silviculture.

He started his career as a forestry technician, moving on to forester, recreation district staff, deputy district ranger, district ranger and stewardship staff officer and is proud of his long service.

His academic preparation served him well in his chosen field. At the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, he received

his Bachelor of Science in forest management and forest recreation with a minor in natural resources management in 1981. Other interests include kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, camping and music.

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 service on Dec. 15 as our fellowship says goodbye to Pastor Dean 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 information 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.

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza. From North Pagosa Boulevard, turn right onto Park Avenue and right again into Greenbriar Plaza, then turn left and continue around the complex until you see the Unitarian Universalist sign as it faces the mountains. Join us. For further information about the fellowship, visit pagosauu.org or call 731-7900.

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

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

ANSWER:

Crossing Wolf Creek Pass in 1916

Motter's note: a few years ago, Marguerite graciously provided me with a typed copy of this story.

Among the first to cross newly opened Wolf Creek Pass in the family autos were the Hersch and Hatcher families. Here is the story of that adventure as told by Myrtle Hersch:



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

"In February of 1916, our Chalmers car was shipped from Pagosa Springs by Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge railroad to Santa Fe, New Mexico, as the town was snowed in at that time of the year. There, our family, consisting of my husband David, our thirteen-year-old son Joseph, and small daughter Marguerite and I began a leisurely tour of 6,000 miles, through warmer, and lower altitude states. We planned our homecoming over the new pass, later in the summer, from the east side.

"At that time there were none of the luxury motels as of today, so we carried a complete camping equipment with us for comfortable living either inside or out in the wide-open spaces. We did little real camping — like the hotels better. Tent setting we found difficult on soft hands, so we took the easier way, and kept our overnight bags

■ See Past on next page

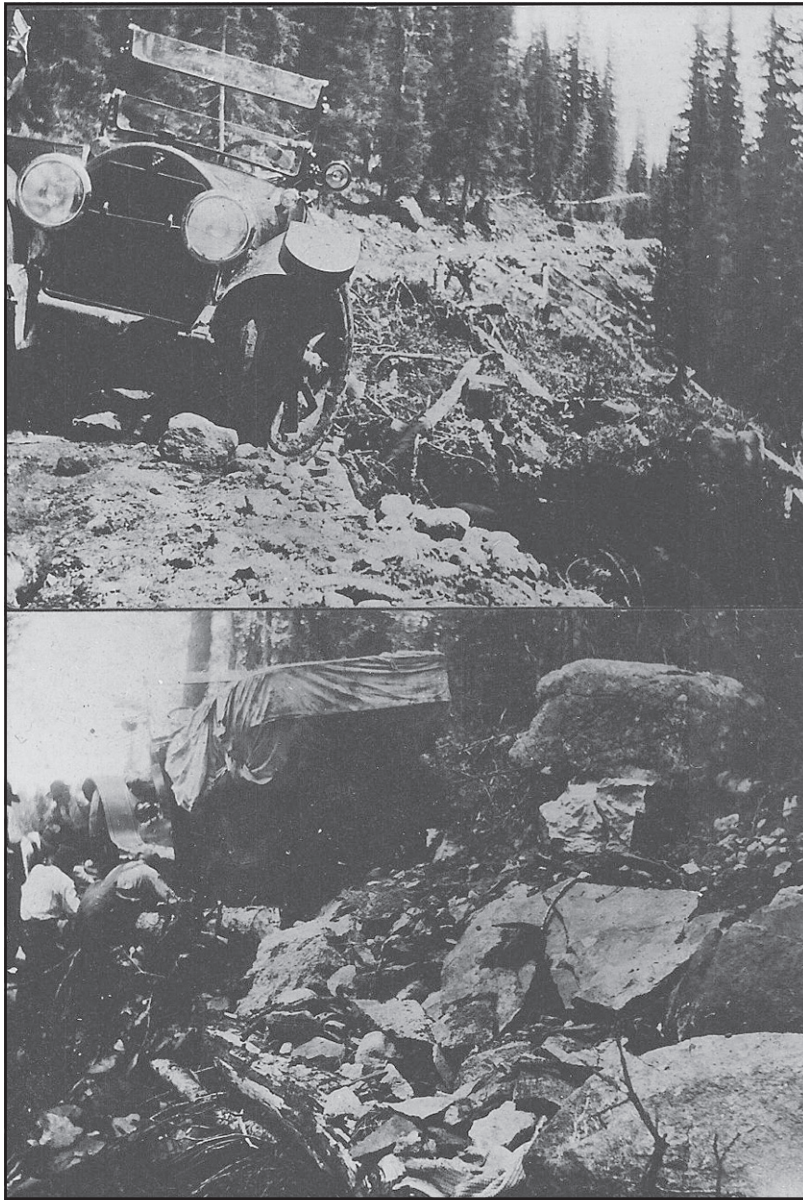


Photo courtesy John M. Motter

The Hersch and Hatcher families crossed Wolf Creek Pass when it was newly opened but construction still in progress. These photos shows one of their cars narrowly avoiding caroming down the mountainside.

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Hope: Reflections on working at a refugee camp

By Adeline Thompson
Special to The PREVIEW

One day, during our class with the oldest age group (12-15 years), we started the class with a simple activity. We went around the circle and each student talked about what they wanted to be when they grow up. Its intention was to practice vocabulary and talk about different occupations, but as each child talked about their vision for their future, the reality of the situation sat heavy in the air.

As a child, I remember being told that I could be anything I wanted when I grow up. However, my childhood was privileged and my family has been able to support me as I am still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up.

That is not the childhood these children have had. Their entire lives have been turned upside down. They have left their home, their schooling has been interrupted and I have no idea what their future holds. Since I worked with children as young as 3 years old, some of them have been born as asylum seekers. They have never known a home. As Makmoud tells the circle that when he grows up he wants to be a scientist or Tulin says she wants to be a teacher, my heart lurches just a little bit. They have dreams just like any other young person, but where is the hope in the situation?

I spent the time in between classes outside playing lots of games and a lot of the girls loved these hand games. Many of them were different variations of the same clapping patterns I had played at summer camp when I was their age. One of the games involved an elaborate scheme of hitting, pinching and grabbing each other's hands, which ended in each of you making a wish and if the stars had aligned and you were able to uncross your hands in a certain way then your wish came true.

Past

■ continued from previous page easily within reach.

"On our return we spent some time in Denver, where we bought a new seven passenger Cadillac V-8 car while the Chalmers was being painted and reconditioned. Joseph went into the Cadillac garage and worked and became quite an expert at placing cars, tire changing, greasing, and what-have-you. At that time there were not the rules and regulations for drivers that we have now.

The highway engineer informed us it would be a few more days, as heavy rock work had delayed their progress."

Continued next week.

A Matter of Faith

I was playing this game with a young girl named Tulin. She was an absolute class clown, but smart as a whip and always trying to beat the boys in all of the games. She has five brothers and sisters who also attend Happy Caravan. Her family is among one of the families that have been in the camp the longest.

There was a time when her family had been told that they were moving out of the camp and that they were getting a house in Athens. They packed up their things and made the bus ride to Athens, but when they arrived, there seemed to be a lot of confusion and instead of admitting to the family they had made a mistake, the authorities told them they were bringing them to their new home, but instead just drove them to another camp in Athens.

This camp was mainly Afghani refugees and the Kurdish family immediately felt unwelcome and so they made their way back to Thermopylae, where they at least had a community. By the time they had come back, the isobox they had been living in had already been filled by another family. Kindly, another family invited them to share their iso box until they were able to get their own.

When I played this game with Tulin, we made our wishes and we closed our eyes tight, but our hands were tangled, which signaled we

hadn't done it correctly and so our wishes were deemed to fail.

After our failure, Tulin asked me what my wish was and I answered, "I wish we had ice cream!" and asked what she had wished for, "I wished my family could go to Germany."

When I looked at her, I knew this was no longer a game, but a moment where she was sharing with me her hope. Throughout my month at Happy Caravan, Germany came up a lot. Many of the students asked me if I knew German and could teach them or they spoke about what they'll do once their family gets to Germany. It had become this place in their consciousness that was safe and welcoming. If they could just make it to Germany, everything would be OK. Germany meant hope for their future.

At the school, we had two "helpers" who were young adults from the camp, Hammid and Raya. The school paid them weekly and every day they would work with us, mainly being in charge of managing the door. Kids constantly were knocking at the door asking if it was time for class or parents would come by to ask a question, and it was Raya and Hammid's job to answer the door and help with these questions. They both also spoke English well and would help with interpreting when we needed it.

During the month I was there, Raya's family was moved to Germany. She had been in the camp for nearly two years and had been in a camp in Turkey before that. She spoke Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, English and was learning Greek. ■ See Faith on next page

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Mountain View Homemakers presents donations to five Archuleta County nonprofits

By Tozi Rubin
Special to The PREVIEW

Five Archuleta County nonprofit organizations — which benefit the county's men, women and children — received donations from the Mountain View Homemakers during their 2019 Day of Thanksgiving luncheon meeting, held Nov. 14 at the Community United Methodist Church.

Cathy Ashford, 2019 charity chair, introduced each Mountain View Homemakers Board of Directors presenter. Kathy Pfister, board member, presented a club donation to Loaves and Fishes of Archuleta County, represented by Gwen Bartley; Lorna Fox, vice president, congratulated donation recipient Southwest Colorado Respite Resources, represented by Musetta Wollenweber; Tozi Rubin, publicity chair, presented Thingamajig Theatre Company's donation to Laura Moore and Amy Harper;



Photo courtesy Mountain View Homemakers

The Mountain View Homemakers presented donations to five Archuleta County nonprofits during the group's Nov. 14 Day of Thanksgiving luncheon meeting.

Renee Gentry, co-president, congratulated Upper San Juan Search and Rescue and its representatives Donna Wynn and Mike Le Roux; and Jane Baker, treasurer, presented a donation to Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County, represented by Tom Zilhaver and

Larry Jelinek.

Funds for these donations were raised throughout the year from the club's activities, and donation recipients were selected by membership vote at the September meeting.

Mountain View Homemakers congratulates this year's donation recipients and is thankful for the many contributions of all of our county's nonprofit organizations to our communities.

Faith

■ continued from previous page

She told us she was really nervous about learning German. She said she was scared, sad, but also excited. Her family packed up the little amount of things they had for their flight to Germany. There were lots of tears and hugs, but I felt hopeful that maybe this time things would get better for Raya and her family.

There was also a man named Khalid who worked with us. At first, I was really confused about what his position was because he lived in the volunteer house in Kamena Vourla with the rest of the volunteers, but he knew everyone in the camp and told me that he, too, was a Syrian refugee. Eventually, I found out that he had actually been living in that camp when he first started working with the school and then he moved to Germany, but had come back to work at the school again (this might've been because of an epic romance, but

that is a story for another time).

Khalid talked about moving from Thermopylae to Germany, but it wasn't the story I was expecting. I had a naive vision in my head of refugees finally finding a new home. That after long and treacherous journeys, it was finally worth it. For Khalid, he talked about how Germany made him hate carrots because every day at dinner they were served carrots. He talked about how things didn't get much better. He had been at a camp and now he was just in another camp this one just happened to be in Germany.

At first, I was taken aback. I thought about all of those who were dangerously traveling along the Balkan route in hopes to make it to Germany. I thought about Raya's family who had been so excited and hopeful to be going to Germany. I thought about Tulin

■ See Faith on next page

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DURANGO'S FINEST MARIJUANA STORE

The auction and the \$500 cake

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

Dean was a church leader, and his congregation needed to raise some money. So he and his two assistants decided to have an auction. The people of the community seemed excited about the idea. They started to gather anything they felt was of value to the designated area behind the church.

On the day of the auction, the women of the community went all out baking their most delicious desserts. Dean's wife made a beautiful three-layered chocolate cake. She covered it with chocolate frosting and decorated it like a pinwheel using M&M'S. Dean's mouth watered just looking at it.

Just an hour before the auction, Dean got a call. He was disappointed to learn there were some problems where he worked, and he had to come in. He hoped to go in after the auction, but the problem necessitated immediate attention. He knew

it meant he would miss the auction. Dean's children were disappointed that their father couldn't come to the auction with them. Dean felt he was letting them down, but he especially felt he was letting his wife down because she had put a lot of work into helping organize the auction and in making her cake. He decided that he had to do something to show her he desired to be there.

He called his first congregational assistant, but all he got was an answering machine. Dean left a message telling his assistant to bid on the cake his wife had made.

"Bid as high as you need to go to get it for me, and I will pay you back," Dean said.

As Dean headed to work, he got thinking that his first assistant might not be able to make it to the auction because of the work he did, so Dean pulled out his cellphone and called his second assistant. When Dean's second assistant answered, Dean explained the situation.

"I want you to buy my wife's cake

for me," Dean said. "Bid whatever amount needed to get it, and I will pay you back."

The man agreed to do so, and Dean went to work feeling better. When he finished taking care of problems at work, he returned home. The auction was over, and his family was already there.

"How did the auction go?" Dean asked.

"Really well," his wife answered. "We took in a lot of money. But the strangest sale item was my cake."

"How so?" Dean asked.

"Well, most of the food items sold for less than \$25. But your two assistants kept bidding on my cake until it sold for \$500. Then, strangely, the winner gave it to me to bring home, telling me to give it to you."

Dean gasped. He hadn't realized what he was doing in calling both assistants. He found out which one had won the bidding, and then Dean drove to the man's house and paid the \$500 for the cake. When Dean returned home, he explained to his wife what he had done.

Dean then ceremoniously called the family together. He placed the

■ See Cake on next page

Faith

■ continued from previous page

who after everything she had been through, was wishing that her family could just make it to Germany.

I pair these stories with the ones I read in the books "Lights in the Distance" and "The New Odyssey." Story after story, I'm left in awe at the barriers and difficulties that those seeking asylum have to go through. As it is put by Patrick Kingsley, "There is a crisis, but it's one caused largely by our response to the refugees, rather than by the refugees themselves." Yes, the number of people seeking asylum in the EU is great, but they are numbers that should be easily manageable for the world's richest continent to absorb if we had a different response. The physical barriers of migration are turned violent by the bureaucratic system. The system has forced people into systems of exploitation for survival. The moral consciousness that post-World War II Europe has tried to obtain is sinking in the Mediterranean.

This is where I find myself overwhelmed, frustrated and face-to-face with a generation who has had their homes and futures stolen from them. This is no longer a theoretical discussion in a classroom, this is the child I'm giving an apple to who clung to dead bodies for six hours in the Mediterranean to stay afloat and survive. It's in these moments of sober reality that I struggle to believe in the human rights framework that I at one point championed. We have not done well.

One cannot hear the stories of travels through the Sahara or read about the shutdown of rescue mis-

sions in the Mediterranean and believe that this situation has been handled with compassion and kindness. Yet, the reality is that the situations of war or totalitarianism that refugees are leaving make the risks worth it. Even if every part of the system is unwelcoming to these populations, they are still coming. We are faced with the fact that these numbers will only increase in the future as climate refugees become a serious reality.

In this situation when everything feels broken and every story is filled to the brim with pain, what is the function of hope? Did it matter that Germany wasn't necessarily everything it promised to be or does it function more as a source of hope? For the students I worked with, hope wasn't a cute phrase cross-stitched on a pillow, but a survival method, a reason to believe that tomorrow could be better.

In a system against them, I aspire to be a harbinger of hope. I know that I personally am in no position to create much change in this situation, but I am convicted to continue working with this school. I cannot give them back their home or change their status, but I can help them feel like kids again. Happy Caravan aims to provide a safe place to educate, inspire and lead children. While it is by no means a perfect organization, they saw a severe deficit of education for children living in refugee camps and have tried to fill in the gap. Happy Caravan is a place where these children still have futures, a place where there is hope for a better tomorrow.

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Quitting vaping may be a life-saving resolution

Special to The PREVIEW

Electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices were once described as potentially “safer” and “healthier” methods of smoking, even by leading health organizations. Many former tobacco smokers even turned to e-cigarettes as a method to quitting traditional cigarettes. However, recent research into vaping and a rash of mysterious lung illnesses and deaths recently linked to vaping has led many to question if vaping is safe. Those who suspect it's not may be wise to quit.

The illness toll rises

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that, as of September 2019, there were 530 cases of vaping-related lung illnesses. Eight people also died in six states, with the first confirmed death occurring in April. The first known vaping-related illness in Canada was documented on Sept. 18, when a youth from Ontario was put into intensive care for respiratory illness.

While federal and state investigators are largely focusing their investigations on vape cartridges that likely contained tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive

component linked to marijuana, as a potential source of these illnesses, all electronic cigarette devices are now under scrutiny.

A school epidemic

Vaping has quickly become an epidemic in schools. More than 3.6 million American middle and high school students currently use e-cigarettes, according to the latest National Youth Tobacco Study. Teen nicotine vaping rates in 2019 were double those of 2017, the National Institute on Drug Abuse says.

Despite the installation of vaping detectors, and some schools going so far as to remove doors from bathroom stalls, opportunities to vape still abound. Older students may leave campus to vape in their cars during lunch breaks. Laws restricting sales of e-cigarettes to youth in certain states have already been implemented. Lawmakers also plan to ban most flavored e-cigarettes and nicotine pods in an attempt to curtail their use among teenagers.

Mystery ingredients

Many adults look to e-cigarettes to reduce their dependence on tobacco products. However, Johns Hopkins Medical Center warns e-

cigarettes are just as addictive.

Also, many e-cigarette users get even more nicotine through extra-strength cartridges or by increasing the voltage to get a greater hit of the addictive substance. The Food and Drug Administration has not approved vaping as a smoking cessation method.

People never can be certain about the ingredients in vaping liquids. And as the popularity of e-cigarettes grows, newer, cheaper and poorly regulated products are being imported from all over the world to meet the demand.

According to the CDC, exposure to such products may cause a range of symptoms, including cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea and fever. There also have been cases of “popcorn lung,” which derived its name from a former chemical flavoring (diacetyl) used in microwave popcorn linked to scarring of the tiny air sacs in the lungs, resulting in suffocation. Popcorn lung also has been linked to vaping use.

More evidence continues to point to vaping as an unsafe practice. Quitting the habit now can have profound, potentially life-saving effects.



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Cake

■ continued from previous page
beautiful cake in the middle of the kitchen table. “Tonight, after we have finished our family bedtime routine, we are going to each have a piece of your mother’s \$500 cake.”

After they finished their evening family activities, everyone tramped into the kitchen to share the cake.

But as they came through the door, they were in for a disappointment. Their little dog was on the table, covered in chocolate, standing in the midst of the crumbs of what was left of the cake.

So, Dean never even got to taste the most expensive cake he had ever bought.

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Keep safety in mind when decorating for the holidays

Special to The PREVIEW

Decorations help make the holiday season a magical time of year. Stores are awash in color and twinkling lights, and similar imagery is on display in private homes.

Designing holiday displays can be a great way for families to spend time together and kick off the celebration. In fact, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), around 90 percent of Americans decorate their homes for the holidays.

When trimming the tree and decorating this holiday season, families must keep safety in mind. A little planning and some precautionary measures can ensure displays are enjoyed all season long.

Travelers Insurance offers the following holiday decorating safety tips:

- Do not overload outlets. Plan displays according to the number and location of available outlets.
- Never exceed the maximum number of light strands that can be attached together.
- Use lights and products that have been tested for safety. Certification marks like UL, ETL and

CSA are from nationally recognized laboratories.

- LED lights should be used whenever possible. Such lights consume less energy and run cooler than other bulbs.

- The ESFI says candles start almost 50 percent of all decoration fires. Minimize the risk by using candles only when they can be monitored. Artificial candles can be used in place of real candles.

- Check for freshness in live trees. A fresh tree will last longer and is less of a fire hazard than an old tree.

- Place Christmas trees at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and heaters.

- Use decorations that are non-combustible or made from flame-resistant materials.

- Pay attention to the age recommendations of decorations to see if they can be used in homes with young children. Some items, however common, are choking or strangulation hazards.

- Avoid putting small, “mouth-sized” decorations near the ground or on lower limbs of trees, where young children can easily reach them.

- Exercise caution when hanging decorations at high heights. Make sure the ladder is secured and have a spotter who can hold the ladder and pass items up safely.

- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs.

- Exercise caution when decorating near power lines that extend to the house.

- Keep hung stockings far away from open flames so they do not catch any errant embers.

These are just a few suggestions for decorating a safely for the holiday season.

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How to make holiday wreaths the easy way

Special to The PREVIEW

There are many different ways to decorate homes and businesses for the holidays. Tall evergreen trees are among the most visible symbols of the holiday season. However, wreaths hung on doors, windows or fences also are ubiquitous this time of year.

Wreaths adorn homes primarily during the holidays of Easter and Christmas. Wreaths have also been worn around the head or neck in ceremonial events around the globe for centuries. It is believed the first wreaths date back to ancient Greece and Rome. Members of the Greco-Roman society were known to hand-make ring-shaped items using fresh tree leaves, small fruits, flowers and twigs. Oftentimes these headdresses symbolized a person's social status. Others suggest wreaths evolved to become a Christian symbol of immortality.

Regardless of how wreaths are viewed, many people like to display wreaths for the holidays. Wreaths can be purchased premade, but making a wreath on your own can make the holidays even more fun.

One of the easiest ways to make a wreath is to design it around a circular floral foam form. Gather supplies

to make the wreath. For traditional wreaths, supplies will include sprigs of evergreen (real or artificial), ribbon, floral wire, bows and artificial berries. Working around the foam form, arrange the boughs of evergreen using the floral wire to wrap or pin into the foam itself. Keep the layers coming until you get the desired coverage. Embellish with a ribbon or place a bow.

The blog A Piece of Rainbow says that creating a wreath jig is an easy way to make a wreath. Cut a dollar-store laundry basket bottom from the top ring to make a template, on which you can place wreath-making materials so they keep their circular form. Use floral wire or natural jute string to tie the materials together. Experiment with fresh evergreen, twigs, holly branches or whatever materials you choose.

Thick card stock also can serve as the wreath template. Attach artificial flowers or leaves, spray snow, ornaments or other items to the card stock ring with a firm adhesive.

Many craft stores sell wreath forms made of natural vines that have been strung in a ring. These can be decorated in their entirety or left a little sparse to let the natural twine show through.



Christmas Festival in the Mountains Chama Elementary/Middle School Gym

Saturday, December 7

Bazaar at the Chama Elementary/Middle School Gym

9 am-4 pm

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Meet Santa 11 am-2 pm

Bake Sale benefiting UPTC

Christmas Tree Auction benefiting UPTC

Caroling and Hot Cocoa at Eddie Vigil Park

Chama Christmas Light Fight Downtown 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 8

Bazaar at the Chama Elementary/Middle School Gym

9 am-1 pm

Concessions

Tacky Sweater Contest 10 am registration

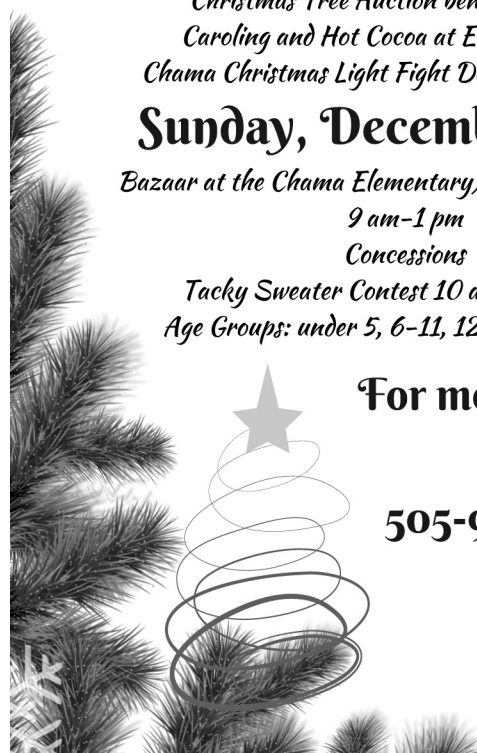
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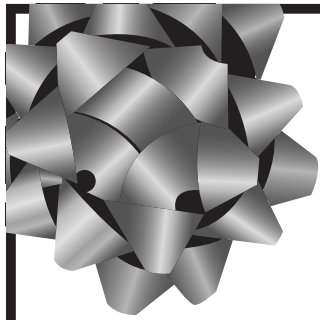
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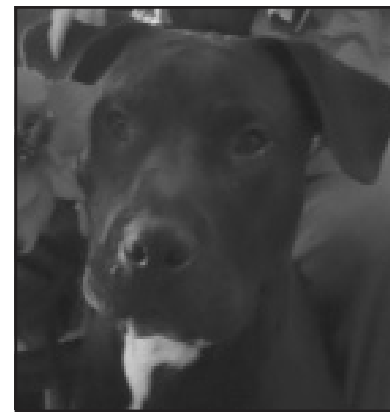
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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Archuleta County offices will be closed from 11:45am-2:15pm on Thursday, December 19th to allow all county employees to attend their employee appreciation and holiday luncheon.

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.

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A.A. PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP meets at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Tuesday 7p.m. Big Book Study (closed); Thursday 7p.m. Discussion (open); Questions (970)245-9649, www.aa-westerncolorado.org or www.aadistrict18.org; Ken or Charlotte (970)903-9690.

TRADITIONAL ALANON GROUP: Traditional AlAnon Group meets Mondays, 6p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Dr. (325)669-9715.

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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.

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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.

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.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

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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.

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DENTAL HYGIENIST: San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to drcricsmithdds@aol.com or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

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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.

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.

PROPERTY

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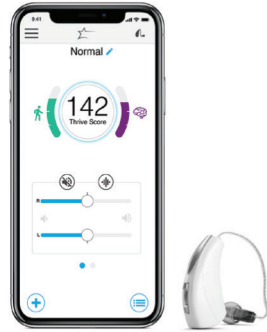
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Cognitive Decline

Adults* with hearing loss experience a 30-40% faster decline in cognitive abilities than their peers with normal hearing.

*75 years and older

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In a recent survey, adults* with untreated hearing loss were more likely to report depression, anxiety and paranoia than peers who wore hearing aids.

*50 years and older

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