



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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CenturyLink will pay \$8,476,000 for charging hidden fees, overbilling

By Emily Wenger
Special to The SUN

Attorney General Phil Weiser announced recently that CenturyLink will pay \$8,476,000 for unfairly and deceptively charging hidden fees, falsely advertising guaranteed locked prices, and failing to provide discounts and refunds it promised to consumers who signed up for Internet, television and telephone services in Colorado.

“One of CenturyLink’s main selling points is that its prices are low and affordable. Yet, we received hundreds of complaints from consumers that their bills were more than the advertised price or the price that sales agents quoted them. This sticker shock often was a result of misleading hidden fees, overcharges for services and CenturyLink’s failure to deliver discounts that they promised to consumers when they signed up

■ See CenturyLink A9

School board names four finalists for superintendent position

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Four finalists have been named for the Archuleta School District (ASD) superintendent position.

Current ASD Superintendent Linda Reed will retire at the end of the school year.

The four finalists are:

- Dr. Thomas Heald, current interim superintendent with the Aspen School District.
- Laura Mijares, current assistant superintendent for ASD.
- Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza, current state director for the Rocky Mountain Region AVID Center in Pueblo.
- John Pandolfo, superintendent of Barre Unified Union School District in Vermont.

The firm of McPherson and Jacobson, based in Omaha, Neb., was hired to conduct the search.

Finalist selection process

At a special meeting on Dec. 19 the ASD Board of Education (BOE) held a special meeting where it whittled down seven candidates to four finalists during an executive session.

Board president Brooks Lindner spoke after the board came out of executive session.

“I wanna repeat that no decisions were made. We did reach a consensus on being able to look at four finalist candidates for our superintendent position,” Lindner said.

In a follow-up phone call, Lindner explained he asked the school district’s lawyer if the process of whittling down seven candidates to four finalists would be permitted in executive session.

“We talked to our lawyer about that and he assured us that we were

■ See School A9



Frigid morning temperatures create a picturesque winter scene near Yamaguchi Park. This week’s chance of snow is set to continue through Saturday.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

County ransomware virus eradicated, hackers ask for \$300,000

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer



Cersonsky

A computer virus downloaded to Archuleta County computers on Nov. 23 encrypted all county servers and files and demanded a \$300,000 Bitcoin ransom.

County staff originally announced that it was not ransomware.

The virus was eradicated in 18 days by a team spearheaded by Archuleta County Information Technology (IT) Coordinator Gabe Cersonsky.

Cersonsky had just finished participating in a conference in Denver when he received word from staff at the dispatch center that some county systems weren’t

■ See Ransomware A8



Photos courtesy Archuleta County

Above: Frankie Martinez, a 28-year employee of Archuleta County, poses with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners after receiving a certificate of appreciation for his nearly three decades of service. Below: Martinez poses with Lorraine Martinez, his wife of 42 years, during a retirement party that preceded his receiving the certificate of appreciation.

Frankie Martinez to retire after 28 years with Archuleta County

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Frankie Martinez is retiring after more than 28 years with Archuleta County and was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the county commissioners at their meeting on Dec. 17.

“Frank, you’re gonna be missed,” said Commissioner Steve Wadley, adding, “There’s just been a multitude of county employees and elected officials over the years. You’ve always been a friendly face and a welcoming personality to have for all of us. Frank, we all appreciate it. We’re all better off to know you.”

“I know Frank has always been dedicated to Archuleta County,” said Commissioner Ron Maez, adding, “This man was truly dedicated to this job

■ See Martinez A9



Sales tax revenues continue to climb Up 29.7 percent in October

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

The October sales tax report for Archuleta County disseminated by Archuleta County Finance Director Larry Walton shows a 29.7 percent revenue increase compared to October of 2018.

The 29.7 percent increase amounts to an additional \$265,743 in sales tax revenue compared to October 2018.

The gross amount of the October

sales tax revenue is \$1,160,328.23. The town’s share is \$578,544.12 and the county’s share is \$581,784.11.

The town and county split sales tax revenue evenly; the difference between the two amounts is a transfer made for aviation taxes.

Sales tax revenues for January through October are about \$1.2 million higher than the same period in 2018.

The October 2019 report indi-

■ See Sales A8

Town council sticks with URA structure

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

With a 6-1 vote on Dec. 19, the Pagosa Springs Town Council opted to keep the organizational structure of the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) as it was originally approved in November.

The town reconsidered the structure of the URA after hearing concerns from multiple special districts that the URA’s 11-member governing commission does not

include sufficient special district representation.

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

■ See Town A15

Index		Sports	
Opinion	A2	Pirates capture three straight wins at Montrose tournament	A10
Letters	A3	Public Notices	A14
Obituary	A4	PREVIEW	
Business	A5	Live Performers	2
Education	A7	Classifieds	23
		PagosaSUN.com ExplorePagosa.com Pagosa.info	

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
- Head Pressman**
Robert Penton
- Assistant Pressman**
Brian Maurer-Townsend
- Mailing Room Staff**
William Thomas
Lawrence Castolonia
- Classified Advertising/Front Office**
Missy Phelan, classads@pagosasun.com
Shana Young-Gawdun, classads@pagosasun.com

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			Type	Depth	Moisture
12/17	25	2	S	T	.01"
12/18	38	-2	-	-	-
12/19	35	2	-	-	-
12/20	36	0	-	-	-
12/21	44	5	-	-	-
12/22	48	14	-	-	-
12/23	48	13	-	-	-

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EDITORIAL

Ideas from readers for 2020

The new year is upon us, and in the tradition of a fresh start with the fresh year, we asked readers to share their ideas for the changes they want to see in Pagosa Country during 2020.

Several of the comments The SUN received were focused on roads, or the lack thereof, and the issues with driving in our community.

Kathy McKimmy wants, "Better phone and internet service. Roads to be fixed that last longer than a year. Affordable housing for the low income and service industry workers."

Michele Sweitzer wrote, "People to be more kind, and learn to drive on the snow packed roads. Speaking of roads...better roads."

Lea Schwulst-Young wrote, "Consistency in repairing our roads...all of them."

Jeff Siekmeier added, "Better roads that have medians better maintained when it snows we shouldn't wait for 3 days to plow and we should use sand when they are icy 132 accidents and it's only December."

Keeping with the theme, Kathleen Galloway wrote, "Fix Piedra Road. It's a mess."

Carrie Thomas added, "Decent roads to drive on, we all pay a lot of

money in taxes for our roads, there are pot holes everywhere! Even the highway 160! RIDICULOUS!"

Patty Sanner wants, "Easier highway accessibility throughout city limits. ps: a bypass."

Christy Curnow replied to Sanner, writing, "Patty Sanner this would be awesome on July 4th when it takes me 2 hours to get home from work."

Bob Kavli wrote, "I would like to see billboards that tell people that the deer and animals were here first and people need to slow down! Well, maybe just text it to everyone's phone as people don't seem to read road signs anyway."

Krissy Gardikis replied, "Bob Kavli there are deer signs, people just don't pay attention."

Annie Stone also replied to Kavli, "Bob Kavli I like the idea, but please, no billboards!"

Kavli responded writing, "Annie Stone sorry, my bad sense of humor."

Greg Pilgrim wrote, "Like many others here, I would like to see the commissioners and Road/Bridge make a priority of our roads. We don't need anymore 'Road Damage' signs installed....we need roads repaired. Tourism is a huge draw here....the road conditions are a huge blight upon our

city and county."

Annie Stone wrote "Fix potholes faster & keep them fixed. More small town kindness & slower drivers."

Kelly Myers shared, "I'd like to see the potholes fixed and a turn lane on Put Hill."

Mary Miller added, "Get Talisman Drive repaved...not just fill in pot holes."

Julian Grigsby wrote, "Texans learning how to use turn signals."

Liz Elkin Lemons responded, "Julian Grigsby absolutely correct!! And I'm a Texan!!"

Jeanna Duran added, "For people to take their cell phones off their ear while driving and pay attention to the surrounding traffic on the roads. For the tourists who love our town so much to have respect and quit being reckless. & being speedsters on the roads."

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

One thing's for certain, we have a lot to look forward to in 2020. Let's all do our part and resolve to get involved to make our community better.

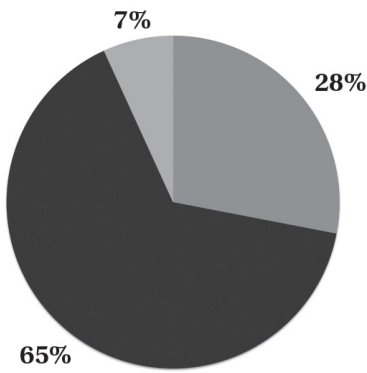
Terri Lynn Oldham House

WHADDYA THINK?

What will the local economy do in 2020?

Poll results (109 votes)

Improve — 43 percent
Weaken — 31 percent
Stay the same — 26 percent



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

www.pagosasun.com

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264-8303
Steve Wadley
264-8304
Alvin Schaaf
264-8305

Pagosa Springs Town Council
Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger
dvolger@gmail.com
Matt DeGuisse
mdeguisse@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

LOOKING BACK



Photo courtesy Valerie Buseman

The following information is provided by Ophelia Gomez Downey (daughter of Felix Gomez). In the early half of the 1800s, one of the first settlers in the Dulce, N.M., area was Jose Eugenio Gomez. This is a picture of his sons and friend, Emmett Wirt, circa 1919. Bottom row, left to right, are Felix Gomez and Cristobal Gomez. Second row, left to right, are Lino Gomez, Emmett Wirt, Manuel Gomez and Jose Eugenio Gomez Jr.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 27, 1929

We daresay that there were few places at this clime and altitude that the game of golf could be indulged in on Christmas day, as was done at the Sunetha course near Pagosa Springs Wednesday. Several enthusiasts partook of the sport — and how!

Our tropical weather continues with no sign of abatement at this time. Both Wolf Creek and Cumbres passes remain open, and all highways in the San Juan basin are reported in excellent condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo Alley depart Sunday on a week's business and pleasure trip to Denver. During their absence the variety store will be conducted by Don Gallegos Jr.

Jas. F. Corrigan and family now occupy the F.A. Byrne ranch, just west of Pagosa Springs, which they are equipping for a dairy ranch, as will be noted in their announcement elsewhere in this issue.

Four of the new apartments in the Montroy building will be ready for occupancy tomorrow, according to Leon Montroy.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 29, 1944

Father Pedro Arrigo conducted High Mass at St. Edward's Catholic Church Sunday at midnight, Donald Archuleta, Larkin Villarreal, Dan Martinez and Joseph Lynn were the altar boys.

Frank Archuleta, who had been working for Paris Engler at Allison for the past two years has resigned his job and is moving to his own ranch eight miles northwest of Chromo this week.

Cpl. Ralph Yamaguchi, veteran of the Mediterranean War Theatre, for more than 6 months, where he was critically wounded, arrived home Sunday for a 30-day visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F.R. Yamaguchi of this city. His mother and George Yanase met him in Durango Sunday, when he arrived from Brigham City, Utah, where he has long been hospitalized. "Hoppon" as best we know him, is a busy boy this week getting acquainted with his parents and family and his many friends here.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 25, 1969

The ski area on Wolf Creek Pass will operate every day through the holidays except for Christmas Day. Hours of operation each day are from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. All tows and facilities at the area are operating and skiing is excellent. Some new snow this past week helped in the few areas that were getting icy and skiing is considered as good as any in the state, if not better. Dean Cox, manager of the area, said that crowds so far this year have not been large and that lift lines are extremely short. At times last weekend there was no line at all on the larger tows. With the addition of the new Treasure Lift, tow lines at Wolf Creek are very short.

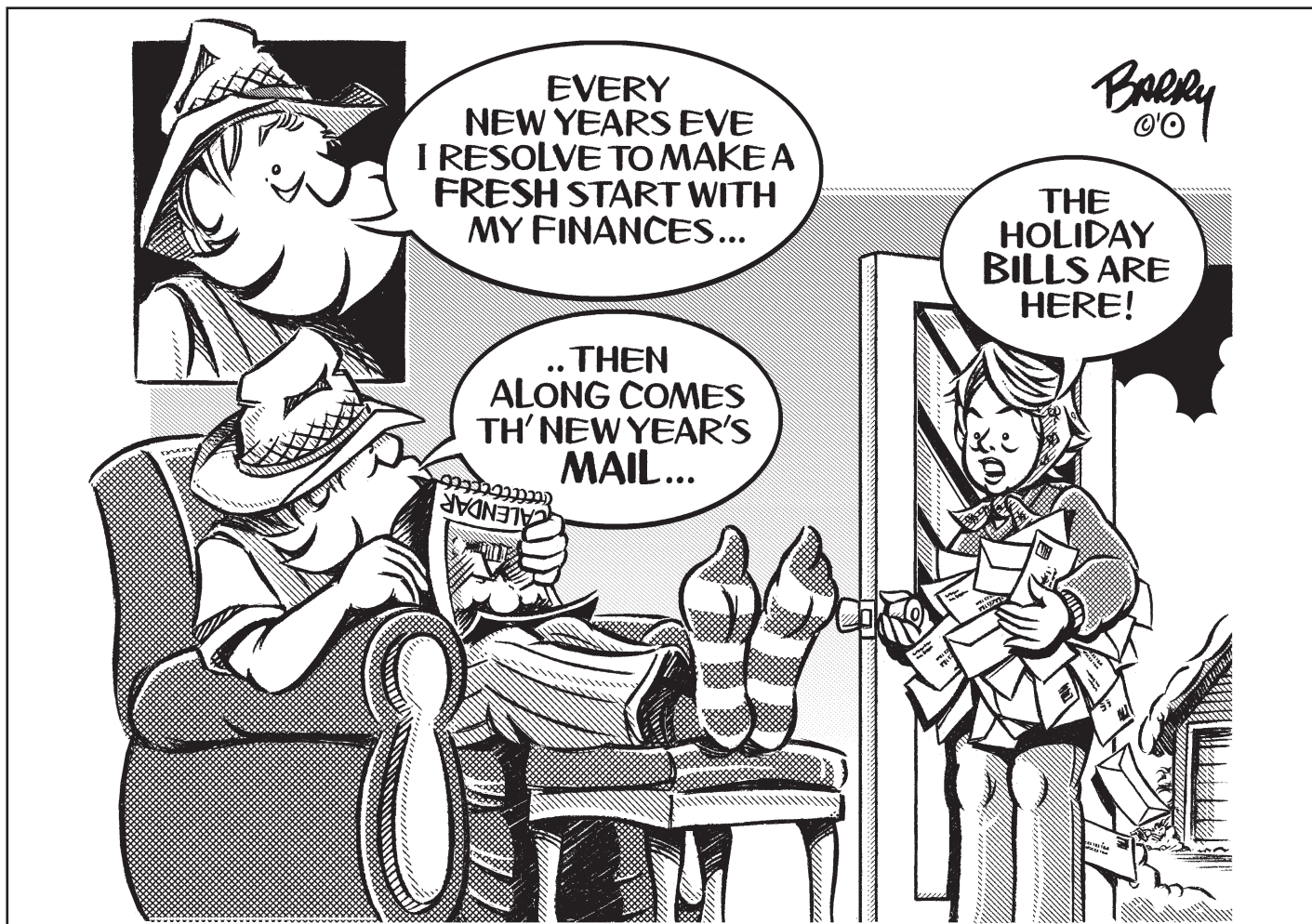
Three members of the school board, V.A. Poma, Grover Caywood, and Mrs. Mamie Lynch, were present for a regular meeting of that board Tuesday night. Subjects discussed ranged from bus routes, janitor's salaries, and gravel to remodeling. A donation for rent for the gym to the local sorority was voted. The sorority recently conducted a fashion revue there and the board felt that the cause was worthy enough to donate the rent.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 29, 1994

With the 1995 Archuleta County budget approved, the way is paved for county roads and bridges to receive increased attention, with more funds and efforts diverted to the road system during the next 12 months. Maintenance and upgrading of an extensive road system is one of the biggest problems faced by Archuleta County Commissioners — in particular when the twin dilemmas of deteriorating road surfaces and limited revenues are taken into consideration. With a total county budget of more than \$6 million, the commissioners budgeted \$1,856,175 for the road and bridge department (3.5 mills).

On Jan. 3, the Pagosa Sparklers will represent their community at the Tournament of Roses Parade, at Pasadena, California — the first all female equestrian group from Colorado to ride in the famous event. The Sparklers left for the West Coast on Tuesday morning, the trip made a reality with the aid of a fundraising effort launched in November.



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.

'Approval Voting'

Dear Editor:
When your family or friend group tries to decide on a holiday activity, how do you do it without causing more stress? Will you go to a holiday market to see the lights, or go ice skating? What about the mall, or snowshoeing?

Usually, the decision is made through a show of hands, letting everybody vote for more than one activity if they want to. How and why does this method, also known as Approval Voting, work better than our current politically divisive, brutal, single vote per person method?

Too often with a single vote, the voter has to be strategic with their precious vote — avoid wasting the vote on a spoiling "loser". If you can only pick one, and you want an outdoor activity, you might go with skating instead of snowshoeing. If you still need a gift for Aunt Martha the mall might work better, but you might be willing to join the fresh air folks and go to the outdoor holiday market.

With more than one vote, the voter can endorse the moderate center consensus activities and express a true preference that may

not have others' support.
People also can reach consensus by eliminating "extreme" alternatives. But if we eliminate others' preferences rather than advocate for our true preferences, we get stuck in the rut of the mediocre. We do the same old boring safe activity and never discover something new.

Maybe this is the Holiday Spirit — build consensus rather than trying to eliminate what we consider to be undesirable extremes. I urge you to use Approval Voting this holiday season. Happy holidays.

Frank Atwood
Littleton, Colo.

Questions for you

Dear Editor:

The current Credit Suisse Wealth Report, the war over dominance in the tech world, Foreign Affairs issue addressing the Changes in capitalism and climate change presents America with a series of serious challenging conundrums.

Quick world current recap:
• 1% of the world possesses 50% of all wealth

• America has 46% of all millionaires

• China has 50% of the world's middle class, whereas America's middle class is practically hollowed out

• China has most manufacturing capability

• Educationally America is slipping badly in all categories

• America must choose between competition combined with deterrence vs. a 'cold war' with China.

• AI is the new battle ground and to win a nation needs allies.

The WHouse is doing everything possible to deter any reliance on the USA. Further, Huawei is winning the 5G global integration battle.

• Africa is currently the most rapidly developing continent in the world while also to suffer the most dramatic negative impact of climate change. China's major foreign investment (\$trillions) is going into Africa (raw materials) and Asia ('belt & road' project) This revitalization of the Silk Road will connect Asian trade with Europe.

• Asia generally speaking has the most oceanside cities to be destroyed by rising seas. The WHouse pulled out of all related major trade agreements and is destroying our S. Korean defense agreements to favor more dialogue with 'rocket boy.'

So here's a series of questions for you:

• Which political party do you think will most effectively respond to these challenges in 2020?

• As we possess the most wealth, should our tax reg.'s be changed to favor/mandate investment in R&D, education and future energy sources other than oil & gas?

• Should 'our' corporations be encouraged or required to re-

patriate their \$trillions of cash held abroad?

• Should term limits be mandated for State & Federal elected positions

• Should spending limits be imposed on election campaigns

Dave Blake

The Nancy Pelosi magic show

Dear Editor:

Unlike the Clinton impeachment, which convicted a Democrat president of committing perjury (which is a crime), the current impeachment has relied on the magician's sleight of hand to try and convince the American people that another crime has been committed. U. S. House leader, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, has started the show by authorizing head wizard, Democrat Adam Schiff, to have exclusive star chamber interviews with supposed "witnesses" about a well publicized phone call that President Trump made. These interviews, which included a secret whistleblower, were closed to Republicans. Also, according to the WSJ, Schiff obtained phone records, perhaps illegally, on Republicans and a journalist so he could further this attempt to find something, anything that would prove his case. This was much different than Clinton's impeachment where the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee praised the Republicans for conducting a fair and bipartisan impeachment.

These magical proceedings produced the desired result of finding grounds to impeach Trump. They, of course, have no connection to the U.S. Constitution which says in Article II section 4 "The president, vice president and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." This standard is not met by the "trumped" up fabrications conjured up by the Democrat leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives.

However, Pelosi's and Schiff's magic spell has successfully hypnotized most of their fellow Democrats. This spell has been able to blind many Democrats as to what

the Constitution actually says and has captivated all the Colorado U. S. House Democrats, including my representative, Jason Crow. Sadly, I believed his campaign line that he would not become a Pelosi clone and would be able to think and act independently. Not. Hopefully, all thinking Coloradans will remember their representative's vote come election time.

Thank goodness there are still a lot of thinking Americans who will go to the polls next year. At that time let's hope they bring down the curtain on the Pelosi magic show and all those who engaged in this historic flop.

Charles Newton
Highlands Ranch

Vaping crisis

Dear Editor:

I was reading People magazine (all information, statistics, and quotes in this letter were taken from People magazine dated 12/19/19, pgs. 48-51) when I saw an article whose title was headed by the words "The Vaping Crisis". Not knowing what vaping meant, I read the article which horrified me. It was about a once healthy athlete named Walker McKnight who was 19 years old when he bought his first e-cigarette. This is a device that can be smaller than a flash drive and contains tiny pods, often flavored. Each pod can contain as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes. Two months later, he was almost dead.

When Walker McKnight first used e-cigarettes, he experienced "really intense, good feelings" which also helped take the edge off of school pressures. His usage increased rapidly, but before two weeks were over, he stopped feeling the positive effects, yet became "nervous and twitchy" without it. He couldn't quit.

Two months after his first e-cigarette, Walker experienced chest pains, fever, vomiting. His vision was affected. Two weeks later he was hospitalized and required a respirator. More details about his diagnosis and treatment are in the article, but suffice it here to say that the doctors knew he was dying.

After being hospitalized for over four months, Walker had "lost 80

■ See Letters A4

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include the author's phone number and address
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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.

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

SCOTT

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189 Talisman Drive, Ste. D // Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
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County approves 2020 budget

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

At a special meeting on Dec. 12, the county commissioners adopted Archuleta County's 2020 budget.

The budget includes:

- About \$38.5 million in expenditures.
- About \$31 million in revenues.
- \$1.2 million for a new Department of Human Services (DHS) Building (being combined with about \$12 million in grants).
- About \$3.1 million for road and bridge capital projects.
- About \$4.5 million in Justice System Capital Fund expenditures, which include jail construction and lease payments, remodeling costs for the former home of Norma and Fred Harman III to move the sheriff's office there, and design costs for a new courthouse.

County Finance Director Larry Walton explained in a follow-up email that the about \$7.5 million gap between revenues and expenditures is covered with existing fund balances and was not taken from reserves.

Walton explained during his budget presentation that the 2020 mill levy distribution to the county's Road and Bridge Department was reduced by 80 percent to shift resources to pay for the new DHS building and to make payments on the county's new jail, set to open around June 2020.

Walton's presentation notes that the change reduces funding towards "road capital improvements" over the long term but not for the 2020 fiscal year.

Walton has explained previously that reduction cut the Town of Pagosa Springs' share of that money by about \$100,000.

Walton's presentation slides noted that "internal strategic considerations" of the budget include maintaining "healthy reserve balances to insure stable service delivery," which include:

- \$370,523 in Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) reserves.
- \$2,967,911 in operating reserves.
- \$3,957,214 in strategic reserves.

Walton stated that he often gets questions about why the county puts so much money in reserves and explained that it is to hedge against any sort of economic downturn, like the recession that happened just over a decade ago.

Walton also explained that property tax revenue, which is up 8.7 percent in 2019 compared to 2018, went down significantly around 2010 and the county still hasn't recovered.

"If the tax had been flat and level and the recession hadn't occurred, we would have picked up another \$20.5 million dollars, which would have been enough to pretty much take care of all of our capital needs," Walton said.

Capital facility needs, like completing construction on the jail, retrofitting the Harman home to house the sheriff's office and constructing a new courthouse were all big projects that had to be made room for in the budget, according to Walton.

"Really, we were as frugal as we could be as all over the place," Walton said, adding that the county "put whatever we could" into the Justice System Capital Fund.

"I think we're down about as bare bones as we can get," Commissioner Ron Maetz said, adding, "We still have to have a jail, we still have to have a courthouse by state statute, so we're doing everything we can to stay within statute regulations."

"And you can see how close we cut it in order to accumulate as much as possible for that courthouse in

addition to taking care of our debt," Walton replied.

"And still trying to maintain roads," added Maetz.

Walton explained in making money available for the courthouse, the county has been able to identify about \$650,000 for the project.

He likened finding the money for the courthouse in a tight budget year to "squeezing as much blood out of a turnip as we can."

"We're appropriating over \$38 million dollars this morning and there's not one member of the public other than the newspaper in the room," Commissioner Steve Wadley observed after the vote.

The budget was adopted unanimously with a 3-0 vote among Wadley, Maetz and Commissioner Alvin Schaff.

Setting mill levies

The county commissioners also approved a resolution to set mill levies.

The resolution reads, "That for the purpose of meeting all general operating expenses of the County of Archuleta during the 2020 budget year, there is hereby levied a tax of 18.233 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within Archuleta County for the year 2019;"

"... That for the purpose of rendering a refund to its constituents during budget year 2020, there is hereby levied a temporary tax credit/mill levy reduction of 0.849 mills."

The resolution states that the 2019 valuation for assessment in the county is about \$348 million.

Appropriating funds

The commissioners also passed a resolution appropriating sums of money to various funds and agencies, which include:

- \$14.7 million to the county's General Fund.
- \$7.6 million to the Road and Bridge Department.
- \$1.1 million to the dispatch fund.
- \$470,335 to the airport fund.
- \$5.8 million to DHS.

Supplemental budget and appropriation

At a special meeting of the county commissioners on Dec. 19, the commissioners adopted a resolution appropriating additional sums of money and certified levies and revenue for 21 governmental entities.

Walton explained the supplemental budget and appropriation resolution at the meeting.

"Basically what we're doing here is taking the sum of the unanticipated revenue, the revenue not anticipated by the budget, that we did receive and adding it to the 2019 budget and then using that to increase some of the budgets of some departments that went over budget," Walton explained.

"So this is the end of the year cleanup?" asked Wadley, to which Walton agreed.

The resolution appropriated \$410,000, the bulk of which was appropriated to the sheriff's office (\$140,000 for inmate housing in La Plata County), as well as \$150,000 in unanticipated payments in lieu of taxes that were transferred to the county's General Fund.

Certification of mill levies

The commissioners also voted to certify mill levies and revenue for budget year 2020.

Archuleta County's 18.233 mills are divided as follows:

- 13.674 mills (75 percent) to the county's General Fund.
- .912 mills (5 percent) to the county's Road and Bridge Fund.
- 3.647 mills (20 percent) to DHS.

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Letters

Continued from A3

pounds, and his left lung and both kidneys had been destroyed". His family is now "focused on getting Walker strong enough to endure having his left lung removed and the kidney transplants doctors say he now needs to survive".

Yes, this is one person's experience, and it is an extreme. It is also a serious wake-up call. "CDC officials say the past several months have brought an 'alarming epidemic' in vaping-related illnesses as well as 47 deaths in the U.S. linked to vaping". According to Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the CDC, "Lung injury associated with e-cigarette or vaping product use is serious and potentially fatal. There is no safe tobacco product." Walker "estimates that nearly 90% of his friends still vape on a regular basis".

Walker "is just one of thousands of young people across the nation who have been hospitalized with serious lung illnesses associated

with vaping". It seems obvious to me that more education and control or elimination of this easily obtainable product is necessary. Please research this for yourself. Especially if you have minor children.

Statistics from the article include:

- 1) "25.4% of high school seniors reported vaping in the past month;
- 2) 131% increase in the number of high school seniors who vape since 2017;
- 3) 2290 people diagnosed with lung illnesses attributed to vaping".

The article also gives the following "Signs Your Kid is Vaping":

- 1) Unexplained sweet odor (from scented or flavored vapors);
- 2) Secretive behavior — frequent excuses to go to the bathroom or outside to vape;
- 3) Mood swings — nicotine in vaping can produce extreme anxiety or explosive anger;
- 4) Unfamiliar electronics — and most require batteries or charging devices"

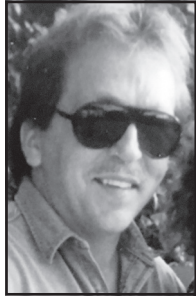
Sally Yates

Obituary

Cyril Donald Wilhelmi

After nearly a decade of battling health issues, Cyril Donald Wilhelmi passed peacefully from this earth on Dec. 16 in Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Cyril (Don) is the eldest of three brothers and three sisters. Born in Elgin, Ill., on Feb. 24, 1950, to Cyril Joseph and Merilda (DeRosier) Wilhelmi, Don spent his early years in Crystal Lake, Ill., before moving to California soon after high school. Don returned to the Crystal Lake area, where he lived until later in life when he moved again with his wife, Julie (Frost), from their home in Lake in the Hills, Ill., to a ranch outside of Pagosa Springs.



Don had several successful businesses throughout his life — a thriving cleaning and maintenance company in California, a prosperous residential and commercial construction company in Illinois, and a remodeling and refurbishing business that he worked at until health issues disabled him performing his duties. Don had a reputation for high-quality craftsmen and over the years has generously helped a lot of people with their construction projects.

Don is survived by his wife, Julie (Frost), daughter Sara, son Sean, and grandchildren Collin and Charlie Patterson, and Olivia and Jaqueline Wilhelmi.

We wish Don our very best and he will be loved and missed. Please provide Don's family with your memories of him at DonWmemories@gmail.com.

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PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER SERVICE CHARGE CHANGES JANUARY 16, 2020

At a public hearing in September of 2018, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors approved changes to the rates for water service customers. The changes will increase the minimum monthly service charge per equivalent unit and increase the volume rate charges by 6% annually through 2023 and will equate to a 33.74% cumulative increase over the 5 year period.

The following changes will be implemented in 2020:

WATER CHARGES

Monthly Service Charge: (per equivalent unit)	increase from \$24.91 to \$26.40
Volume Charge:	
2,001-8,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$4.47 to \$4.74
8,001-20,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$8.94 to \$9.48
Over 20,001 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$11.23 to \$11.90

Water Fill Station Charge per 1,000 gallons:	increase from \$9.65 to \$10.23
Water Availability of Service	remains at \$14.30
Wastewater Availability of Service	remains at \$12.50

The Capital Investment Fees for both water and wastewater will increase by 3% per year.

WASTEWATER CHARGES

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

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

For assistance regarding how these proposed rate changes could affect your water bill, please call 970-731-2691 and a staff member will be able to do a comparison based upon your historical usage.



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Business

County unemployment rises to 2.8 percent in November

By John Finerock
Staff Writer

The unemployment rate for Archuleta County increased to 2.8 percent in November from 2.5 percent in October, with 7,122 people in the labor force and 197 of those claiming unemployment.

In October, there were 7,191 people in the county's labor force, with 179, or 2.5 percent, claiming unemployment.

The total workforce decreased by 69 people over the course of the month, while the number of unemployed people increased by 18.

Looking at the November employment situation for the rest of the state, San Miguel County had the highest unemployment rate for the month at 6.7 percent, while Yuma county had the lowest rate at 1.2 percent.

The unemployment rate in Colorado stayed the same from October to November at 2.6 percent, according to the survey of households.

Statewide, the number of people actively participating in the labor force in Colorado increased 5,600 from October to November, to 3,170,400, and the number of people reporting

themselves as employed increased 6,700 to 3,088,100.

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percent from October to November, falling to 3.5 percent.

The unemployment rate, labor force participation, total employment and the number of unemployed are based on a survey of households. The total employment estimate derived from this survey is intended to measure the number of people employed.

However, nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The business establishment survey covers about seven times the number of households surveyed and is, therefore, considered a more reliable indicator of economic conditions.

Because the estimates are based on two separate surveys, one measuring jobs by work site and the other measuring persons employed and unemployed by household, estimates based on these surveys may provide seemingly conflicting results.

From October to November, nonfarm payroll jobs in Colorado increased by 4,100 for a total of 2,796,800, with private-sector jobs increasing by 3,100 and government jobs increasing by 1,000.

Over the month, the largest private-sector job gains were in educational and health services; and trade, transportation and utilities; and financial activities.

The largest over-the-month decline was in leisure and hospitality.

Over the year, the number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased by 40,900, total employment increased by 72,500 and the number of unemployed decreased by 31,600.

Other data that is gathered by the survey of business establishments includes private-sector average weekly hours, average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees in private nonfarm payroll jobs increased from 33 to 33.2 hours from January to November.

Average hourly earnings increased from \$29.56 to \$30.55 during the same time period.
john@pagosasun.com

CHFA recognizes local nonprofit with \$10,000 Direct Effect Award

By Megan Herrera
Special to The SUN

The Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) is proud to announce the 2019 Corporate Giving Direct Effect Award winners.

CHFA's Direct Effect Awards recognized 15 Colorado nonprofit organizations whose missions align with CHFA's work to strengthen Colorado by investing in affordable housing and community development.

Rising Stars of Pagosa Springs – Pagosa Play Place was awarded \$10,000.

CHFA received 126 Direct Effect Award applications. All eligible entries were judged by a panel comprised of CHFA staff and board members. Award winners were selected based on the organization's alignment with CHFA's mission and proposed use of funds to further

their work in the communities they serve.

Top consideration was given to organizations that are supporting rural communities; serving special needs populations such as homeless, veterans, seniors or those living with disabilities; and advancing innovation in construction practices, service delivery, community collaboration and partnerships, or other kinds of change-making endeavors that support housing stability and/or economic prosperity.

The following organization description for Rising Stars was provided by CHFA:

"Rising Stars of Pagosa Springs is a 501(c)3 nonprofit doing business as Pagosa Play Place. The Pagosa Play Place is the response of Rising Stars of Pagosa Springs to the lack of a stimulating, safe, clean, and climate-controlled play area/activity center for children age 0-10 in the community. In operation since March 2018, their facility provides engaging indoor play equipment; infant toys for motor development; and music, art, story time, and science discovery classes supported by the community, sponsors, and their membership families. The Pagosa Play Place also serves as a critical space for parents to meet, connect, and share their experiences. The incorporated workspace supports stay-at-home parents, remote workers, and online learners.

"Rising Stars recently began a collaboration with Rise Above Violence of Archuleta County, a nonprofit helping victims of domestic violence, through a multi-family membership sponsored by Sohun Global Foundation. The Play Place is also partnered with two other nonprofits in Pagosa Springs—Friends of the San Juan River (whose mission closely aligns

with the importance of safe play), and Thingamajig Theater (who shares opportunities for supporting the arts).

"Rising Stars will use their Direct Effect Award in the following ways: Fifty percent will be allocated towards expanding facility use, allowing parents more freedom and giving the Pagosa Play Place more opportunities for community development and nonprofit collaborations; thirty percent will go towards work space improvements and tech accessibility; and twenty percent will fill material needs and the cost of occasional professionals for a season of creative learning through project-based discovery, storytelling and literacy opportunities, exploring art, and cherished instrument exposure and musical movement."

About CHFA

CHFA strengthens Colorado by investing in affordable housing and community development. Created in 1973, CHFA invests in loans to low- and moderate-income homebuyers through a network of participating lenders, and makes loans to affordable multifamily rental housing developers and small- and medium-sized businesses.

CHFA also provides education and technical assistance about affordable housing and economic development. CHFA is a self-sustaining public enterprise. CHFA issued debt is not the obligation of the state.

For more information about CHFA, please visit chfainfo.com, call its Denver office at (800) 877-chfa (2432), or its Western Slope office at (800) 877-8450.

LPEA board passes 2020 budget

By Lonnie Tucker
Special to The SUN

The La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board of Directors recently adopted its 2020 budget, which aims to improve service and reliability to LPEA's more than 34,000 members.

The budget includes a \$3 million increase in revenue to update LPEA's aging electricity infrastructure, improve customer service and support, and prepare for the future of the electric grid.

"As a board, we voted to increase the revenue LPEA will receive from members to meet our 2020 financial obligations," said Bob Lynch, LPEA board president. "Even after cutting nearly a million dollars from the budget in various areas, this increase was needed to meet the rising costs of providing electricity. LPEA runs a very tight ship and any increase in rates only occurs when absolutely necessary to maintain the standards of service members expect of us."

In January, the board will meet to consider various options for achieving the needed revenue increase while minimizing cost impact to its members. LPEA's last rate increase was in 2016.





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SUN photo/John Finefrock

Toys for Tots volunteers load a trailer full of toys bound for the Toys for Tots toy giveaway. Loren Foster (second from right) coordinated Toys for Tots in Pagosa Springs this year and about 22 local businesses hosted donation sites for the campaign. Volunteers included members of Veterans for Veterans, the Rotary Club and other organizations.

PAWSD customers to see rate increases

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) customers can expect to see some changes on their water bills in the new year.

These changes reflect a decision made at a public hearing in September of 2018 by the PAWSD board following a rate study done by PAWSD.

Specifically, these changes in-

crease the minimum monthly service charge per equivalent unit (EU) and increase volume rate charges by 6 percent annually through 2023.

For water, the monthly service charge per EU will increase from \$24.91 to \$26.40, according to a notice from PAWSD.

Additionally, from 2,001-8,000 gallons used, the charge will increase from \$4.47 to \$4.74; from 8,001-20,000 gallons used, the charge will increase from \$8.94 to

\$9.48; and over 20,001 gallons used will see a price increase from \$11.23 to \$11.90.

According to the notice from PAWSD, the water fill station charge per 1,000 gallons will increase from \$9.65 to \$10.23.

Water availability of service remains at \$14.30, while wastewater availability of service remains at \$12.50.

Capital investment fees for both water and wastewater will increase by 3 percent per year, according to

Free legal clinic at library

By Ric Morgan
Special to The SUN

A free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library at 811 San Juan St.

By computer link, volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms and explain the process and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, small claims, veterans issues and civil protection orders.

Walk-ins are welcome and no appointment is necessary. It is all first-come, first-served and all free.

Clinic dates for 2020 are: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Mayor Don Volger swears in the Pagosa Springs Police Department's newest officer, Austin Gartman, ahead of the Dec. 19 Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting.

Town announces 2020 election

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Dec. 19, the Pagosa Springs Town Council held the first reading of Ordinance 926, calling the town's next regular election for April 7, 2020.

The election, per the ordinance, will be a mail-ballot election and is set to include the election of three at-large town council members.

Those seats are currently held by David Schanzenbaker, Tracy Bunning and Mat deGraaf.

Schanzenbaker and Bunning who were both originally elected in 2012, are term-limited and cannot run again.

"As required by Colorado Election Code, the Town Charter and municipal code, the Council is required to pass an ordinance calling for a municipal election," an agenda brief prepared for the meeting explains.

The town is anticipated to hold the second reading of the ordinance on Jan. 7, 2020, during its 5 p.m. meeting.

Requirements to run

Per Section 2.7 of the town's charter, to be eligible to be elected to office, a person must be a citizen of the United States, a registered elector of the town and have been a town resident for no fewer than 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the election.

Candidates cannot have been convicted of a felony and cannot be an employee of the town.

Those interested in serving on the town council should contact Town Clerk April Hessman prior to Jan. 7, 2020.

She can be reached at Town Hall or by calling 264-4151, ext. 237.

Those interested in running can pick up nomination petitions from Town Hall on Jan. 7, 2020, and have until Jan. 27, 2020, to return them.

The election

According to the town's website, ballots for the election will be mailed to registered town voters beginning March 16, 2020.

If you are not registered to vote, you can register with the Archuleta County Clerk's Office located in the Archuleta County Courthouse at 449 San Juan St.

To receive a ballot by mail, you must be registered to vote prior to March 5, 2020.

Ballots can then be dropped off at Town Hall during regular business hours, or from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

randi@pagosason.com

Cook reappointed dispatch board chair

By John Finefrock
Staff Writer

Connie Cook has been reappointed as chair of the Dispatch Executive Management Board for 2020.

Cook has been serving as board chair since April.

"It was a long year, it was a lot of work. I feel like we made huge strides and we all got a lot of work done for dispatch," Cook said at the board's meeting on Dec. 12. "It was by far the busiest year for the dispatch board that I've ever been a part of."

"Because this was such a year of transition, it makes sense to continue with the [current board chair]," said board member and Pagosa Springs Medical Center CEO Rhonda Webb.

"I think you did a fantastic job and I know how much time and effort you've [put into this]," Undersheriff Derek Woodman said of Cook.

The board also decided to add a vice chair, something it has not had in recent years, and appointed Woodman to that position.

"I feel really confident that having Derek as vice chair, it's going to spread that work out a little bit, it's going to engage this board more, support Kati even more and the center itself so I feel really good about it," Cook said of Kati Harr, emergency communications director for the dispatch center.

Pagosa Fire Protection District Chief Randy Larson stressed that the board should make two motions on Cook's and Woodman's appointments to keep order within the law.

PAWSD's notice.

For wastewater service charges, a 2.5 percent annual rate increase will occur; this rate increase will start in 2024 and end in 2027.

Those increases equate to a total 10.38 percent increase over the four years.

More information on the water and wastewater study can be found at www.pawsd.org and customers can also call 731-2691 for assistance.

chris@pagosason.com



Connie Cook

"I think that just to keep a point of order on rules that we should do it in two different motions. That we suspend the policy [of term limits for board chairs] and allow Connie Cook to serve as chairman of the dispatch board for 2020," Larson said.

The motion was passed unanimously, as was Woodman's appointment as vice chair.

"I learned a ton and I'm always one of those people that the challenge is always worth it if I can learn something from it, and I feel like it's helped me grow as a leader and just as a person," Cook said of her time as chair. "I'm sure there [will be] a lot more learning in the next year."

The board is expected to vote on whether or not to move the dispatch center to the former home of Norma and Fred Harman III in the upcoming months, which the county acquired in the fall.

The county offered to have dispatch share the space with the sheriff's office.

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Education

Local school partners with college to demonstrate benefits of teaching in a small district

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

In an effort to groom young teachers and showcase the beauty of a small-town community and classroom, Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES) and Fort Lewis College's teacher program recently partnered together.

Via a Southwest Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Project grant, Fort Lewis College was able to send 12 students and two professors, Dr. Andrea Berghoff and Coordinator of Field Experiences William Camp, to monitor PSES fourth-grade teacher Janae Ash's classroom on Dec. 5, PSES Principal Justin Cowan explained in an interview on Monday.

Additionally, through a \$660 grant from the Foundation for Archuleta County Education (FACE), Ash's classroom was able to conduct a grasshopper dissection experiment that the college students were able to observe, Cowan explained.

This is not the first time PSES has partnered with Fort Lewis College, Cowan noted, adding that the school has seen practicum teachers and student teachers.

"They wanted us to provide a structured observation," Cowan said. "They asked if they might observe Janae."

Cowan added that Ash was specifically requested because her "reputation precedes her."

"She's been a leader in the district a long time. She dives right into everything that we're doing. She leads her team in many ways," Cowan said.

According to Ash, the purpose of Fort Lewis College's grant is to get

future teachers into rural schools.

"Even though a lot of them are working or observing already in Durango's public schools, there's a significant difference between Durango's rural schools, and, say, Pagosa's," she said.

Another reason for this project is to show the college students what it's like to work in a small, rural district, Ash added.

"For the most part they were there to observe teaching practices," Ash said.

The structured observation for the students featured three parts: a preconference, the observation and a debrief, Ash explained.

"Based on how excited they were, the questions that they asked, I could tell that they got a lot out of the experience," Ash said.

For the preconference phase, Ash explained that she took time to let them know that Archuleta School District is a great one to work in.

"Just because we're a smaller district doesn't mean our kids can't learn no matter what school you compare them to," she said.

Cowan added that he believed the student teachers were excited to see what a rural school was like compared to more of a suburban school.

Ash explained that it was an honor to be requested for the students to observe.

"It's humbling for sure. It's a great opportunity. I like to give back not just to our school. I think it's great when Pagosa can get put on the map for doing wonderful work, so I'm always proud to represent my school and my district," she said. "I was a student teacher once and trying to



Janae Ash

get into good teacher's classrooms sometimes is a difficult task."

Having students observe your classroom also gives current teachers an ability to improve their own practices, Ash added.

In total, Fort Lewis College students and professors spent three hours at PSES, with one hour being spent in the classroom, Ash explained.

"This is a good example of three different organizations working together," Cowan said of PSES, FACE and Fort Lewis College.

This project is also a good reason to support FACE as a community, Ash noted.

"Because if it hadn't been for them, there would have been no grasshoppers this year," she said.

chris@pagosahun.com

Fort Lewis College will match scholarships from civic organizations

By Lauren Savage
Special to The SUN

Fort Lewis College (FLC) announced a new program for all admitted and current students called the Civic Match Scholarship, which will match scholarships from civic organizations in southwest Colorado.

Eligible students attending FLC and who have received a scholarship from a civic organization located in one of 13 counties in southwest Colorado will be awarded a onetime \$500 match from the college.

"Many of our local students are being recognized for their merit and hard work by civic organizations, and we want them to take advantage of our scholarship match and continue their success as an undergraduate at Fort Lewis College," said FLC President Tom Stritikus.

The counties considered for

the award are Archuleta, Alamosa, Delta, Gunnison, La Plata, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan and San Miguel.

Any local civic service club, veterans' post, fraternal society or association, volunteer fire or rescue group, or local civic league or association of 10 or more persons, not organized for profit but operated exclusively for educational or charitable purposes, will be consid-

ered a civic organization. There are more than 30 civic groups located in southwest Colorado.

The program will begin in the fall of 2020. Students are eligible for the onetime Civic Match Scholarship if they have been admitted to FLC, are seeking their first bachelor's degree and are enrolled full time. Students can apply for the match through the FLC Foundation scholarship application. The application period opened Dec. 1. Students will need to

have an award letter from the civic group to show proof of scholarship and upload it in the application.

Visit www.fortlewis.edu/civic-match for information on the Civic Match.

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Goals & Accomplishments

Town of Pagosa Springs

SUN staff asked representatives of publicly funded agencies in Archuleta County to individually answer a trio of questions relating to the goals and accomplishments of themselves and their agencies at the turn of the year.

Their answers will be printed in The SUN over the coming weeks. Answers are printed as received and are not edited.

Don Volger, Pagosa Springs Mayor



Thanks for letting me share my responses to your questions. I hope your readers understand that we have a culture at the town hall that embraces teamwork. I've accomplished nothing on my own. Again, this year, the Town Council, Town staff, along with other public service entities, and many private citizens contributed countless hours planning, setting goals, and working hard, together, for the benefit of our amazing town. I said it last year and I'll repeat myself. It's an honor, and a privilege, to serve alongside these dedicated individuals.

What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2019?

The town staff and council accomplished many, if not most, of the 2019 goals. Three that stand out for me are:

We took initial steps and will start construction of our new maintenance facility in 2020.

We formed an Urban Renewal Authority (URA). There are still important decisions to be made, but the authority board will oversee urban renewal plan areas within the town limits and include, and/or work closely with, other representatives from the taxing entities in Archuleta County. Last year I stated I'd like to see the town, the county, the school district, the fire district, the health service district, PAWS, etc. work more closely together. The URA could be the way to accomplish that goal.

The town council met last summer for a day-long work session to review, revise and prioritize 56 goals/actions steps for 2020. Those decisions are listed under six headings: Partner with Organizations; Focus on Maintenance; Connectivity and Walkability; Prepare by Planning Now; Engage the Community; and Enhance Organizational Capacity. What was accomplished during at the "retreat" will provide focus for 2020.

What are your three top goals for 2020?

One of my goals is to help local government leaders work more closely together for the benefit of the entire community. Another is to help ensure a smooth transition after the changes anticipated with the April election. Another goal is to encourage citizens to be informed about, and hopefully more engaged in, local government.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

My plan is to work well with others, chair efficient and productive meetings, and establish and maintain trust relationships. Together with the rest of the town council, we will continue to provide support and guidance for our wonderful staff and volunteers. We must continue to work together.

Andrea Phillips, Pagosa Springs Town Manager



What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2019?

First, our team has been addressing infrastructure and maintenance projects this year. Town staff began implementing the pavement preservation plan, restoring several town streets and parking lots. Staff utilized a seal coat machine to apply 51,106 square yards of a "liquid road" product and completed crack filling to lengthen the life of the roads. The Safe Routes to School project will be completed in the spring. This includes new sidewalks along N. 8th St. and Florida, providing connectivity and safe walking areas for residents. Staff also replaced key sections of sidewalk downtown, reducing trip hazards. Secondly, we moved forward on securing funding and designing the new Town Maintenance Facility. We have been in discussions with the school district about off-site improvements that should improve pedestrian safety and parking opportunities in the area by Pirate Way and S. 5th St. and S. 6th St. Finally, I feel that the Executive Management Board of the Archuleta County Consolidated Emergency Communications Center (the Town is one of four participating entities) did a lot of work this year to move the Dispatch Center forward. We hired a fantastic new Dispatch Manager,

conducted an assessment of equipment needs and took action to address those needs, and formed an advisory committee who developed options for additional funding. Finally, we are considering a move to a new facility to house the Center operations—this has been a goal for years.

What are your three top goals for 2020?

We will continue to follow Council's Goals and Objectives, which have been set out through 2020. First, now that the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority has been formed, we will need to bring the districts and possible developers together to discuss projects that will benefit the public in accordance with the Town's comprehensive plan while creating more development opportunities in the community. Secondly, in 2020 we will have some "cone zones" as the Town and its partners construct new facilities and make infrastructure improvements. We hope to construct a street to make the secondary road connection between Pike and Eagle Dr. We will begin construction on the new Town Maintenance Facility, and we will be constructing the Hermosa River Walk section of trail. CDOT will be starting the McCabe Creek culvert project in late summer/early fall, and CDOT will be working on the

maintenance of the bridge deck at 1st St. and Hwy 160. Finally, the Town will have an election in April, and we will have three council seats up for election. My goal will be to work with the newly elected members to acclimate them as much as possible. We will also have a new town attorney this spring. Ensuring a smooth transition for the new team members to achieve the best functioning governance for our community will be key.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

Staff will continue to seek direction from Council as needed, making progress towards these Goals and Objectives. We have many projects that are on our plates and staff is working hard within the time that we have to meet the goals. Each year we develop an annual "work plan" that guides our tasks. Progress on these items is updated each month and is provided to the Town Council and the public through the monthly Town Manager's report. As always, we will need to work with the appropriate stakeholders and ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to achieve each objective. We encourage citizens to stay involved and provide input as the projects progress.

Ransomware

■ Continued from front working correctly.

"Within five minutes of her phone call, I got inundated with emails and text messages that are all automated through our system saying a virus was detected," Cersonsky said in an interview last week. "Within two to three minutes, it encrypted everything in the county. Everything from someone's desktop to every server we have."

Cersonsky raced back to Pagosa Springs from Denver, leaving at 10 p.m. and making it back to his desk around 4 a.m. on Nov. 24.

"From what we gathered, they were asking for \$300k ... through Bitcoin," said Cersonsky, adding, "The way it works is they send you an untraceable email that you respond to ... I've even heard that they negotiate, but after speaking with my bosses, we all agreed there won't be any negotiating and we won't be paying the bad guy. That's when I buckled down and got to work."

Cersonsky explained the way his team identified specific files that had been encrypted by the virus was to look at each file's suffix. As a Microsoft Word document ends in ".doc," files encrypted by the virus end in ".ryk".

"[That] is the suffix for the encryption for the virus ransomware Ryuk, which is a specific ransomware developed by supposedly the North Koreans to target government municipalities and medical facilities," Cersonsky explained.

Cersonsky explained the process his team utilized to combat the virus:

- Isolate each individual computer so it could no longer affect other ones.

- Recover files that had not been encrypted by the virus.

- Completely erase each computer and then reinstall relevant software and put as many files back onto the hard drive as possible.

- Scan any files that were put back on county network connected computers through antivirus software.

Cersonsky noted his first priority was "life and limb," meaning he ensured 911 emergency services stayed in continuous operation and the sheriff's office could operate functionally.

The Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Center stayed in continuous operation during the virus event.

He also had to work to ensure that all county staff got paid and explained his team completed that goal about seven minutes before payroll was due.

Cersonsky stated he put in about 250 hours in 18 days while working to eradicate the virus.

"The first week was insane, 18 hours a day for seven days, that was right through Thanksgiving. It sounds like all me — you wouldn't believe how many people stepped up and helped here in the county. I mean people threw away their Thanksgiving to come help," Cersonsky said. "It was amazing."

Cersonsky stated that, by day 14, his team had made some progress.

"At day 14, I felt we were pretty much at 100 percent and I could open up the ticket system," said

Cersonsky, adding, "'Cause at that point I said, 'Don't complain to me we're way too busy' and then on day 14 I said, 'OK you can now tell me what your individual issues are, like, 'I can't print to this machine or I can't do that,' and that's all affected by the virus.'"

At day 14, the IT department received 114 complaint tickets. Within four days, the department whittled that number down to 10.

"It was a devastating time and if I'd had to predict at that time I would have never guessed that we'd be back up in 18 [days]," Cersonsky said. "I've always talked about the worst-case scenario and this is the worst-case scenario."

Cersonsky explained that, as a result of the virus attack, the county is bolstering up training for every county employee and he's working with antivirus software reps to discover viruses quicker and isolate them even faster.

County Finance Director Larry Walton, who also oversees the county's IT department, updated the county commissioners on the virus at their special meeting on Dec. 19.

"As far as disasters for us, that was the biggest one we've ever had," Walton said. "But to put it in context, for a municipality or a county, when they get hit with these things, the range of time to expect to come back is usually six weeks to three months. So Gabe and his team got it up in two and a half weeks and that is such an impressive feat that he's being asked to go places and speak and talk to people about how that's done."

Walton explained the county is spending about \$30,000 to bolster security and training so an event like this doesn't happen again.

"The \$30,000 is a small fraction of what the guys were asking for who were trying to extort money out of us," Walton told the commissioners.

According to MSSPAlert.com, as of July, about 170 ransomware attacks hit governments and other public bodies since 2013. The website notes:

- In June, officials in Lake City, Fla., agreed to pay hackers \$460,000 to recover data from a ransomware attack.

- In February, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) was hit with a ransomware attack that shut down over 2,000 computers and while they did not pay the hackers, it was estimated to cost CDOT over \$1 million to recover files and investigate the incident.

- In February, the water and sanitation districts in Fort Collins were hit with a cyberattack. Interpol, the international criminal police organization, released a decryption tool that unlocked the data and the districts then spent over \$100,000 on new hardware and software to bolster security.

Asked why Archuleta County was able to eradicate the virus quicker than many other governments, Cersonsky said, "One, because of our size, we're definitely smaller, and two, we have maintained such good relationships with third-party vendors and help, everybody came out from every-

where to help us. Without that help, who knows how long it would have taken."

Asked which third-party vendors aided in the virus eradication effort, Cersonsky said, "I really wanted to give them the kudos, but they asked me not to, and they feel

and I think understandably, that if we're being monitored by the people that wrote the virus, they don't want to be targeted."

Archuleta County computers and servers are currently working just fine.

john@pagosasun.com

Sales

■ Continued from front

cates that the following categories have increased revenue compared to August 2018:

- Retail is up 13.6 percent, or \$628,731.

- Accommodation/food service is up 9 percent, or \$135,543.

- Miscellaneous is up 15.3 percent, or \$192,935.

- Manufacturing is up 33.8 percent, or \$106,327.

- Professional services is up 365.1 percent, or \$68,143.

- Other services is up 43.4 percent, or \$52,959.

- Real estate/rental is up 16.3 percent, or \$39,704.

- Construction is up 15.5 percent, or \$25,452.

- Information services is up 8.5 percent, or \$21,985.

- Finance/insurance is up 21.9 percent, or \$2,370.

No sales tax categories were down or lower than compared to year-to-date revenue from last year.

Walton's report notes that the state of Colorado flags sales tax being paid from vendors located out of state, like Amazon or other online retailers, and 3.46 percent of October's sales tax revenue, or \$40,138, was collected from those vendors.

john@pagosasun.com

PAWSD certifies mill levies

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At the regular meeting of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) on Dec. 12, the board certified the district's mill lev-

ies for 2019.

The adopted amount for District 1 was set at 11.670 mills, or \$1,490,629, while the adopted amount for District 2 was set at 5.068 mills, or \$558,880.

chris@pagosasun.com

CenturyLink

Continued from front

for services," explained Weiser. "CenturyLink's conduct broke the law: they deceived consumers by telling them they would pay one price and then charging them more. The settlement we are announcing today holds CenturyLink accountable and provides relief to consumers they harmed with their deceptive conduct."

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section started investigating CenturyLink's conduct in October 2017. The investigation uncovered evidence dating back to 2014 that the company systematically and deceptively overcharged consumers for services.

For example, CenturyLink misled customers about the cost of its Internet service by creating a disguised surcharge called an Internet Cost Recovery Fee that started at \$.99 and was increased to \$3.99 over the course of three years. CenturyLink listed this surcharge along with other industry standard and government fees on customers' monthly bills, leading customers to believe it was a standard fee or tax for products or services. Instead, the fee was a hidden price increase that CenturyLink kept for itself to generate profit.

In addition, CenturyLink falsely advertised "price lock" and "fixed price" contracts while fully intending to charge customers more than the advertised price. For example, a 2015 mailer offered Internet services for \$19.95 per month and guaranteed that the price would be locked in for five years. However, CenturyLink charged more than the advertised price by adding the Internet Cost Recovery Fee and then later increased the overcharge by increasing the fee. Because of this sleight of hand, the advertised price was not the actual price, nor was it "locked" or "fixed."

On top of the deceptive nature of its Internet Cost Recovery Fee and price lock offers, CenturyLink's complex promotional pricing schemes and outdated billing system resulted in routine misquotes to consumers. The company also gave sales agents incentives to deliberately mislead customers about the price of services. Sometimes, CenturyLink billed customers more than twice the rate that it had promised the consumer and, in many cases, it did not deliver the promised discounts.

Finally, when customers ended service with CenturyLink, the com-

pany sometimes failed to deliver a refund for the returned equipment and only gave a refund when customers called and proved that they had returned the equipment.

Under an agreement filed in Denver District Court last week, CenturyLink will refund customers \$1,701,000 for overbilling errors by March 31, 2020. In addition, CenturyLink will pay \$6,775,000 to the state of Colorado for violating the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. If feasible and practicable, the attorney general's office will return this money to customers who were impacted by CenturyLink's conduct. Any remaining funds will be used to protect Coloradans from fraud or violations of the state's antitrust laws that thwart competition and harm consumers, and for other appropriate purposes.

To protect consumers from any future such violations, CenturyLink has agreed to:

- Disclose the actual price of its services, including charges and fees, at the time of sale and in sales materials and advertising;
- Send the customer an "Order Confirmation" that includes a complete bill summary within three days after a customer orders

services from CenturyLink;

- Stop adding the Internet Cost Recovery Fee to future orders; and
- Stop charging unreturned equipment fees to customers who return equipment on time.

CenturyLink must also submit compliance reports to the Consumer Protection Section of the Attorney General's Office for three years, and must keep all sales call recordings and written sales correspondence for two years.

Protecting consumers is one of the attorney general's top priorities, and Weiser explained his office will continue to investigate hidden fees and unfair price increases that companies charge consumers.

"I am committed to enforcing our consumer protection and antitrust laws and to holding businesses accountable when they harm Coloradans. Today's settlement sends a clear message that businesses must fairly and honestly disclose all fees and charges and that they must honor the prices that they quote to Colorado consumers. This action also makes clear that it is unacceptable to force consumers to go to considerable effort to receive promised refunds," said Weiser last week.

Martinez

Continued from front

and I thank you." "Nobody can be in a good mood 24/7, and Frank's always smilin'," said Commissioner Alvin Schaaf. "Just always something pleasant to say, always smilin'. We appreciate it."

Martinez has served as both a building maintenance technician and as a custodian over his long career, according to the Archuleta County Human Resources Department.

"Well, I appreciate it, too," said Martinez after the accolades. "I appreciate all the work you guys gave me, the health insurance, the vacation ..."

County Administrator Scott Wall read the language on Martinez's appreciation award.

"Nothing can adequately show our appreciation for the hard work and dedication you displayed to the support of the county for over 28 years. On behalf of the staff of Archuleta County, the county commissioners and all the citizens,

thank you for your service and we wish you the best in retirement. We will miss you," Wall said.

After the meeting, county staff reported that Martinez would often leave notes for them during his shift, full of humor that would make the entire office smile.

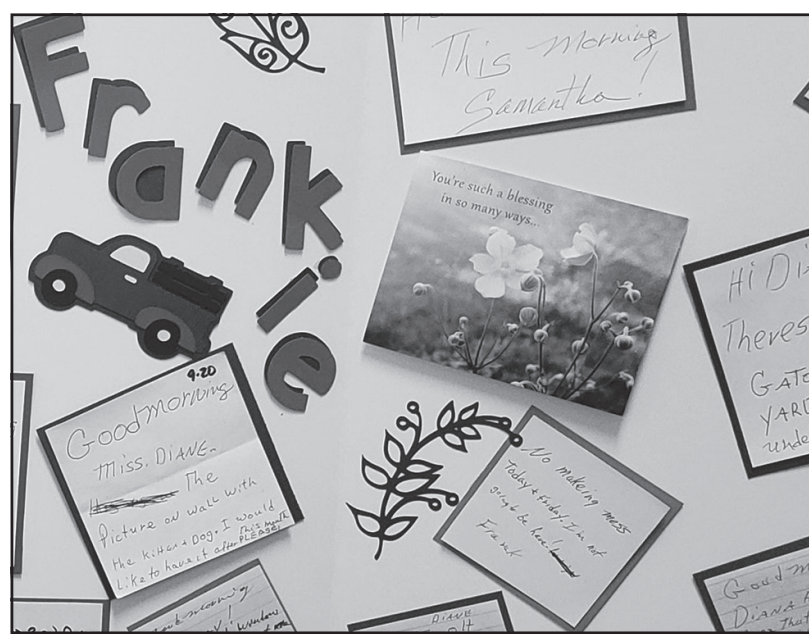
Some of the notes were posted on a big poster board in the treasurer's office in honor of Martinez's retirement.

The notes ranged from reports of animals he saw on shift, to jewelry he'd found, to the different colors he saw on the San Juan Mountains as the seasons changed and were always full of humor and lightheartedness.

In a phone call, Martinez called his career with the county "a real fine time," noting that the people he worked with became close friends that felt like family.

Regarding his notes, he explained he wrote them "just to be funny" and to bring humor to the office.

Martinez has been married to



his wife, Lorraine, for 42 years, and she told The SUN that they will travel and enjoy the outdoors in retirement.

Lorraine Martinez echoed the sentiment that many county officials and staff expressed when they

presented Frankie Martinez with his award: "He just loves to talk to people and meet people."

After 28 years, Frankie Martinez's last day with Archuleta County will be tomorrow, Dec. 27. john@pagosasun.com

School

Continued from front

OK going into that executive session to do that process," Lindner said.

Asked what the difference between a decision and a consensus is, Lindner replied, "I don't know, you'd have to ask the lawyer."

Darryl Farrington, who provides legal representation for ASD, contrasted the two terms in a phone interview.

"It's a nomenclature thing," Farrington said. "And when we're talking about the kinds of decisions that are prohibited for executive session by the open meetings law, I think that probably there's an instinct or a value I guess in using some term of — other than decision."

According to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4), "... no adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action, except the review, approval, and amendment of the

minutes of an executive session ... shall occur at any executive session that is not open to the public."

"I'm not trying to tell you it's not confusing," Farrington said, adding, "It's just the way people use language, but there are things that inevitably get decided by the board in executive session as a step on the way to some sort of ultimate decision that will be made in public."

Lindner explained just after the meeting that the candidates' information was confidential.

A press release naming the four finalists was issued by ASD on Dec. 20 after multiple SUN requests.

The candidates

- Heald has been an educator in Colorado since 1984, according to his resume. He served as principal of Aspen Middle School from 2007 to 2014, served as assistant superintendent in the Aspen School District from 2015 to 2019 and became the interim superintendent this year.

- Mijares has worked in public schools since 1992 and served as the Jemez Valley Public School Board president from 2006 to 2008. She has been assistant superintendent at ASD since July 2017.

- LeBlanc-Esparza has worked in education since 1989. She served as the superintendent for the Newberg School District in Oregon from 2012 to 2018 and has most recently served as state director, western division for the AVID Center in Pueblo, an educational nonprofit.

- Pandolfo has worked in education since 1994. He is currently the superintendent of schools for Barre Unified School District in Vermont. He earned an M.B.A. in management in 2006 and was awarded superintendent of the year in 2019.

Next steps

According to a press release about the superintendent hiring process issued by ASD, candidates will participate in a multiday in-

terview process on Jan. 16 and 17, 2020, in Pagosa Springs.

The press release notes that the BOE "plans to make its decision and announcement on January 28, 2020 at a special board meeting." john@pagosasun.com

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Sports

BASKETBALL

Pirates capture three straight wins at Montrose tournament

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Bouncing back from a winless appearance at the Buena Vista tournament, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team picked up three straight wins at the Montrose tournament, pushing the team's overall record to 4-2 heading into the new year.

Palisade

Starting on Dec. 19, Pagosa picked up a 51-31 victory over the 4A Palisade Bulldogs.

Pagosa was able to take a 20-14 lead by halftime; what followed was a solid third quarter in which the Pirates outscored the Bulldogs 15-4.

The Pirates added 16 in the final quarter while giving up 13 to the Bulldogs and came away with the 20 point win.

Mason Snarr led the team with 15 points while also adding a team-high 13 rebounds, two steals and four blocks.

Mitch Lewis finished with nine points, eight rebounds, a steal and a block.

Both Kyler Hammer and Aidan O'Donnell finished with seven points apiece; Hammer added a team-high three assists and four re-

bounds, while O'Donnell finished with two rebounds and two assists.

Ryan Lewis added six points, 10 rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

The Pirates made 73 percent of their free-throw attempts against Palisade, making eight of 11 attempts at the charity stripe.

However, Pagosa turned over the ball 19 times against Palisade.

"Against Palisade we led throughout the game. It was close at half but the kids played really well in the third quarter and we were able to pull away," coach Randy Sorenson wrote in an email to The SUN on Wednesday.

Pagosa was able to rebound effectively on the offensive and defensive ends of the floor and that made a huge difference, Sorenson explained.

"We turned the ball over too much again but the rebounding and effort made up for that," he wrote.

Montrose

Then, on Dec. 20, Pagosa kept the momentum going with a nail-biting finish over the 4A Montrose Indians, winning by a score of 40-38.

Montrose took a 24-18 lead heading into the second half, but

Pagosa stormed back in the third quarter, outscoring Montrose 14-9 to make it a slim 33-32 lead for the Indians heading into the fourth quarter.

The Pirates were able to outscore Montrose 8-5 in the final quarter to complete the 40-38 victory.

Snarr again led the team in scoring with 15 points, adding four rebounds and a block.

Ryan Lewis added nine points, four rebounds, a steal and a block, while O'Donnell finished with seven points, two rebounds and a steal.

Mitch Lewis contributed six points, pulled down three rebounds and had a team-high five assists.

Hammer capped off the scoring for Pagosa with three points. Hammer also added a steal and a block for the Pirates.

Pagosa converted seven of 12 free-throw attempts, a 58 percent conversion percentage.

The Pirates turned over the ball just five times against Montrose.

Sorenson praised Montrose for being well-coached and playing hard.

"We got down early and trailed by seven at the end of the first quarter. We were able to win every quarter after the first and slowly

chip away at their lead. We were able to make a couple of plays at the end and pull out a close win," he said.

Roaring Fork

To close out the Montrose tournament, Pagosa logged a 44-30 win over the Roaring Fork Rams on Dec. 21.

The first quarter between the two teams ended in a 12-12 tie; however, an 11-8 quarter in Pagosa's favor gave the Pirates a 23-20 halftime advantage.

Pagosa went on to limit Roaring Fork to five points in each of the final two quarters while scoring 11 and 10 themselves to secure the 44-30 victory.

Two Pirates ended the game against Roaring Fork with double digits in points, Mitch Lewis finished with a team-high 16 while Ryan Lewis added 10.

Ryan Lewis pulled down nine rebounds while Mitch Lewis grabbed four rebounds, dished out three assists and added a steal and a block.

Snarr finished with six points and eight rebounds, Hammer added four points and four rebounds. O'Donnell added four points, two rebounds and dished out a team-high five assists.

Pagosa converted seven of 12

free-throw attempts, a 58 percent conversion rate; the Pirates only turned over the ball nine times against Roaring Fork.

The game against the Rams was close throughout the first half, with Roaring Fork being successful at hitting shots from the outside, Sorenson noted.

"Our kids played solid in the second half and we were able to pull away," he wrote.

Turning the tide

Sorenson described the Montrose tournament as "successful," adding that he felt good about the team getting three wins.

In all three games played at the Montrose tournament, Pagosa was able to use its size to its advantage and was able to control the offensive and defensive glass, Sorenson noted, adding that the team's defense was solid in all three games played.

"Our turnovers were down in the last two games and we need to continue to keep it that way. It is hard to win games when you are giving teams too many extra possessions," he wrote.

When the team returns from Christmas break, Pagosa will need to keep working to continue to fix some mistakes, Sorenson explained.

"Our schedule is tough and our league is really good so we will have to keep improving and not have any letdowns," he wrote.

The Pirates will return to host the Wolf Creek Classic on Jan. 3 and 4, 2020, against the Eaton Reds (6-1 overall) and the Colorado Springs Christian Lions (3-2 overall).

Pagosa will take on the Reds first on Jan. 3, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. and will face Colorado Springs Christian the following day at 6:30 p.m.

chris@pagosason.com

Lady Pirates win over Olathe, lose to Lutheran at tournament

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team went 1-1 at the Lutheran Holiday Hoops Invite last week, giving the team a 3-2 record to close out the 2019 portion of its schedule.

The Lady Pirates will close the door on the 2019 portion of the schedule as the No. 2 team in the Colorado High School Activities Association's Dec. 16 poll and the No. 14 team in the Ratings Percentage Index, which helps determine postseason seeding.

Pagosa opened tournament play against the Olathe Pirates on Dec. 20, and advanced to the tournament championship after logging a 56-12 victory over Olathe.

Pagosa jumped out to an early lead over Olathe, scoring 20 in the first quarter while limiting Olathe to five.

By halftime, Pagosa had built a 27-10 lead.

Pagosa's Lady Pirates came out big again in the third quarter, logging 19 and holding Olathe's Lady Pirates scoreless.

Pagosa added another 10 in the game's final quarter while allow-

ing four.

"We got out in our press, we got after them ... We were up 20-5 at the end of the first quarter and, you know, pulled the press and kind of went through the motions the next three quarters," coach Wes Lewis said, noting the Pirates "didn't play particularly well" in the second and didn't execute half-court offense.

That, he noted, got better in the third quarter, when the team executed half-court offense "really well."

Teagan Stretton led Pagosa offensively on the night with 13 points. She also had three re-

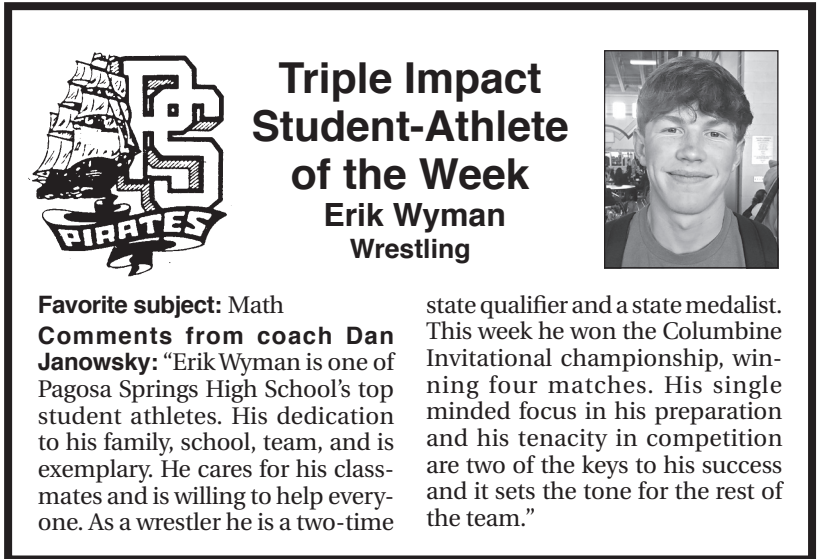
bounds, two assists and two steals. Elsa Lindner logged 10 points, which she combined with seven rebounds, one assist, two blocks and two steals.

Adelyn Dozier and Hailey Griego both followed with eight points.

Dozier also contributed a pair of rebounds, four assists and two steals, and Griego pulled down nine rebounds and had five assists and a steal.

Molly Graham put up seven points and had three rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Taylor Lewis logged four points, ■ See Basketball A11



Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week
Erik Wyman
Wrestling

Favorite subject: Math
Comments from coach Dan Janowsky: "Erik Wyman is one of Pagosa Springs High School's top student athletes. His dedication to his family, school, team, and is exemplary. He cares for his classmates and is willing to help everyone. As a wrestler he is a two-time state qualifier and a state medalist. This week he won the Columbine Invitational championship, winning four matches. His single minded focus in his preparation and his tenacity in competition are two of the keys to his success and it sets the tone for the rest of the team."

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WRESTLING

Lucero takes first at Warrior Classic, Pirates tie for fourth

By John Finerock
Staff Writer

Returning state champion Cameron Lucero snatched first place in the 152-pound weight class at the Warrior Classic last weekend in Grand Junction and the Pagosa High School Pirate wrestling team tied Alamosa for fourth place at the event.

"We tied Alamosa. That means every single win was part of that tie, every single bonus point," said coach Dan Janowsky. "If we'd had one less pin, one less win, we'd have come up short."

Janowsky explained that the Pirates seemed to get stronger as the match went on and said he is pleased with the effort of the team.

"I was just really pleased with the way our kids fought hard. There wasn't any nerves ... they gave their best effort," Janowsky said.

Lucero, who returned to the mat last week after recovering from a meniscus tear in May, came in second last week but returned to form as he dominated the competition at the Warrior Classic.

Janowsky explained that a six-month rehab for an injury like that can strip a wrestler of "their feel" for the sport.

"I do know when you're rehabbing you lose your feel," Janowsky said. "Everybody thinks it's conditioning. I think more than anything, in my experience, it's almost like you lose your balance, your feel for what's coming."

Janowsky explained Lucero was "never in trouble" and was "dominant" in his undefeated performance at the tournament, going 5-0, nabbing a first-place finish and earning 33 cumulative points for the Pirates.

Trevor Torrez (113-pound weight class) returned from an injury to wrestle his first matches of the season.

Torrez went 4-2 at the tournament, netting 18 points for the Pirates.

Janowsky explained that the tenacity of the Pirate wrestlers



Photo courtesy Stacy Barker

Cameron Lucero (152-pound weight class) launches his opponent in the air at the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction on Dec. 20-21. Lucero went undefeated at the event, nabbing first place in his weight class.

brought momentum to other members of the team, even when they lost.

"I preach to those guys, you can lose and still pass on momentum to your team just by the way you fight," Janowsky said.

Erik Wyman (126-pound weight class), who nabbed first at the Columbine Invitational on Dec. 14, placed fifth after losing twice to Demetrio Archuleta. Wyman won against all of his other opponents. "We gotta figure out how to beat that guy," Janowsky said, adding that Wyman had a "great" tournament.

Brae Bergdolt (145-pound weight class) won three matches in a row before losing by decision to Uintah's August Harrison 11-4.

Janowsky explained Bergdolt's physique can sometimes confuse his opponents.

"He's got a really muscular physique and people get hung up on that," Janowsky said. "He's not just a strong guy, he's quick."

Bergdolt placed third at the event and scored 25 team points. Dylan Tressler (138-pound weight class) also took third at the tournament, winning his first match by pin in less than a minute and only losing one match all day, to South Sevier's Triston Fillmore, who won by decision 3-1. Tressler is 11-1 on the season.

Skyler Hill, in the 220-pound weight class, took third at the tournament and netted 28 team points. "Skyler Hill had a big day," Janowsky said. "He had six wins and one loss for the tournament. All six were pins, so that's a ton of team points."

Hill's one loss of the day came to Eagle Valley's Cody Ponce, who won by decision 13-9 in the quarterfinal. The Pirates tied for fourth with

Alamosa with 154.5 points, behind Uintah at first with 208.5 points, Rock Mountain in second with 195.5 points and Grand Junction in third with 167 points.

"It is a good measuring stick for us. They're a measuring stick for everybody," Janowsky said of Alamosa. "At a certain point in the tournament it looked like they had got out in front of us, but they kinda peaked. I would say in the last couple rounds they kinda reached their peak and our guys kept goin'."

The Pirates' next match is a dual against Bayfield High School on Jan. 9, 2020, at 6 p.m. at Bayfield High School.

On Jan. 10, 2020, the Pirates host the Rocky Mountain Duals at 4 p.m. at Pagosa Springs High School and again play host to the Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational the next day at 10 a.m.

john@pagosasun.com

Basketball

Continued from A10

two rebounds, four assists, two blocks and four steals.

Pagosa again posted a 50 percent success rate from the charity stripe, making three of six attempts.

The team had 12 turnovers against Olathe.

The following day, Pagosa took on the No. 3 Lutheran Lions in the tournament championship, with Lutheran defeating Manitou Springs on Dec. 20.

The Lady Pirates fell prey to the Lions in that game 38-36.

"Well, definitely a disappointing loss," the coach said. "We led ... kind of felt like we outplayed them for the most part on the night."

At the end of the first quarter, the Lions held a 12-11 lead over the Lady Pirates.

However, the Lady Pirates put up 14 points while limiting Lutheran to five to take a 25-17 lead into the second half.

"I thought we'd mixed up our defenses a little bit, things were working pretty good," the coach said, later noting the team only had two turnovers in the first half.

Lutheran outscored Pagosa 8-6 in the third and 13-5 in the fourth.

"Lutheran got hot from the 3-point line," Wes Lewis said of the fourth quarter. "They hit some 3s that were contested, they hit one deep three. ... We put ourselves in a position to win it and we got into a delay game and ... unfortunately, we couldn't make our free throws when it mattered."

Pagosa made only two of eight free-throw attempts on the night, giving them a 25 percent success rate.

The coach added that it feels "kind of like we lost the game on the free-throw line. And ... it's something that's gotta get fixed and turned around or we're going to lose a lot of games, you know ... close games to good teams if we can't shoot better from the free-throw line."

Wes Lewis added there was also a bad call late in the game when a shooting foul was called against the Lady Pirates, with the Lutheran coach also acknowledging the bad call.

"We were trying to foul the kid on the ground. We had fouls to give, and we did foul 'em on the ground twice and then they never called those, and then the girl gets

in the act of shooting and they call that one, so definitely frustrated with ... the way the officiating was down the stretch," the coach said, noting that on the road you have to put yourself in a position to win without putting it in the hands of everyone else.

Pagosa ended the game with 10 turnovers, including a couple late in the game.

While he wished the Lady Pirates hadn't had eight turnovers in the second half, the coach acknowledged, "Ten turnovers for a team that presses the entire night's not bad."

Stretton led the Lady Pirates in scoring with 13 points, complementing that with four rebounds, two assists and four steals.

Dozier followed with seven points, five rebounds and two assists.

A trio of Lady Pirates scored four points in the game — Griego, Taylor Lewis and Graham.

Griego also had a rebound, an assist, a block and two steals. Taylor Lewis pulled down four rebounds and had an assist and three steals. Graham had three rebounds and three assists.

Lucero and Lindner added two points each, with Lucero adding three assists and two steals, and Lindner pulling down six rebounds and having two blocks.

Now, the team will take a bit of a break, with the next scheduled competition coming at the Wolf Creek Classic Jan. 3 and 4, 2020.

For more on those games and the team's preparation, see next week's SUN.

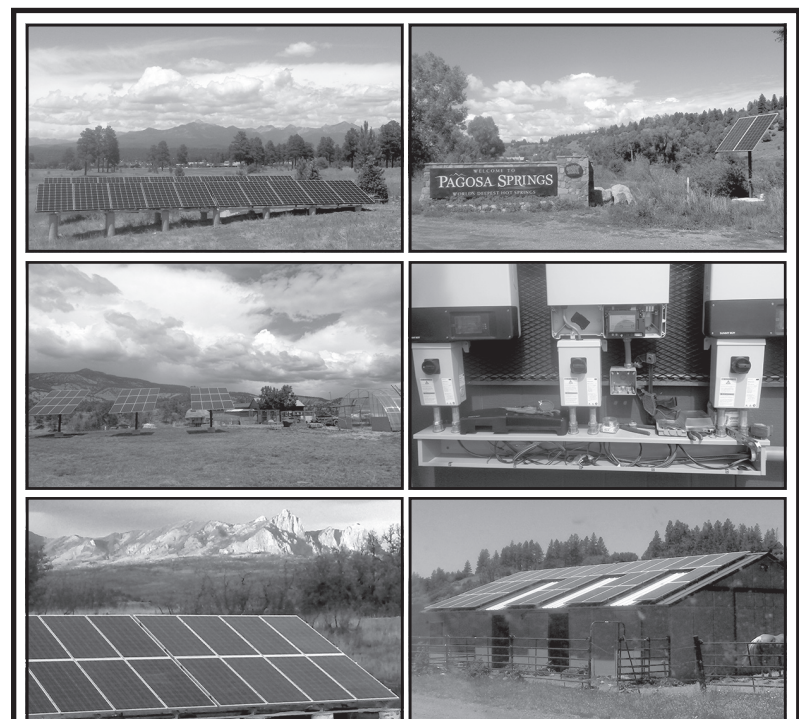
Reflecting on the 2019 portion of the season, Wes Lewis noted that the Lady Pirates are taking care of the ball well, have good depth and production from the bench, and are balanced in scoring.

"I'd like to see us attempting and making a few more 3-pointers as we turn the new year here pretty quick," the coach said, calling free throws the team's biggest disappointment early in the season.

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SWIM

Lady Pirates compete in triple dual at Sargent

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At Sargent on Dec. 18, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team competed in a triple dual meet against the 2A Sargent Farmers and the Pueblo East Eagles, defeating the Eagles by a score of 52-42, but falling to the Farmers by a score of 48-45.

Pagosa finished strong out of five teams in the 200-yard relay, with one team finishing in second place with a final time of two minutes, 24.22 seconds; that team consisted of Lynelle Bartz, Nell Taylor, Ivanna Erne and Sierra Liverett.

Another Lady Pirate team finished fourth in that same event with a final time of 2:46.80; that team featured Cheyenne Booth, Ivory Carpenter, Emma Gantt and Kali Jury.

In the 200-yard freestyle, Liverett finished second out of five swimmers with a final time of 2:42.31, while Booth finished fifth with a time of 3:18.88.

In the 200-yard individual medley, two Lady Pirates garnered spots in the top three, with Bartz finishing second with a time of 3:00.30 and Taylor finishing third with a time of 3:19.05.

Erne captured the top spot in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 28.31 while also placing second out of six swimmers in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:22.05.

Also in the 100-yard butterfly, Gantt placed third with a final time of 1:33.72.

Amelia Laverty placed fourth out of five swimmers in the 100-yard freestyle with a final time of 1:28.35.

In the 500-yard freestyle, Liverett took second place out of five swimmers with a time of 7:16.04; Taylor finished fourth with a final time of 8:28.02.

A 200-yard freestyle relay team that featured Taylor, Gantt, Bartz and Erne took first place with a final time of 2:12.55.

In that same event, another Lady Pirate relay team took third place

with a final time of 2:35.38; that team featured Laverty, Olivia Gilbert, Jury and Carpenter.

Laverty took fifth place in the 100-yard backstroke with a final time of 1:48.47.

Bartz took first place in the 100-yard breaststroke, edging out the competition with a final time of 1:30.48.

In the 400-yard freestyle relay, a Lady Pirate relay team that consisted of Jury, Laverty, Carpenter and Liverett finished third out of four teams with a time of 5:52.63.

In an email to The SUN, coach Heather Miller commended the Lady Pirates for their work at the Sargent meet, highlighting the performances of Gilbert, Piedra Goss, Laverty and Gantt.

"These ladies had significant improvements in their times, Olivia dropped 3 seconds on her 50 free and 7 [seconds] on the 100 back, Piedra dropped over 15 seconds on her 100 free, Amelia dropped 10 seconds on her 100 butterfly," Miller wrote.

The Lady Pirates also did well facing some tough pool conditions at the Sargent meet, with Miller highlighting how cold it was on deck and how important it was to stay warm in between events.

Upcoming meets

Pagosa will return to the water on Jan. 10 and 11, 2020, at 3 p.m. and 9 a.m., respectively, to compete in the Montrose Invitational.

chris@pagosasun.com

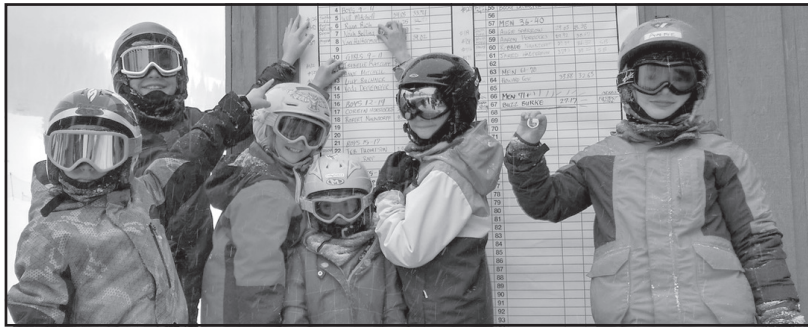


Photo courtesy Wolf Creek Ski Area

Competitors check out their scores for Wolf Creek Ski Area's first Fun Race of the season on Dec. 14. The next Fun Race in the series will be held on Jan. 5, 2020. The race is open to all ages and abilities levels, and is free with the purchase of a lift ticket.

Results for Wolf Creek Ski Area's first fun race of the season

By Melanie Allen
Special to The SUN

Wolf Creek Ski Area held its first Fun Race of the season on Saturday, Dec. 14. There was a turnout of 24 racers.

The fastest time of the day was 27.17, made by Buzz Burke, from Pagosa Springs. Burke was the most experienced of the skiers, competing in the 71-plus bracket.

Ward Halterman placed first in the Boys 6-8 with a time of 41.37.

In the Boys 9-11, Ryan Rich placed second with a time of 34.25 and Noah Bellina placed third with a time of 34.29.

Robert Naundorff placed second in the Boys 12-14 with a time of 37.56.

In the Boys 15-17, Jeb Thompson placed first with a time of 29.27 and Talon Rapp placed third with a time of 33.26.

Austin Marchand placed first in the men 21-25, with no time listed.

In the Men 36-40, Rodney Naundorff placed third with a time of 36.32.

Burke placed first in the Men 71-plus with a time of 27.17.

Isabelle Ratliff placed first in the Girls 9-11 with a time of 31.31, and Lilly Buchner placed third with a time of 38.03.

Rylie Rapp placed first in the Girls 15-17 with a time of 36.57 and Jordan Maxwell placed second with a time of 37.89.

Annabelle Bowles placed first in the Girls 18-20 with a time of 28.34.

In the Women 41-50, Becky Deitemeyer placed first with a time of 37.15.

The next Fun Race in the series will be held on Jan. 5, 2020. The race is open to all ages and abilities levels, and is free with the purchase of a lift ticket. Racers can sign up at the Raven Grill in between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and the race will be held between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the Charisma run.

Students invited to participate in Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw Competition

By Cheryl Bryant
Special to The SUN

On Jan. 11, 2020, the Durango Elks Lodge No. 507 will be hosting the Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw Competition in the Escalante Middle School gym in Durango for boys and girls ages 8-13.

Students from Durango, Ignacio, Bayfield, Pagosa Springs and Silverton are invited to participate. Check in at 9 a.m. and the event starts at 10 a.m.

The Elks National Hoop Shoot is a free-throw contest for youth ages 8 to 13. Beginning at the local level, winning contestants advance through district, state, regional and national competitions. The program is free to all contestants.

For more information on the event, please contact Dewey Waldron at 769-8636.

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Luke 2:10-11

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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.

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Good luck, Pirates!



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Toys for Tots

Photos courtesy Mary Miller
Volunteers for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program pass out toys Saturday at the Parish Hall. Approximately 250 children received toys for Christmas due to the Marine Corps campaign and generous contributions from the community.



Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020

Pagosa Springs Town Council work session. 6 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Monday, Jan. 6, 2020

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

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020

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

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020

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

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020

Region 9 Southwest Economic Outlook. noon, Fort Lewis College, Durango.

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020

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

Southwestern Water Conservation District board teleconference. 9 a.m. Call (605) 475-5618,

797282#. **Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation work session.** 10 a.m., Visiting Angels conference room, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd, Ste. B10.

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020

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

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

Friday, Jan. 17, 2020

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

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020

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

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020

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

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation regular board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Cham-

ber of Commerce conference room, 105 Hot Springs Blvd.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020

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

Southwestern Water Conservation District board teleconference. 9 a.m. Call (605) 475-5618, 797282#.

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 5 p.m., Denver.

Town Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Review Board. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

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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		Saturday-Sunday 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
7:30 am	7:41 am	7:54 am	8:05 am	4:15 pm
11:30 am	11:41 am	11:54 am	12:05 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

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

LEAP
COLORADO
Department of Human Services

Applications Accepted

Nov. 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020

To see if you qualify (see chart) or call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435)
Online: Colorado.gov/CDHS/LEAP or Coloradopeak.secure.force.com

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MONTHLY GROSS INCOME (60% OF STATE MEDIAN INCOME)
1	\$2,371
2	\$3,101
3	\$3,831
4	\$4,561
5	\$5,290
6	\$6,021
7	\$6,157
8	\$6,294
For each additional person over 8	add \$137

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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BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 43 years in Pagosa Springs.

As long-time locals, we operate with small-town hospitality without the "Pagosa-time mentality." Your time is as valuable as ours, so we operate with punctuality.

Property Brothers is here to service you and your family through providing quality in our work, and being timely and efficient.

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.

Health district supports 911 surcharge increase

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The board of the Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD), which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center, formally offered its support for a 911 surcharge increase to help fund dispatch operations in Archuleta County.

The Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Executive Management Board has recommended to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners that the county apply to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission for an increase to Archuleta County's 911 surcharge.

Currently, Archuleta County's 911 surcharge is \$1.25 per month per phone line, with the dispatch board recommending that the county seek to raise that to \$2.25 per month per phone line.

That, the USJHSD resolution lays out, would help with increasing costs of running the dispatch center.

The resolution notes that, "beginning in 2021, the impact of the ESnet migration is estimated to increase Archuleta County Dispatch 9-1-1 phone costs from \$752 per month to \$3,009 per month."

It further notes that the dispatch center is projected to need capital investments totaling \$380,000 over the next five years, and that the calls for service — "and the corresponding need for services, equipment, and personnel" — has increased 43 percent since 2010.

The resolution further touches upon facility needs for the center. In discussing the matter on Dec. 17, USJHSD board member Karin Daniels asked if there is a way to

capture the surcharge based on address instead of area code.

Board chair Greg Schulte, who also served on the subcommittee that recommended the surcharge increase to the dispatch board, noted that most people are getting rid of landlines and that, as a second-home and vacation community, Archuleta County doesn't have the volume of payers a typical municipality would.

Further, he indicated that carriers have no incentive to ensure the surcharge is going to the county of the current address of each payer. During the discussion, Schulte explained that there are currently about 14,000 lines, which provides \$219,000 in revenue.

The recommended increase, he stated, would provide about \$175,000 in additional revenue.

The Pagosa Fire Protection District provided formal support for the effort on Dec. 10, and the Pagosa Springs Town Council followed with support on Dec. 19.

In other business at the meeting, the USJHSD board approved a resolution allowing staff to enter into agreements with GE Johnson, vendors and other contractors to complete the medical center's HVAC project in 2020.

The \$1.8 million project will be funded through a \$911,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and \$911,000 in matching funds from the USJHSD.

The board also approved a resolution granting an easement to the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) to allow LPEA to install an electrical meter to serve the Verizon wireless tower slated to be installed on top of the medical center.

randi@pagosasanun.com

New Thought to focus on vision for 2020

By Lisa Burnson
Special to The SUN

All are welcome to join New Thought Center (NTC) this Sunday, Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. for our presentation: "2020 Vision."

Come prepared and be ready to create. This will be followed by our "Burning Bowl" ceremony. Join in on one of the best-attended services of the year and experience the letting go process and a visioning exercise for creating your future. Speakers will be Bruce Wayne and Shayla McClure. There will be a great message and great music.

Also on Sunday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., we invite all who enjoy writing in the company of others to join our writing group for "Stories To Tell Us."

We welcome people of all religions, cultures, races and lifestyles to our services, where we celebrate the Science of Mind and positive thinking.

Our community of affirmative-minded people share joy, laughter and awareness of connection to spirit, and our ability to co-create a life of infinite possibilities.

We will have spirited live music.

Meditation circle

We invite the public to enjoy our weekly meditation circle each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m., weather permitting.

Upcoming events

Sunday, Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m.,

Burning Bowl Ceremony: Release the past and claim your future.

Jan. 11, 2020, 2 p.m., "Manifestation Magic."

Jan. 18, 2020, Vision Board Workshop. Time to be determined.

Please call New Thought Center 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).

Request a concentrated affirmative mind treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1052; or calling (505) 604-5031. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought).

Public Notices

River Rock Estates Annexation Published Notice
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Council of the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado has adopted a Resolution Initiating Annexation Proceedings for Certain Property known as the River Rock Estates Annexation, said Annexation being more particularly described as follows: A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN GLO LOTS 8 AND 9, THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (N1/2 SE1/4) AND THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (N1/2 SW1/4) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 35, NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED, BEING IDENTICAL WITH THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED UNDER RECEPTION NO. 20108477, BEING ON THE NORTH LINE OF GLO LOT 8 AND ALSO BEING THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, WHENCE THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK 85 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; 26.85 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 540.00 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., 655.08 FEET LEAVING SAID WESTERLY LINE AND TO THE CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF FAIRWAY LAND TRUST MINOR SUBDIVISION, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED UNDER RECEPTION NO. 99011912;

THENCE N.07°06'38"W., 87.73 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER; THENCE N.13°22'34"W., 305.94 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER; THENCE N.07°23'06"W., 329.09 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER; THENCE N.14°53'58"W., 134.51 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER; THENCE N.29°40'54"W., 201.29 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER; THENCE N.04°57'00"W., 483.02 FEET ALONG SAID CENTER OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTH LINE OF GLO LOT 9 AND ALSO BEING THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TOWNSITE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, WHENCE THE SOUTHWEST 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.07°46'40"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:
A. An allegation that it is desirable and necessary that the Property be annexed to the Town;
B. An allegation that the Property meets the requirements of Sections 31-12-104 and 31-12-105, C.R.S., and is eligible for annexation in that:
1. Not less than one sixth (1/6th) of the perimeter of the Property is contiguous with the Town, which contiguity may be established by the annexation of one or more parcels in a series;
2. A community of interest exists between the Property and the Town; the Property is urban or will be urbanized in the near future; and the Property is integrated with or is capable of being integrated with the Town;
3. Within the context of the landowners, no land included within the Property, which is held in identical ownership, whether consisting of one tract or parcel of real estate or two or more contiguous tracts or parcels of real estate:
(a) is divided into separate parts or parcels, unless such tracts or parcels are separated by a dedicated street, road, or other public way; or
(b) comprises 20 acres or more and, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, has a valuation for assessment in excess of \$200,000.00 for ad valorem tax purposes for the year next preceding the proposed annexation;
4. No annexation proceedings have been commenced for the annexation to another municipality of part or all of the Property;
5. The annexation of the Property will not result in the detachment of area from any school district and the attachment of it to another school district;
6. The annexation of the Property will not have the effect of extending the boundary of the Town more than three miles in any direction from any point of the Town's boundary in any one year;
7. If a portion of a platted street or alley is to be annexed, the entire width of said street or alley is included within the Property;
8. Reasonable access shall not be denied to landowners, owners of an easement, or the owners of a franchise, adjoining any platted street or alley annexed by the Town but not bounded on both sides by the Town;
C. An allegation that the signers of the Petition comprise landowners of one hundred percent (100%) of the Property, exclusive of streets and alleys and any land owned by the Town;
D. A request that the Town approve annexation of the Property;
E. The signatures of such landowners;
F. The mailing address of each Petition signer;
G. The legal description of the land owned by each Petition signer;
H. The date of signing of each signature, which date is not more than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date of filing of the Petition with the Town Clerk;
I. An affidavit of each circulator of the Petition that each signature is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be;
J. Four copies of an annexation map containing a written legal description of the boundaries of the Property; a map showing the boundary of the Property; a showing of the location of each ownership tract of unplatted land, and the boundaries and the plat numbers of plots or lots and blocks of platted land within the Property, and the boundary of the Town and any other municipality contiguous to the Property.
WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the Town to annex said area to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to initiate annexation proceedings in accordance with law. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO, as follows:
(i) The 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 leasees of the Property.
(vii) Pursuant to Sec. 21.115.6 of the Town of Pagosa Springs Municipal Code, the Petition and annexation map are hereby referred to the Planning Commission for its consideration, review and recommendations at a regular or special meeting to be held prior to the date of the hearing before the Town Council. If zoning of the Property has been requested concurrent with annexation, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the zoning of the Property at the same meeting. Notice of the public hearing on the zoning of the Property shall be given as provided in the Municipal Code. Adopted by a vote of seven in favor and zero against, this 5th day of November, 2019.
Published December 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of LEOLA JEAN JOHNSTON aka LEOLA J. JOHNSTON, Deceased
Case No. 2019-PR-30048
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before APRIL 30, 2020, or the claims may be forever barred.
Susan Claire Tanner
351 Lupine Place
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 12, 19 and 26, 2019 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NCRD
John E. Dawson, Esq. (NSB #3392)
Melissa R. Douglas, Esq. (NSB #9545)
DAWSON & LORDAH, PLLC
8925 West Post Road, Suite 210
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148
Telephone: (702) 476-6440
Facsimile: (702) 476-6442
jdawson@dinevadatalaw.com
mrdouglas@dinevadatalaw.com
Counsel for Lee Turlington, Successor Trustee
DISTRIC COURT
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

In the Matter of: THE BAREL 1989 TRUST, u/a/d December 22, 1989, NOTICE TO CREDITORS (90 DAYS)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned is the duly appointed and qualified Successor Trustee of The Barel 1989 Trust, u/a/d December 22, 1989, as amended. Marcel Barel, the Trustor of the Trust, died on October 15, 2019. All creditors having claims against Marcel Barel are required to file such claims, with supporting documentation attached, with John E. Dawson, Esq., Dawson & Lordah PLLC, 8925 W. Post Road, Suite 210, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148, within 30 days after the mailing or 90 days after the first publication of this Notice, whichever is later.
Dated this 17th day of December, 2019.
/s/ Lee Turlington
Lee Turlington
Successor Trustee
SUBMITTED BY:
DAWSON & LORDAH, PLLC
/s/ Melissa R. Douglas
John E. Dawson, Esq. (NSB #3392)
Melissa R. Douglas, Esq. (NSB #9545)
8925 West Post Road, Suite 2105
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148
Telephone: (702) 476-6440; Facsimile: (702) 476-6442
Published December 26, 2019, January 2 and 9, 2020 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NCRD
John E. Dawson, Esq. (NSB #3392)
Melissa R. Douglas, Esq. (NSB #9545)
DAWSON & LORDAH, PLLC
8925 West Post Road, Suite 210
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148
Telephone: (702) 476-6440
Facsimile: (702) 476-6442
jdawson@dinevadatalaw.com
mrdouglas@dinevadatalaw.com
Counsel for Lee Turlington, Successor Trustee
DISTRIC COURT
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

In the Matter of: THE BAREL 1989 TRUST, u/a/d December 22, 1989, NOTICE TO CREDITORS (90 DAYS)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned is the duly appointed and qualified Successor Trustee of The Barel 1989 Trust, u/a/d December 22, 1989, as amended. Marcel Barel, the Trustor of the Trust, died on October 15, 2019. All creditors having claims against the Trust Estate are required to file such claims, with supporting documentation attached, with John E. Dawson, Esq., Dawson & Lordah PLLC, 8925 W. Post Road, Suite 210, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148, within 30 days after the mailing or 90 days after the first publication of this Notice, whichever is later.
Dated this 17th day of December, 2019.
/s/ Lee Turlington
Lee Turlington
Successor Trustee
SUBMITTED BY:
DAWSON & LORDAH, PLLC
/s/ Melissa R. Douglas
John E. Dawson, Esq. (NSB #3392)
Melissa R. Douglas, Esq. (NSB #9545)
8925 West Post Road, Suite 2105
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148
Telephone: (702) 476-6440; Facsimile: (702) 476-6442
Published December 26, 2019, January 2 and 9, 2020 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS LLC.	115.00
ALSCO	388.13
ALTITUDE RECYCLING EQUIPMENT	625.00
ALVIN SCHAFF	509.16
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS	840.49
ARCHULETA COUNTY	300.00
ARCHULETA COUNTY 4-H	536.47
ARCHULETA COUNTY SOLID WASTE	952.00
ARCHULETA COUNTY VICTIM ASSIST.	1,667.00
ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT	29,475.38
ARCHULETA GRANT FUNDS	38,750.00
ASPIRE MEDICAL SERVICES	416.86
AT YOUR DISPOSAL	482.00
AT&T MOBILITY	418.89
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.	3,615.00
BANK OF COLORADO	150.00
BANK OF THE SAN JUAN	5,217.27
BC SERVICES, INC.	967.51
BELMARE MAINTENANCE LLC.	434.52
BEXAR COUNTY	16.00
BI INCORPORATED	668.70
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	1,139.23
BLUEGOLBS, LLC.	2,215.52
BOB'S LP GAS, INC.	53.55
BRANSON TRAFFIC CONTROL CO.	61,595.87
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	2,838.25
CARL MACHT	160.00
CARLA ELLIOTT	198.00
COEORA-EMP RETIREMENT	93,901.77
CPDHE	6,471.12
CDW GOVERNMENT LLC.	7,318.99
CENTURYLINK	3,840.04
CHRISTINE WELCH	1,238.22
CHRISTOPHER TORRES	435.36
CIGNA HEALTH AND LIFE INS.	43,071.00
CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	388.89
COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT	1,077.88
COLORADO ASSESSOR'S ASSOC.	800.00
COLORADO CORRECTIVAL IND.	112.91
COLORADO CUSTOM LIFT, INC.	710.15
COLORADO DEPT. OF REVENUE	25,856.00
COLORADO DOCUMENT SECURITY	1,035.00
COLORADO LOCAL ASSISTANCE	1,000.00
COLORADO WEEB MANAGEMENT	230.00
CONNIE CHUBBICK	16.00
CONSERVANCY OIL CO. OF DGO.	1,834.98
CORNWELL TOOLS / SAN JUAN	642.94
COUNTY HEALTH POOL	156,898.97
CRANES & MATERIAL HANDLING	1,125.00
DAVIS ENGINEERING SERVICE	2,295.96
DEBORAH H. GLICK	1,195.45
DHS CLIENT	12,003.49
DIANE MAUN	75.00
DRAGON ESP. LTD.	1,275.00
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING	2,150.00
DURANGO HERALD	1,091.20
DURANGO MOTOR COMPANY	596.52
ECLIPSE DOT INC.	250.00
ENTENMANN-PROVIN CO.	228.50
ETHAN PROUD	196.76
EXAMINER CHECKING	461.28
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	1,491.18
FIREBIRD FUEL	28,126.84
FLOREAN GALLEGOS	53.36
FOUR STATES TIRE AND SVC.	2,891.46
FREDRICKZING & ASSOCIATES	4,851.69
G&L SANITATION	315.00
GALLS, LLC.	558.46
GIRSH AND ROTTMAN	6.00
GRAINGER	1,700.78
HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA	4,166.67
ID NETWORKS, INC.	7,250.00
INLAND KENWORTH US INC.	1,219.28
INLAND TRUCK PARTS COMPANY	650.89
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	196,898.20
JACCO DISTRIBUTING COMPANY	230.00
JAMES C NELSON	900.00
JANIS L. SMITH	100.00
JASON HIBBERT -	200.00
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Town

■ **Continued from front**
collectively appointed by the taxing districts that levy taxes within the URA boundaries.

Those taxing districts set to collectively appoint one person include the Upper San Juan Library District, San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD), Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), Pagosa Fire Protection District, Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD), Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID).

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

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

But when the town held a work session with representatives from the special districts on Nov. 25 to help facilitate the discussion on who would fill the special district seat, several of the representatives expressed concern.

"Some attendees expressed concern about representation on the Commission and would like Council to consider an alternate structure of governance. CRS provides for a 13-member independent commission ... Although not typical, there are some cities that have this structure such as Denver Urban Renewal Authority and Arvada," an agenda brief prepared by Town Manager Andrea Phillips for the Dec. 19 meeting explains.

That 13-member independent commission, Phillips and town attorney Bob Cole explained on Dec. 19, would consist of 10 mayoral appointees, an elected member of the school board, one person appointed by the county commissioners and one special district representative.

Phillips noted that an independent commission could not be covered under the town's insurance and would create questions about town staff also being the staff of the URA.

The Nov. 25 work session ended with direction for each special district to discuss and put forward to Phillips, if they chose, a potential appointee from their board, and some district representatives indicated their respective boards may be putting forth positions on the URA's

governing structure.

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

Too, PAWSD General Manager Justin Ramsey submitted a letter requesting open discussion with input from the special districts on the commission's structure.

Several of the districts also addressed the council on Dec. 19, with several of the comments referencing tax-increment financing (TIF).

As Phillips explained on Nov. 25, "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."

"Pagosa Springs is kind of a different place, as we all know," Bill Hudson, a member of the SJWCD board, told the council. "In most situations, an urban renewal authority is covering most of the community. It's coterminous with where everyone lives and where everyone pays taxes. And, in this community, the town is actually a very small portion of the population and it's a very small portion of where people actually live and where they're served by special districts. So, you have an unusual situation right from the get-go."

Hudson suggested that the council could let the districts that serve a larger population choose how to spend the tax money, adding that a 13-member board does not have to have all seven town council members and could allow for stronger special district representation.

Ramsey reiterated the sentiment of his letter to the council, stating that his district's board wasn't as concerned with changing the structure of the URA commission as how fast things are moving along.

Ramsey suggested the town meet with all the taxing entities and gather input on coming up with the commission structure.

JR Ford of the SWCD suggested that some of the town council members give up their positions to allow

for broader input.

He added that nothing is set in stone in terms of the structure and that just because other cities have structured a URA this way doesn't mean Pagosa has to.

"This is a broad subject and there's a lot of money involved. I think there's a lot of creativity in how it can benefit the community as a whole, and I think that extra representation would help you," he said.

Greg Schulte, chair of the USJHSD board, told council the district welcomes the opportunity to participate and would welcome more representation, which is a consistent desire among the special districts.

Schulte then expressed his personal opinion, urging the council to think about the long-term circumstances of setting up the structure of an entity that could be in place for decades and affect many future councils.

He suggested that even if the council expanded the governing board, the council should retain a majority of the commission since the URA is a town creation.

"I would suggest to you that it's your duty as council to retain oversight of development in your community, not just now, but for decades in the future," he said, noting he thought that could be accomplished with additional representation and a 13-member commission and reiterating that it is a duty to retain oversight of what goes on within the town boundaries.

Following public comment, the council discussed the matter.

"I am certainly very happy that lots of other members from the special districts are wanting to be involved in this project. ... I think that's a good sign. However, I do agree with what Mr. Schulte just said," Madeline Bergon said, stating she believes council should make up the majority of the URA board. "This is an opportunity for us to be very intentional with the direction that we want development to take in town."

She clarified that the URA's special district representatives are not responsible for negotiating money on behalf of the district and there will be many opportunities for input.

Matt DeGuse noted that he was originally in favor of expanding to a

13-member commission, but that it troubled him that it potentially wouldn't always be a town majority.

He added the projects and the tax financing would be generated within the town boundaries and that special district board members could live relatively far away from town given the service boundaries of those districts.

Tracy Bunning recommended keeping the existing structure and creating a process where others from the special districts be brought in a work session format when specific projects are being considered.

David Schanzenbaker asked Cole if there is an ability to expand the commission to 13 members with a requirement that all seven council members be on the commission.

"No," Cole responded, adding that future councils could continue appointing themselves, but it wouldn't be required.

Schanzenbaker explained that, while he is open to more special district representation, town council needs to be the driving force and maintain majority.

Mat deGraaf agreed, adding that he feels like some of the special districts are participating because they feel like they have to at this point and want their voices heard.

He suggested they need to be heard in the future.

Nicole DeMarco indicated she wants to encourage participation when people are interested and that she is OK with a 13-member board.

She further suggested that if future councils don't want to be a part of the URA commission, they "maybe shouldn't be a driving force."

Mayor Don Volger also noted he liked the interest in the commission, but noted the URA is a town responsibility and the only way to ensure the town retains that oversight is the current structure, though he liked the suggestions about including more special district input in the URA.

In the end, the council voted 6-1 (with DeMarco voting against) to keep the URA's structure as is, but to have the mayoral appointment be another special district seat initially.

Now, Phillips explained, the six potential appointees submitted by the special districts will be put into a ballot that will go back to each district for a vote.

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Additional Forest Service roads close for season

By Brandon Caley
Special to The SUN

To protect road surfaces and for public safety, many Forest Service roads are seasonally closed to wheeled motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles operating on snow. The roads are open to nonmotorized uses, including bicycling, hiking and horseback riding.

Roads will remain closed until most of the road surface can withstand traffic without damage.

An open gate does not give permission to damage roads. Damage is defined as: ruts 1 inch deep or deeper on gravel roads, 4 inches deep or deeper on native surface roads. Do not go off roads, except to park adjacent to the road on dry ground.

Following are the roads which remain open as of Dec. 23:

- Blanco River, No. 656.
- Buckles Lake, No. 663.
- Devil Mountain, No. 626.
- Mosca, No. 631.
- Price Lakes, No. 731.
- Williams Creek, No. 640 (from gate to lake).

For additional information on travel management, road openings and to pick up a Motor Vehicle Use Map with specific information on Forest access roads, contact the Pagosa Ranger District at 264-2268 or stop by and visit us Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 180 Pagosa St.

Current information on other seasonal Pagosa Ranger District road closures is available at www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan. Click on the "Forest Road Conditions" link located on the right side of the page under the "Quick Links" box. Under Alerts and Notices, click "Pagosa Ranger District Road Status."

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Median snowpack totals drop for local basins

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

As of Dec. 24, local basins have seen a 23 percent reduction in collective median snowpack totals since last week, with totals this week for the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins coming in at 111 percent of median.

Last week those basins were 124 percent of median.

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Upper San Juan Site has also seen a drop in its snowpack figures, going from 124 percent of median last week to 102 percent of median this week.

The Wolf Creek summit is 89 percent of median this week. Last week it was 97 percent of median.

However, local basins could see an increase in their collective snowpack totals following this week, as the National Weather Service (NWS) reports a 20 percent chance of snow today and tonight.

That increases to a 70 percent chance tomorrow.

Those chances of snow showers carry on through Saturday.

On Wolf Creek Pass, the NWS forecasts a 20 percent chance of snow today and tonight, on Friday that chance increases to 70 percent and then drops to 60 percent on Friday night, while on Saturday that percentage remains at 60 percent.

Other snowpack reports

The Upper Rio Grande Basin has a snowpack total of 114 percent; last week that basin's total was 125 percent of median.

At the Arkansas River Basin, a 14 percent decrease was reported, with totals falling from 134 percent of median to 120 percent of median this week.

An 11 percent decrease was reported for the Yampa and White River basins, with totals going from 127 percent of median to 116 percent of median this week.

The Laramie and North Platte

River basins saw a 12 percent decrease from last week, with totals dropping from 123 percent of median to 111 percent of median.

The South Platte River Basin has a snowpack total of 128 percent of median, last week its total was 140 percent of median.

This week, the Upper Colorado River Basin is 114 percent of median, an increase from last week's total of 122 percent of median.

A 10 percent decrease was reported for the Gunnison River Basin, with totals dropping from 114 percent of median to 104 percent of median this week.

chris@pagosasun.com

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10 a.m., Monday, December 30

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Noon, Thursday, December 26

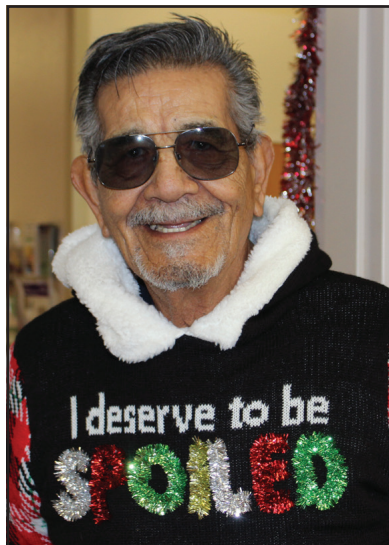
The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's.

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Holiday party

SUN photos/John Finefrock
Pagosa Springs Senior Center attendees celebrate the season at the Archuleta Seniors Inc. holiday party Dec. 19. Activities included lunch, making gingerbread houses and a planned indoor snowball fight which involved everybody launching giant marshmallows at one another.



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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Happy New Year!



Candle in the night

We are at the end of the year, when it's natural to reflect on accomplishments. For some, it is a time to evaluate what we want to change or sustain in the coming new year. For some, it means recognizing the light that we have been to others, helping them find their own way to achievement — metaphorically speaking, a candle in the night.

I spoke at the Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network's (WCCWN) annual Christmas party. I reflected on the group's accomplishments in 2019, making note of how much the group has evolved in just a few short years, from a candle sitting on a lampstand in a corner of a house to a city on a hill which refuses to be hidden. These are writers whose published words appear as a light that continues to shine.

When the WCCWN started five years ago, it had a simple premise: be a light not hidden under a basket. So, we lit a candle in the daylight and watched it blend with the brightness that surrounded it. Even as day turns to night, we see the light of our efforts stay true to course. What started as a complement now stands in contrast to everything around it.

Being a light doesn't limit itself to those who write. Each of us has skills and talents that allow us to be seen or even be a guide for others. But, on any given day, there is a grayness that can overcome us, a time when we seem to lose our zeal or lack vision.

One of the most difficult times to see or be seen is when day fades to night. We know this time as twilight, a period or state of obscurity, ambiguity or gradual decline.

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



Each of us has skills and talents that allow us to be seen or even be a guide for others.

I said to my Sweet Al, "I remember the days when everything seemed to be gray, not too much light and not too much darkness."

Those were days when I thought I knew what I wanted to do, or what I wanted to say, but couldn't seem to navigate myself through my own season of twilight. I can only liken it to a time of spiritual unrest. Something kept me from sharing what I knew in my heart in order to be a light to those around me.

I am reminded of a classic film from the '90s by Robert Benton. It starred Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman and James Garner. The title of the film was "Twilight." Although there are many meanings that could be drawn from the story, at its core was a man who couldn't see the

truth that was standing right in front of him.

Newman was in the twilight of his career, an aging detective investigating the murder of a woman. His friend, Garner, an ex-cop on the take, was helping him solve the murder case. Their efforts to find answers seemed to be nothing short of a black hole.

Newman could only see what he could hear. This was the voice of a friend that caused him to doubt his ability to find the right answers.

The mystery in the film was solved by the troubled and broken-down detective, when he finally realized the truth that surrounded him. I won't be a spoiler, but this happened as Newman stood looking out the window of a penthouse overlooking the lights of the city. It was there that he suddenly saw a light, in the middle of his twilight.

As we embark on 2020, it's important to see the things that have brought us to where we are today. Whether it is to celebrate a success or acknowledge how we have stopped in our own tracks, there are lights that we can leverage in order to reach new heights. For those of us who find ourselves in our own twilight, it may be time to move into the light we have been given.

Final brushstroke: In light, or as day fades to night, the glow of a candle remains the same. There are times when we need to follow it, times when we need to embrace it. One thing for sure: A light will know its greatest power when it is used.

Readers' comments

Send your comment to betty@bettyslade.com.



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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

Head Pressman

Robert Penton

Assistant Pressman

Brian Maurer-Townsend

Mailroom

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Classified Advertising/Front Office

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'Tis the season for New Year's resolutions

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

Every New Year's Eve, millions of Americans resolve to make their life better. Whether that includes getting healthier, becoming wealthier or striving for a work-life balance, these resolutions often don't go any further than thoughts in our minds.

Set your intentions for the new year by writing down what you want to give your attention to in 2020. Research shows by writing down your intentions, you are more likely to work toward them and succeed in reaching them. Out of that list of intentions, rate and prioritize what is most valuable and important. Then set goals. Lacking goals is like taking a trip without making a plan or having a destination; you'll never know where you are going to end up.

Written goals increase your chances of accomplishing the behavior you desire. Written goals make it easier to plan action steps, monitor progress and define the end date. Setting a goal such as getting healthier this year is not specific enough. Behavior change occurs if there are written goals which include a deadline.

Improving your life requires planning, and it starts with setting smart goals. Smart goals should have criteria that correspond to each of the following categories: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound.

- Make goals that are specific: clearly defined or outlined: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

- Make goals that are measurable: How will you measure your progress; what do you want to do?

Extension Viewpoints

- Goals that are attainable: neither too easy, nor too hard to accomplish. Is it likely to happen? Is it achievable? What steps are involved?
- Make goals that are realistic:

What knowledge, skills, resources and abilities are necessary to reach this goal?

- Make goals that have a time line: When will it start? When will it finish? Will it be a short-term goal or a long-term goal? Set a specific deadline to the goal.

Identify small, do-able "action steps." Procrastination is easy. Tomorrow always seems like a good day to make changes. With the

■ See Viewpoints on next page



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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page
small-steps approach, anything you do towards your goal is a step in the right direction. No step is too small to get started.

Consider the major obstacles that keep getting in your way. Identify them and make plans to overcome them. Is it denial, fear, lack of clear goals or just not knowing where to start? Obstacles and relapses are normal. Prepare for them by thinking about the following:

- What are obstacles that keep me from achieving these goals?
- What are strategies to overcome each obstacle?
- What factors have caused me to relapse in the past?
- What can I do to address these factors in the future?

Friends or family can be a resource or an obstacle. Enlist the support of the people that will help you be accountable to your goals. Make a commitment to change so they can be encouraging and motivating to you on your journey.

Often goals seem insurmountable, but put your mind to it. Negative thoughts such as “I can never do this” are common. Instead, think positive thoughts, such as, “I can do this one small step at a time.” Keep imagining how good it will feel to reach a goal.

Finally, take time to celebrate all of the small steps you achieved along the way. Taking small steps, being realistic and staying positive will help you keep your intentions in the New Year.

Happy new year.

Upcoming events

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

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

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

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

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.

Holiday Hoopla prize winners announced

By Rick Artis
Special to The PREVIEW

This year's Holiday Hoopla concluded on Dec. 15; the following prize winners were selected on Dec. 19.

Grand prize: Patti Popovich.
Second prize: Cathy Van Liere.
Third prize: Chris Gossett.

The prize packages were created using merchandise and gift certificates donated by the Holiday Hoopla participating merchants and had a retail value of more than \$1,000, nearly \$700 and over \$350, respectively.

A big thank you to all of our local shoppers and participating merchants for their support for this shop-and-dine-local program.

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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!

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HERE'S HOW.

Three at-large seats on Town Council will be up for election on April 7.

Candidate packets, information, and requirements will be available beginning January 6, at Town Hall. Information can be found on the town's website: www.pagosasprings.co.gov.

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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\$20 One Way • \$30 Round Trip*

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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	7:41 am	7:54 am	8:05 am	4:15 pm
11:30 am	11:41 am	11:54 am	12:05 pm	4 pm

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Photo courtesy John M. Motter

This is one of the most popular photos of the Pagosa Hot Springs during pioneer times.

Traversing Wolf Creek Pass in 1916

Our writer concluded last week's column with the statement: "Now night was coming and we were still two and one half miles from Mr. Logan's work camp." Picking up where we left off last week, we continue:

"The lighter weight cars passed through the mud holes all right, and drove on towards camp, but the heavier cars just sank. Marguerite and I walked the distance through the mud and rain to the road camp for help. Mr. Logan sent four big horses to assist, but they couldn't move the cars. When this didn't work, Eugene Hatcher backed their Vellie from camp carrying heavy log chains. With the horses and chains, the cars were pulled out.

"The high altitude and the excitement of the day, besides the wet and cold, were more than I could take. The cook and his buddy moved their beds into the dining tent, and fixed a place for me to lie down and rest. My family didn't get to camp until 8:00 P.M. I was too tired to eat, and didn't get warm all night.

"When morning came, I still couldn't eat, but the sun came out and we were ready to make a



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

fresh start. Mr. Logan sent his crew ahead early to fill in a one hundred foot bog with spruce boughs. Still, every car had to be pulled through. We still had rough going to the top of the pass, which is over ten thousand feet high. We were told that our troubles were all over, as it was down grade, and work done the previous fall was well packed by highway equipment. We were all in good spirits, for we knew that no one would meet us today. Each car took its own pace coming down, not too close because of the sharp curves—Joseph and I still following at ten miles an hour, and in low gear. We came to a section of the road which was supported by a built up rock wall, and noticed that the tracks of the cars ahead were only four or five inches from the rocks, but it looked safe enough, when CRASH! that entire wall gave

way and let the left side of our car down and hanging in mid-air. Only a very small rock below our left front wheel kept us from going down. As we carefully slipped out on the upper side, the car teetered as if it were on its way down. Only a miracle caused it to hold, for it seemed that a puff of wind could set it off. We stood and looked — all the cars had gone ahead, and we alone with miles to any work camp. We knew that my husband would stop soon, if Marguerite didn't see us coming behind them. After about fifteen or twenty minutes a wagon with two men carrying heavy cables and a bicycle came along. The men tied the car to the trees on the upper side with ropes. One man rode the wheel down two miles where he met David walking back with some of the work crew. The men cut down several small trees and built cribbing which they filled in with rocks. Then they jacked up the car little by little, built again, until it was in a near level position. Six men held the cables while David drove to solid ground."

Are they ever going to get off that terrible mountain? Read next week's column to find out.

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



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Makerspace crafts event for all ages and teen gaming today

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

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

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

Holiday closures

Your library closes at noon on Dec. 31 and is closed Jan. 1 for New Year's.

Save the date for avalanche awareness

Next Thursday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Mark Mueller returns with a free avalanche awareness presentation that might save your life, since avalanches are the deadliest natural hazard in Colorado.

Mueller is an avalanche forecaster for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. No registration is required.

All-ages gaming tomorrow

Join us tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 27, from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. for a free all-ages gaming session where you can enjoy video gaming on Wii and Xbox 360 Kinect with your friends and family.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids ages 6-12 are invited to

Library News

bring your imaginations — LEGOs are provided — this Saturday, Dec. 28, from 11 a.m. to noon for the free LEGO Club.

Tween gaming

Free gaming for those in the fourth through eighth grades is Monday, Dec. 30, from 4 to 5 p.m. Enjoy Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks.

ESL classes expand to evening sessions

Free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes have been so appreciated at your library that we are — by popular demand — switching one of the weekly sessions to the evening to make it easier for more people to participate. The new schedule is Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. The classes are led by two highly experienced teachers — Joyce Holdread for the intermediate/advanced group and Ellynn Ragone for beginners. No registration is required.

Clases nocturnas de ESL en la biblioteca

Las clases han sido tan apreciadas en su biblioteca que nosotros — por demanda popular — estamos cambiando una de las sesiones semanales de la noche para facilitar la participación de más personas. El nuevo horario es los martes de 5-7 y los viernes de 12-2. Las clases son dirigidas por dos maestras

altamente experimentadas; Joyce Holdread enseñará a los estudiantes intermedios y avanzados y Ellen Ragone enseñará a los principiantes. No es necesario registrarse.

Adult education

Our free PALS (Pagosa Adult Learning Services) accelerated GED course is available only once more in December: Monday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come to your library to get help from Mark with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Free tech sessions

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

Family storytimes

Every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. and Saturday from 3 to 3:45 p.m., join us for great stories, fun

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ continued from previous page
songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move.

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

Activities calendars

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

Books on CD

"Agent Running in the Field" by John Le Carré follows a British spy who is also a passionate badminton player. "Final Option" by Clive Cussler and Boyd Morrison tells of an operation to rescue three American spies in Brazil. "Twisted Twenty-Six" by Janet Evanovich is a Stephanie Plum mystery. "The Night Fire" by Michael Connelly is a Harry Bosch mystery.

Large print

"Genesis" by Robin Cook uses genealogic DNA databases to help explain a death. "Guilty Not Guilty" by Felix Francis is a Dick Francis horse racing mystery. "Tom Clancy Code of Honor" by Marc Cameron is a Jack Ryan adventure.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"Fall Back Down When I Die" by Joe Wilkins follows a powerful bond between a traumatized, mute young

man and a ranch hand in Montana. "The Siberian Dilemma" by Martin Cruz Smith is a thriller featuring Moscow detective Arkady Renko. "Invitation Only Murder" by Leslie Meier is a Lucy Stone mystery.

DVDs

"The Chaperone" is a PBS Masterpiece drama based on the best-selling novel. "Far from the Tree" is a look at families raising children society deems "abnormal."

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.

Downloadable films

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 their generous monetary donations, we are grateful to Nancy Green and Steve Merchant. For books and materials this week, we thank our anonymous donors.

Quotable quote

"God help me if I wasn't nice. My mum used to say, 'Don't you dare pull rank. There's always someone who can do the same thing you do and much better than you.'" — Julie Andrews, English actor, singer and author.

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.

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Enjoy 10% off beer, wine, and cocktails until the rejuvenation is complete!



UUs to celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new

By Pauline Benetti
Special to The PREVIEW

In anticipation of New Year's Day, for the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) service on Dec. 29, Unitarian Universalist members Julie Loar and Michael Demchak will present.

Loar will discuss the calendar and how it became out of sync with seasons and signs, and Demchak will talk about the unchanging wheel of the year. Everyone will participate in a ritual to release the past and welcome the new. Come help celebrate.

Our fellowship offers each individual support in our unique spiritual path and an opportunity to par-

ticipate in positive social and environmental action. We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community.

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 PUUF, visit pagosauu.org or call 731-7900.

What are we seeking on New Year's Eve?

By Lynn Moffett
Special to The PREVIEW

On New Year's Eve, the weather forced me to cancel my plans for a night of games with family. As I sat alone, I wondered how many groups of people around the world usher in the new year with a celebration. One thought led to another. Why is the new year such a big deal? What are we seeking?

I went online and found an extensive list of different celebrations. In every country, people do something, not always the same day the new year lands on our calendar, but customs do exist. From there, I searched for traditions accompanying each, hunting for a common link. What I suspected proved true.

For the western world, New Year's Eve means people stay up late to see the old year out and new year in. Church bells ring, horns toot, whistles blow, sirens shriek. Often the next step is to write out

A Matter of Faith

a list of resolutions to make the coming year better than the last.

For the Chinese Lunar New Year, along with the dragon and the rest of the celebration, the people clean their house to sweep away any ill-fortune and make room for good luck.

Koreans celebrate Seollal, a three-day holiday marking the beginning of the Lunar New Year. Their many traditions include using fire to ward off evil spirits for the days ahead.

Rosh Hashanah, part of the high holy days for the Jews, includes the common greeting "Shanah tovah," which translated from Hebrew means "[have a] good year."

The point being, all around

the globe, no matter the date or religion, there is a celebration for each new year. Because of religious diversity, many countries commemorate more than one.

Isn't it interesting that humankind uses this time to hope for a clean slate? We hold fast to our successes. There is no need to let those fade away. It is our failures we want to sweep behind us, and

■ See Faith on next page

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Merry Christmas!


But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11

However, there is much more to the story of Jesus than a once a year event. Jesus came to change lives. Following Jesus was meant to be a life lived every day of the year in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and many other Christian attributes.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus during the season. But let us live each day the life to which Jesus calls us.

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.

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Legal, tax help programs planned for Senior Center

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

The San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging provides legal services for seniors through the program attorney, Daniel Fiedler. Fiedler will be spending the day at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center on Jan. 23, 2020, by appointment.

Following are the legal services Fiedler can assist with:

- Public benefits and utilities shut off.
- Landlord-tenant problems, such as persons being evicted.
- Simple wills, power of attorneys, medical durable power of attorney and living wills.
- Consumer issues such as advocating for persons harassed by debt collectors.
- Emergency limited long-term Care guardianship and domestic problems, such as abuse.

Please come by or call the Senior Center office to schedule an appointment, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. (inside the Ross Aragon Community Center), 264-2167.

Tax preparation help

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be returning to prepare federal and state

Senior News

income tax returns at no charge.

The 2020 dates are Feb. 22, 2020, and March 14, 2020, by appointment only. The gross income limit this tax season is \$54,000.

Please call 264-2167 for more information or to make an appointment.

History (Book) Club

Are you interested in reading and talking about history with others? If so, please join us and bring your ideas and experiences as we continue a history discussion group at the Senior Center. The discussions will cover many historical subjects based on the preferences of the group. Please come and bring your friends who might also be interested.

On Nov. 20, the History Group began its study of English history and how it influenced America.

The essence of the discussions concerning England is what America adopted and what it rejected

regarding England's form of government and culture.

Facilitated by Jim Van Liere, the group meets the third Wednesday of every month.

The next meeting will be Jan. 15, 2020, at 1 p.m. in the Community Café dining room in the Senior Center.

Health and wellness

The Senior Center is continuing the pilot program which expands health and wellness services to Archuleta County seniors. The program includes wellness and blood pressure monitoring or allows individual area seniors to discuss two subjects of their choice.

There is no charge for Medicare enrollees. Participant IDs will include Medicare card, photo ID and, if necessary, any supplemental insurances. No Medicaid is accepted at this time. Participants are encouraged to bring a list of their current medications.

The goal of the outreach clinic is to provide care to those who are not able to travel.

The next health and wellness date will be Jan. 13, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ See Senior on next page

Faith

■ continued from previous page
good fortune or better outcomes to proceed us. We want our lives to start fresh.

The thing is, there is only one guaranteed way to a better future.

Revelation 21:5: "And he who sat upon the throne said, 'Behold,

I make all things new.'"

When we Seek Him — Jesus, our new year will hold more potential than our feeble attempts through determinations to do better, a house swept clean, a fire to ward off evil spirits or a shouted greeting of good luck.

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it!" (MSG)

He is our promise. He holds our future.

Karaoke Dance Party

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Ana M., Facebook

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Choosing a musical instrument

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

When I first met my wife, she was a music major and played in a dance band. I was in athletics. My children have tended to follow their mother's interests more than mine. Every one of them is an excellent musician.

To be honest, I do play the harmonica, and I used to play the piano some. I also played the guitar when I was in college. But I try not to mention that to anyone because I seldom play a musical instrument in public. I usually only play my harmonica when we are camping as a family, though I have done a little bit in theater when there was a desperate need, with an emphasis on desperate.

Despite my lack of musical talent, over the years, due to my wife's and children's interests in music, I have associated with quite a few musicians. I often find it interesting to learn how different musicians chose their instruments. One fun story was related to us by a physician who played in a community orchestra with my wife. He played the bassoon.

Not too many people play the bassoon. It is usually not the most used instrument in an orchestra. But due to its unique sound, it often stands out and is sometimes given

small solo segments. The physician's first name was Paul, and that's what we knew him by in the orchestra. One of the musicians asked Paul if either the unique sound or the opportunity to solo was the reason he chose to play the bassoon.

He laughed. "No. The reason is a lot more rudimentary than that."

He then told us his story. His parents were a family of musicians. Every member of the family was expected to learn to play the piano and one other instrument of their choice. Paul was somewhat annoyed by this expectation. He preferred to play sports.

None of his friends had such a requirement of instrument practice in their families, and he felt frustrated and shortchanged. When he would see his friends head out to play baseball while he was expected to go home and practice the piano, he was endlessly annoyed. So, when he became proficient enough on the piano that it was his turn to choose a second instrument, he chose the bassoon.

"The whole reason I chose the bassoon was not because I liked it," Paul said. "In fact, I thought it was a strange instrument with an even stranger sound. But I knew it was the one instrument that drove my father crazy. I decided that if he was going

to make me practice an instrument, I was going to practice something that annoyed him. I guess, secretly, I thought maybe if it drove him crazy enough, he would decide I could quit.

"But if my dad was anything, he was determined. I think he just covered his ears and gritted his teeth. And the more determined he became to see it through, the more determined I became to drive him crazy. I practiced more and more.

"But something happened that I didn't expect. All of the practice to drive my dad crazy started making me a good musician. Without realizing it, I was excelling on the bassoon and ended up winning awards and becoming part of the best orchestras. I was nominated to state competitions and ended up winning first in solo performance, even though solo performances on bassoons are quite unusual."

"I bet your dad is proud of you," someone said.

Paul laughed. "Yes, he is. But he has still made it clear that I'm not playing a solo at his funeral. He is having my sister who plays the harp do it instead.

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Senior

continued from previous page Menu

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch. If you are a senior (60 years and older), for only a \$4 suggested donation, you are eligible for a hot meal, drink and a salad prepared by our kitchen staff.

The guest fee for those 59 and under is \$10 and children 10 years and under can eat for \$8.50 each. Access to the salad bar is only \$6 for those under 60.

Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 26 — Hot turkey sandwich, milk, au gratin potatoes, broccoli with butter, salad bar and pumpkin muffin.

Friday, Dec. 27 — Beef taco, refried beans, steamed asparagus with lemon, milk, salad bar and fruit compote.

Monday, Dec. 30 — Chicken

tortilla soup, stir-fried okra, corn-bread salad, milk, salad bar and blueberry cream cheese pie.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Closed for New Year's Eve.

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

Thursday, Jan. 2 — Beef Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli casserole, dinner roll with butter, milk 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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Why New Year's resolutions can be a bad idea

By John Lough
Special to The PREVIEW

While wanting to see positive changes in your life isn't a bad idea, the way most New Year's resolutions come together is usually complicated, often helps little and may even be harmful.

Most of us are pretty bad at setting reasonable goals for ourselves. We usually think in terms of absolutes: "I'm going to lose 20 pounds next month." "I'm going to stop smoking now." "I'm going to get that job promotion this quarter."

There are a several problems with resolutions like these, the main one being that they seldom achieve success. Such resolutions are based on negative emotions, things about yourself with which you aren't satisfied or happy. These may seem motivating at first, but they actually can create feelings of anxiety and decreased self-worth. This focus on negative feelings seldom provides long-term motivation.

Another problem with those "absolute" resolutions is that they set you up for failure. They start based on issues you don't like about yourself and then present a good opportunity for you to fail, thus helping to lower your self-

esteem even more. And no, you don't make a resolution planning not to achieve it, but the reality is that most of us don't reach our ambitious goals. One study even named Jan. 12 as "Quitter's Day," the point when large numbers of people begin to falter in working toward their New Year's goals.

A major problem with most New Year's resolutions is that they focus on the goal and not on the process. If weight loss, traditionally this nation's No. 1 resolution, is the goal, it's easy to become discouraged and depressed if you see little change on the bathroom scale or if you make some progress but then backslide a bit.

Rather than focusing on the final goal, experts advise paying more attention to the small

steps, the process, that will take you to that goal. In many cases, they advise to not even set a final goal. If weight loss, for example, is what you want to achieve, instead of imagining how many pounds have to disappear, set a positive objective of "eating healthier." It's something you can do in small steps (i.e., no donut at work every day, but instead a handful of carrots for that mid-afternoon snack).

Setting small changes makes them easier to achieve and makes you more likely to bring about the final results that you desire.

"Counseling Corner" is provided by the American Counseling Association (ACA). Send your comments and questions to ACACorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

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2019 Market Report**

Two House bills recently passed

By Kay Kaylor
PREVIEW Columnist

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

Information on the many aging and care concerns will be included here.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed two bills relevant to elders. Both bills will need

Agency on Aging News

to go before the Senate and to be signed by the president.

First, it passed the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act (HR3). The bill authorizes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to negotiate prices for specific drugs, including insulin products and at least 25 single-source brand name drugs. The savings would be used to include dental, vision and hearing benefits in an expanded Medicare, accord-

ing to Justice in Aging. It also makes additional changes to Medicare drug coverage and pricing, such as reducing the out-of-pocket spending threshold.

The House also approved a \$350 million Alzheimer's and dementia research funding increase and \$10 million to implement the BOLD (Building Our Largest Dementia) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. The act supports regional centers to address Alzheimer's and dementia, such as through public awareness campaigns, and data collection on these conditions.

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.

Common home emergencies and how to prevent them

Special to The PREVIEW

Dorothy Gale said "there's no place like home" in "The Wizard of Oz." But what about when homes are no longer safe?

Household emergencies can occur at any time. When disaster strikes, knowing how to proceed effectively can make a world of difference and potentially save lives. Fortunately, it's easy to prevent or reduce a wide range of household dangers by embracing some simple safety measures.

- **Accidental falls:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that accidental falls are the leading cause of nonfatal injury among nearly every age group. Roughly 3 million adults age 65 and older experience falls that result in emergency room visits each year in the United States. Falls can be prevented by removing tripping hazards, installing steady handrails and other supports and adding lighting in and around a home. If a fall should occur, stabilize the limb or injured area of the body and seek medical assistance.

- **Kitchen fires:** The potential for danger exists whenever cooking with heat or over open flames. Kitchen fires may occur, but they don't have to spread or cause serious issues if fast action is taken. Never use water to put out a grease fire — it will only spread it and make it worse. Cover the fire with a lid to suffocate the flames, or use baking soda to douse the fire. Always have an all-purpose fire extinguisher on hand, and know how to operate it.

- **Burst pipes:** Burst pipes or leaking plumbing can quickly cause major damage in a home. Dwell Residential Group says to locate the

water main, which is usually in the basement or garage on the "street side" near the water meter. Turn off the main to save the home and your wallet. Make the water main visible, mark which way is off, and instruct others in the house on how to use it.

- **Tipping furniture:** Tip-over incidents send thousands of people (especially young children) to emergency rooms each year, says the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. Top-heavy items, like dressers, TV stands and televisions, bureaus, and bookcases, should be anchored to the wall.

- **Unintentional poisoning:** People may inadvertently consume household poisons. State Farm advises calling 9-1-1 if the victim is unconscious or not breathing.

If the person is alert, consult with the American Association of Poison Control Centers at 1-800-222-1222 and await instructions. Keep the bottle or packaging of the assumed poison on hand and be prepared to discuss symptoms and personal information about the victim.

- **Fire or other danger:** No one ever thinks an emergency situation necessitating escape from the home will take place. But to play it safe, residents should designate emergency exits that are the quickest and safest ways out of every room in the house. Practice this plan and pick a specific meeting spot outside.

Safety at home involves knowing how to act fast in an emergency and how to reduce your risk of being in potentially dangerous situations.



May you enjoy all the delightful sights and sounds of the season!

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The history behind popular New Year's traditions

Special to The PREVIEW

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are a time to both reflect on the past year and to look forward to the excitement the months ahead will bring. There may be confetti, there are probably noisemakers and some bubbly is likely overflowing from champagne flutes.

New Year's celebrations can be traced back thousands of years to ancient Babylon. And as with many holidays with deep histories, traditions are the hallmark of many New Year's celebrations.

While many people perform these traditions by rote, it can be interesting to delve into the history behind various components of New Year's celebrations.

Champagne

Toasting the new year with a sparkling wine can be traced back to French champagne producers.

Resolve to read more and reap the benefits

Special to The PREVIEW

It may be tempting to curl up on the couch and turn on the television to unwind, but research indicates that reading is one of the best workouts for the brain.

The World Health Organization says that doctors diagnose nearly 10 million new cases of dementia each year. With so many people understandably concerned about any and all cognitive issues related to aging, the search is continually on to find ways to strengthen the

mind's muscle. It may be as simple as picking up a book.

People make New Year's resolutions to improve their lives, and reading more can be a great way to do just that. According to the online health and wellness resource The Healthy, reading has been associated with language reception in the left temporal cortex of the brain. When this part of the brain processes written material, neurons begin working hard to transmit information.

■ See Read on page 16

Ball drop

While not everyone can venture to New York City's famed Times Square to watch the ball drop in person, millions tune in around the world to watch it on television. Original celebrations in New York centered around listening to the

bells of Trinity Church ring at midnight, but the New Year's Eve celebrations were later moved to the New York Times building in 1904. Fireworks were part of those celebrations, but hot ash and sparks falling on spectators led to a ban on fireworks, and event organizers needed another spectacle to draw crowds, according to PBS.

Publisher Adolph Ochs asked his chief electrician Walter Palmer to create something visually appealing. Inspired by the maritime tradition of dropping a time ball at harbor so that sailors could set their own timepieces while at sea, Palmer devised the idea of dropping an illuminated ball on New Year's Eve. This has been tradition since 1907.

Resolutions

New Year's resolutions can be traced to the Mesopotamians. Ancient Babylonians also made spoken resolutions during a 12-day-long new year festival. These resolutions were oaths made to the sitting or new king and were considered essential to keeping the kingdom in the gods' favor. The Romans also had a similar tradition of swearing oath to royalty at the start of the year. Many of these traditions merged into modern resolution-making, according to Live Science.

These are but a few New Year's traditions. The history behind these traditions is storied, just like the holiday itself.



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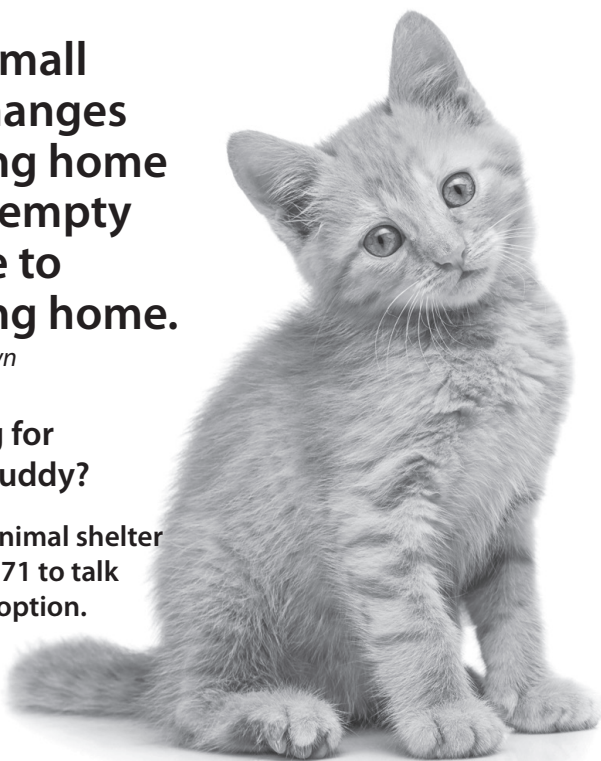
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One small cat changes coming home to an empty house to coming home.

- Pam Brown

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

LOAVES AND FISHES

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... at a holiday-themed Loaves and Fishes. The weekly community lunch took on a festive flair on Dec. 19, with high school students helping the organization's board serve the meal and Pagosa Springs Elementary School kindergartners serenading the diners with seasonal tunes.





Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 26

Hai Chee. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Movement focusing on balance within mind, body and soul. Slowly reduce tension as you feel better, one breath at a time.

Makerspace Crafts Event. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Come in and build, design and create. We provide the materials; you provide the vision. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Pickleball. 1-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Teen Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 7th-12th grade. Xbox 360 Kinect, and snacks. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m.,

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Friday, Dec. 27

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Tai Chi. 11 a.m.-noon, Community Center. This is a slow, gentle exercise that improves balance, strength, flexibility and lung capacity while reducing stress and increasing an overall sense of well-being.

English as a Second Language. Noon-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Gaming. 2:30-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the

Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Meditation and Dharma Discussion. 10 a.m., Pagosa Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Suite B-15, 70 Greenbriar Drive. All are welcome.

Crafting Club. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Center. Join us for creativity, crafting and sharing ideas. This will be a time to bring your creativity, projects in progress, supplies and ideas to spend some time being crafty and connect with others who enjoy all aspects of creativity, too.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Family Storytime: Dreidels. 3-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Join us to learn about dreidels and how to play with them. Join us for great stories, fun songs, toddler-friendly crafts and plenty of reasons to get up and move. Storytime is

■ See Calendar on next page

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Read

■ continued from page 13

Research conducted by Stanford University indicated that MRI scans of people who are deep into a Jane Austen novel showed an increase in blood flowing to areas of the brain that control both cognitive and executive function.

When the brain is working efficiently, it may be less prone to some of the issues that can cause a decline in memory and brain function. Research published in the journal Neurology found frequent brain exercise through reading lowered mental decline by 32 percent.

Of course, the benefits of read-

ing extend beyond the physical. Literary fiction can help people be more empathetic. Getting lost in a book and the characters' stories makes others more relatable. Reading has the potential to help a person understand what people are thinking, offers research published in the journal Science.

Picking up a good book also can help a person gain knowledge of new cultures, ideas and history and even improve vocabulary.

Picking up a newspaper or magazine, joining a book club or reading with children are just a few of the many ways to improve the mind through reading.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

High Country Squares Dances. 3-5 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Richard Berry calls both Mainstream and Plus. Visitors are always welcome. For information, contact Steve Keil at stevekeil128@gmail.com or 731-0044.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Dec. 30

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Line Dancing. 9:15-11:30 a.m.,

PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:15 a.m., advanced at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call Beverly at 264-2064.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies. Call 264-0501, ext. 1 to make an appointment.

Qigong. 10 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Maintain and improve health, strength and balance.

PALS Adult Education. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more! Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. PALS will only occur three times in December. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Bridge for Fun. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Bingo. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Tween Gaming. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks. For those in the 4th-8th grade. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Yoga. 4-5 p.m., Community Center.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Chi Energi. 8-9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. A variety of movements and stretches to create energy for the healing of our mind, body and soul.

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St.

Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Yoga Fusion Class. 10 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Men's PTSD Group. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church library. Focusing on resolving anger and conflict. Contact Vets for Vets at 507-3005 for more information.

Pickleball. Noon-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

English as a Second Language. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 2

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.

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 ques-

■ See Calendar on next page

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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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
tions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Avalanche Awareness. 5-6:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Mark Mueller returns with a free presentation that might save your life, since avalanches are the deadliest natural hazard in Colorado. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Friday, Jan. 3

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.

Pagosa Pirates Girls' Varsity Basketball. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa vs. Eaton High School.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Pagosa Pirates Boys' Varsity Basketball. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic.

Pagosa vs. Eaton High School.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Beyond Words International: Volunteer Information Session. 3-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Arts Council, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. An informational session for those interested in working with our organization. Email beyondwordsintl@gmail.com.

Pagosa Pirates Girls' Varsity Basketball. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Colorado Springs Christian School.

Pagosa Pirates Boys' Varsity Basketball. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Colorado Springs Christian School.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Sunday, Jan. 5

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pago-sacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

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, Jan. 6

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Line Dancing. 9:15-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:15 a.m., advanced at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call Beverly at 264-2064.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies. Call 264-0501, ext. 1 to make an appointment.

Qigong. 10 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Maintain and improve health, strength and balance.

Time for Tots. 11 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Ages 2-3. This is a new program offering a great time for toddlers to socialize and participate in fun, hands-on activities. Parents or Guardians must be present and involved. We will have singing, music, reading, crafts and plenty of free play. The cost is \$20 for the class. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

Yoga. 4-5 p.m., Community Center.

LGBTQ Support Group. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. A support group to help youth and young adults from age 16 to in their 20s under
■ **See Calendar on page 20**

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- AFFILIATION
- ASSISTANCE
- AUDIT
- BOARD
- BUDGET
- COMMITTEE
- DEDUCTION
- DONATE
- DONOR
- EXPENSES
- FOUNDATION
- FUNDRAISING
- GIVE
- GRANT
- INVESTOR
- INVOLVEMENT
- LEADERSHIP
- MESSAGE
- NONPROFIT
- ORGANIZATION
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- TRANSPARENCY
- VOLUNTEER

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 18

the leadership of Ana M. Sancho Sama, Ph.D., licensed psychologist.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

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.

Pickleball. Noon-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Alzheimer's Support Group. 2 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. For more information, call 259-0122.

Time for Tots. 2-3 p.m., Community Center. Ages 2-3. This is a new program offering a great time for toddlers to socialize and participate in fun, hands-on activities. Parents

■ See Calendar on next page

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for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 2

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 27

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

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

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



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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



Preview Calendar

continued from previous page

or guardians must be present and involved. We will have singing, music, reading, crafts and plenty of free play. The cost is \$20 for the class. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for more information.

American Legion Post 108 Ladies Auxiliary. 4 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.
English as a Second Language. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

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.

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.

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.

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, Jan. 9

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.

Mountain View Friends. 10 a.m., Community United Methodist Church. Formerly known as Mountain View Homemakers, this newly formed group will focus on shared time with friends and a monthly presentation or activity. This will be our organizational meeting, getting to know existing and new members. We will have coffee/tea and breakfast finger foods. Call Tozi Rubin at 731-3360 for more information.

A Course in Miracles Study Group. 10-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Call Karen LeCour at 264-0111 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. All are invited to

enjoy a free hot meal in a welcoming atmosphere. No reservations are required.

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosa-center.org or call 731-SHOW.

Friday, Jan. 10

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.

After the Bell. 2-3 p.m., Community Center. Ages 9-12. Come to the Community Center gym and have some fun participating in different physical educational games. We will be burning off some energy after a long week of school. The cost is \$20 for all five Fridays involved. Deadline to register is Jan. 8, 2020. Call 264-4151, ext. 232 or 233 for

more information.

Pagosa Pirates Boys' Varsity Wrestling: Rocky Mountain Duals. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Yoga. 5-6 p.m., Community Center.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosa-center.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Jan. 11

Pagosa Pirates Boys Varsity Wrestling: Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational. 10 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Meditation and Dharma Discussion. 10 a.m., Pagosa Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Suite B-15, 70 Greenbriar Drive. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans Presents Love Around the World. 6 p.m., Best Western Lodge. Capt. John Barry III will give a presentation and share stories from his sailing trip around the world. We will have appetizers, live and silent auctions, a cash bar and fun for all. Tickets are \$20 at the door; children under 5 are admitted free. Call Tari Woods at 398-0023 for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'A Grand Night for Singing.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pagosa-center.org or call 731-SHOW.

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

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How to get out of debt and stay that way

Special to The PREVIEW

Debt can quickly sneak up on a person. However, it can take much longer — sometimes decades — to get out of debt. And that's a big concern when considering just how much debt the average person has incurred.

Northwestern Mutual's 2018 Planning & Progress Study says the average American has about \$38,000 in personal debt, excluding home mortgages. A survey from the insolvency firm MNP Ltd. found that 31 percent of Canadians do not make enough to cover their bills and 46 percent are a mere \$200 or less away from failing to pay debts at month's end.

Researchers in the United Kingdom analyzed data from 1.4 million credit card holders and found that people typically choose ineffective methods to paying off debt. These tips can make it easier to get rid of debt.

Stop the flood

Avoid new debt at all costs. Stop using credit cards, cease taking loans, do not buy any big-ticket items and scale back on general purchases.

Learn about avalanches and snowballs

The avalanche method is a way to pay off debt. According to NerdWallet, a popular online financial resource, the debt avalanche approach encourages debtors to pay off debts with the highest interest rates first. That seems like an effective way to get out of debt quickly.

However, in a 2016 investigation for the Harvard Business

Review, researchers found that the snowball method, which prioritizes paying off the smallest debt balance first and then moving on as debt amounts increase, is the most effective strategy. It tends to have the most powerful effect on people's sense of progress because they gain momentum by watching debts disappear.

Cut back temporarily

Cut back nonessential spending, such as cable subscriptions or gym memberships, for the time being. Repurpose that extra money to pay off existing debt.

Get a lower interest rate

Customers can call customer service centers to see if they can lower debt by negotiating a better interest rate, says Credit.com.

Since much of a credit card payment goes toward monthly interest charges and not toward the actual balance, this can be a way to get a handle on debt. Some people prefer to use a balance transfer to get a lower rate on another card and try to pay off the balance before the promotional rate expires.

Consolidate or settle

When debt is so substantial that debtors cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel, they might ask a creditor to accept a onetime, lump sum payment to satisfy the debt. Debt consolidation companies also can help by negotiating with creditors and streamlining debt into one payment per month instead of many.

With an effective plan in place, people in debt often can dig themselves out of financial peril.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 A Golden Girl
- 5 Office honcho
- 9 Draft holder
- 14 Kind of hygiene
- 15 Decomposes
- 16 Bygone Ford
- 17 Cutting the mustard
- 18 Like a slap
- 20 Reveal
- 22 Take over, as a loan
- 23 Radio problem
- 24 Body shop application
- 26 Asthmatic's device
- 28 Research sites
- 31 Full of pep
- 34 Coveted role
- 35 URL ending
- 36 "Death at a ____" (2010 comedy)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
20				21						22					
23							24	25							
			26			27					28		29	30	
31	32	33				34						35			
36						37			38		39	40			
41						42		43			44				
45			46			47				48					
			49		50					51			52	53	54
55	56							57	58						
59								60					61		
62								63					64		
65								66					67		

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- 38 Col. Klink wore one
- 41 It may be framed
- 42 Potatoes, perhaps
- 44 Crosswise, on deck
- 45 Basket material
- 47 Crowd disperser
- 49 Medicinal cure
- 51 December dangler
- 55 Rougher on the eyes
- 57 Magician's secret exit
- 59 Funeral parade
- 61 Prefix with China
- 62 Recorded, in a way
- 63 Radiate
- 64 Like some cheddar
- 65 Some court hearings
- 66 Morays
- 67 Facial feature

DOWN

- 1 Lines on a map
- 2 Circle around
- 3 Spicy dip
- 4 Optional course
- 5 Scarf securer
- 6 "My bad!"
- 7 Church topper
- 8 Tax form ID
- 9 Muscle malady
- 10 Silvery strands
- 11 Stamina
- 12 Doohickey
- 13 Connection point
- 19 Bun, for one
- 21 Jacket feature
- 25 Juice extractor
- 27 Joined by treaty
- 29 Lugosi of horror fame
- 30 Peony part
- 31 Many miles off
- 32 Fishing item
- 33 Trespass
- 37 Autumn blossoms
- 39 Civil rights org.

- 40 Arrowhead material
- 43 When soaps usually air
- 46 Wintertime airport supply
- 48 Willie Mays' team, mostly
- 50 Old-fashioned rewards
- 52 Second longest African river
- 53 Valuable veins
- 54 Lose ground?
- 55 "What've you been ___?"
- 56 Battleship shade
- 58 Stir up
- 60 Match, in poker

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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Timeshares

Houses

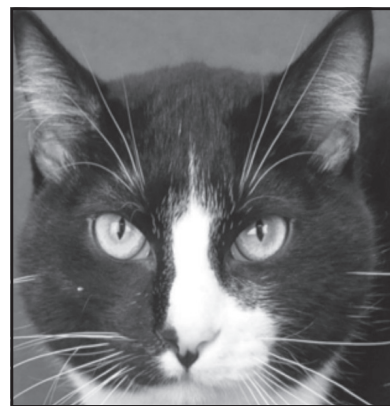
Open Houses

Ranches

Property

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

**THINK HAIR
THINK ELIZABETH
970-903-5152**



ALEX: I'm Alex, an 8-month-old fellow full of fun and frolic who would love to ring in the New Year with you. Hey, it's still adopt one cat, get one free so why not get me a buddy, too! Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.



ODIN: Hi, my name is Odin and sure I have big ears! All the better to hear you with and learn new commands! I'm a young pup looking for an active family with time to spend with me and teach me lots of tricks! Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.



CATS/KITTENS: Start the New Year off right by making a resolution to change the life of a shelter pet! We have plenty to go around, and all shapes and sizes to fit what you're looking for. Spend New Year's Eve with a new addition to your family. Adopt from the Humane Society 731-4771.

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HOT SPRNGS
SPA**

Downtown Pagosa 264-4040

STORE CLOSING SALE

JEM Jewelers is closing

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Inquire within @

135 Country Center Drive Suite C, City Market Shopping Ctr. or call 970-731-3399.

Hurry, store closes December 31.

SIMPLY CLEAN- EFFICIENT AND THOROUGH! Housecleaning services. Call Erin to schedule a cleaning. (949)566-3906.

BAG SALE EVERY FRIDAY and Saturday for the month of January. Come on down to the Methodist Thrift Store at 427 Lewis Street.

GIVE THE GIFT OF STRESS RELIEF. Gift Certificates now available! Eclectic Bliss Massage, 468 Pagosa Street, Suite H, Pagosa Springs, CO (309)738-5895.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

AL-ANON meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall. www.al-anon-co.org.

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.

A.A. PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP winter hours beginning on Tuesday, December 19, beginning at 6p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Charlotte (970)903-9690.

TRADITIONAL ALANON GROUP: Traditional AlAnon Group meets Mondays, 6p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Dr. (325)669-9715.

PagosaSUN.com

264-2100

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SERVICES

BOOKKEEPING, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE and tax prep assistance. Call Leslie Shepard Brooks at (970)585-4825 or email BeeBooks71@gmail.com.

AFFORDABLE SIDEWALK AND DRIVEWAY snow removal. Ralph & Son Enterprises. (970)731-4585, mobile (970)946-1274.

HANDY ANDY MAINTENANCE. Painting, window cleaning, plumbing, deck repair. VIP maintenance. (830)220-4883.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC, GROUP of detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable cleaners. Starting at \$20/ per hour. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/ sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/ operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. 946-2061.

DRYER VENT CLEANING AND dump runs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. 731-2543.

SIMPLY CLEAN- EFFICIENT AND THOROUGH! Housecleaning services. Call Erin to schedule a cleaning. (949)566-3906.

SNOW REMOVAL. SNOW BLOWER, shovel, roof rakes. Call Bob. (970)903-2297 or (970)264-4324.

HANDYMAN SERVICES. SMALL PROJECTS. Honey do lists. Carpentry. Honest and reliable. Call Manny at (228)355-1628.

PAGOSA'S BEST CARPET, TILE, AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING. Newest equipment and a passion for what we do. Let us do a deeper clean that others can't match! Our Special this month is a free upholstery cleaning with every carpet/ tile cleaning! Schedule today! Call Xavier at (970)582-0085. Credit/ Debit Cards Accepted.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM DRIVEWAYS, roofs, walkways. Tractor with blower and truck with plow. Call now for scheduling. 946-2061.

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BAZ THE HANDYMAN PAGOSA Springs. Specializing in carpentry, small electric and plumbing. (480)433-1776.

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SNOW REMOVAL. IF YOU need help, please call. (970)946-6091.

FULL SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES. Plow truck, snow blower, roof clearing, ground shoveling and decks. Responsible, reliable. Call (970)946-3923.

WEIHER CONSTRUCTION. DRAFTING OF blue prints. Excavation. Foundation to the roof. Interior and exterior. Timber and log structures. Septic installation. Contact Jim Weiher at (970)946-0639.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow, (719)849-8873.

SNOWPLOWING AND SNOW REMOVAL service. \$75/ hour. Services include driveways, walkways, etc. Salting available. (970)661-3888.

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER? Solid Rock Management offers home inspections, house cleaning services, snow removal, fire mitigation and much more! Get a 10% DISCOUNT this month by scheduling with us for any one of our reliable services. Call us today. Jason Logan, Solid Rock Builders LLC & Solid Rock Management! (970)759-3882.

SNOW/ ICE REMOVAL. Specializing in roofs. Don't let your possessions be ruined from snow or ice. Call (970)903-5485. Free estimates.

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING. Reasonable prices. Linda Lerno. 731-5173.

SNOW REMOVAL- SNOW SHOVELING, raking roofs, clearing walkways, clearing decks and removing snow build-up around house. Call 264-0193.

RENT A MAN for all the things gals need help with. Call Handyman Dan. Prompt, reliable, professional, affordable. (719)849-8873.

HEALTH SERVICES

ADVANCED HEALING MASSAGE FOR your bone weary body. Even 1 massage can make a difference. Imagine living pain FREE! Call today for your appointment, you deserve it. (970)779-0185.

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS Wellness Center. Chiropractic, acupuncture, craniosacral, massage, water therapy in the hot springs. Auto and sports injuries. 1/2 hour \$60 and 1 hour \$120 treatment. (971)221-4797, hotspringhealers.com. Home visits. Durango hours on Wednesday.

HELP WANTED

LABORERS NEEDED. GOOD PAY. (970)403-2228.

HAVE LOVE AND ROOM in your heart for children? Consider being a foster family or family helper with Human Services. Call 264-2182 for more information.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

SAN JUAN SALON AND Spa is hiring licensed hair stylists, manicurists, esthetician and assistant. Busy salon. All products supplied. Call 731-3004.

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED LINE COOK, experienced cashier. Clean, sober, good with people. Apply in person, The Malt Shoppe. No calls.

CUSTODIAL SERVICES- PAGOSA PEAK Open School is currently accepting bids for after hours cleaning of the Pagosa Peak Open School. Approximately 15,000 sq. ft. of floors, 5 days a week when school is in session. Additional deep cleaning services during school breaks. Must have own liability insurance. Please send letters of inquiry and proposed bids to Chammon@ppos.co or drop off in person at 7 Parelli Way. www.Pagosa-PeakOpenSchool.org.

FULL-TIME BOOKKEEPER. We are seeking a bookkeeper with QuickBooks and payroll experience. Please submit your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Deandra at dberes@peoplecarehs.com or (970)399-8257.

NEW OPENING: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER? If you are a self starter, with the ability to multi-task, The Pagosa Springs SUN has an opportunity for you with our multimedia organization. We are currently taking applications for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) advertising customer service position. Position offers salary, plus commission. Reliable transportation is a must. If you like getting out in the community, meeting new business owners and developing relationships, this is the perfect job for you. We offer a fun and challenging, team-oriented work environment. Email your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls, please.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a Phlebotomist. The Phlebotomist performs blood collection from patients, receipt of sample drop-off, performs urine drug screen collections, some waived standard biological, microbiological and chemical tests in all areas of the medical laboratory. Works under direct technical supervision and performs waived complexity tests in accordance with standards established in the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) and/or appropriate agency protocol (COLA). Records and participates in evaluation of Quality Control for tests conducted. Does inventory control of work area. Experience is required. Applications may be picked up at hospital registration or downloaded from www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

LEAD COOKS- Pagosa Brewing seeks kitchen team members. Leadership opportunities available. Applications at 118 North Pagosa Blvd. and online- no phone calls.

PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL is accepting bids for snow removal. Must have parking lot clear for parent drop off by 7:30a.m. and student pick up by 3p.m. As well as clear sidewalk entry. Please send bids and letters of inquiry to Chammon@ppos.co or drop off in person at 7 Parelli Way. www.Pagosa-PeakOpenSchool.org.

CNAs NEEDED, DAY SHIFT and night shift. Night shift differential. Apply in person. Pine Ridge Extended Care. Under new management.

HELP WANTED

Are you looking for a NEW career?

If you are a self starter, with the ability to multi-task, The Pagosa Springs SUN has an opportunity for you with our multimedia organization.

We are currently taking applications for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) advertising customer service position.

Position offers salary, plus commission. Reliable transportation is a must.

If you like getting out in the community, meeting new business owners and developing relationships, this is the perfect job for you.

We offer a fun and challenging, team-oriented work environment.

Submit your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com or drop off at 457 Lewis Street. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls.


The Pagosa Springs **SUN**
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457 Lewis Street

DISHWASHERS NEEDED AT THE Buck Stops Here Market and Eatery. Great way to make some extra money for the holidays. Apply within at 19 Navajo Trail Drive.

RETAIL SALES TEAM ADMINISTRATOR. Need a sharer! Enjoy fun and passion while building community? Includes teamwork, sampling and experimenting along with basic store administrative duties. Requires dedication, curiosity and excitement. Apply in store or email resume to office@thechokecherrytree.com.

CNA CLASS STARTING SOON. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

LINE COOK/ PREP COOK WANTED full time at the PEAK DELI. Bring resume. No calls.

DENTAL HYGIENIST: San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to drecicmsmithdds@aol.com or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

DELIVERY/ WAREHOUSE. PERFORMS DELIVERY, warehouse and installation functions. Scheduled hours are Monday through Friday with weekends off. Experience preferred. Must be reliable and pass background check. Starting wage is \$15/ hour. Apply in person at Sears, 2800 Cornerstone Drive.

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.

DETENTION COMMANDER. Archuleta County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the position of a Detention Commander. For job description, wage and benefit details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit a Sheriff's Office application and resume to Undersheriff Woodman at PO Box 638, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, Fax (970)731-4800 or email to jwoodman@archuletacounty.org.

USE YOUR CAREGIVING TALENTS to help others stay in their home. Training and flexible schedule. LifeCare (970)516-1234.

CLEANERS, UP TO \$15/ hour. Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable. Text or call Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

FULL-TIME EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER. Archuleta County is accepting applications for the position of a Full-Time Emergency Services Dispatcher. For job description and wage details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit an application to Archuleta County Human Resources at PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, FAX (970)264-1879, or email it to rsmith@archuletacounty.org.

PART-TIME HELPER. Chimney and roof work. Starting pay \$15/ hour for qualified worker. (970)946-1275.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently training and hiring SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS. Possibility to work part time or full time (combined with additional duties). You will make a difference in the lives of students. You start with up to a \$600 bonus upon completion of CDL license. You receive "behind the wheel" training. You are an essential part of the team at ASD. For more information, locate the job description on our website, www.mypagosaschools.com under the "Job Postings" icon. Or contact Laura Mijares at lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us.

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264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR part-time work? Mountain Pizza and Taproom is hiring part-time cooks and cashiers. Apply in person 175 Pagosa Street. Alyssa.

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-SHERIFF'S OFFICE. Archuleta County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the position of a Part-Time Administrative Assistant. For job description, wage and benefit details, please visit www.archuletacounty.org. Submit a Sheriff's Office application and resume to Undersheriff Woodman at PO Box 638, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, Fax (970)731-4800 or email to jwoodman@archuletacounty.org.

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR wanted. Must be experienced and have a wide variety of skills, needs to pass background check and have a valid driver's license. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS & GREEN HOUSE PAGOSA have multiple positions available. No experience is required; we love to train motivated people. We offer competitive wages, a happy, friendly work environment, employee discounts and more. Please stop by Pagosa Therapeutics for an application or email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

PERSONALS

IT CAN STOP! Let us help. 24-hour domestic violence or sexual assault hotline. Confidential. 264-9075.

PETS

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

BANK STEM CELLS FROM your own pet for use later in their life. Elk Park animal Hospital at 9572 West Highway 160 in Pagosa, can help you plan ahead for this. Call for a consultation at 731-6400.

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call 731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

FOR SALE

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND HOME-OWNERS. Are you remodeling or tearing down? Call Durango Salvage, we buy and sell building materials. Tom, (970)749-2271, Mark, 749-8235.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and/ or Aspen. \$220- \$260 per cord. Free delivery in Pagosa Springs area. (970)661-3888.

64" LAND PRIDE SNOW blower. 3 point hitch, \$2,500. 264-1771.

GE PORTABLE DISHWASHER, \$200 OBO. Wood stove, convection, \$300 OBO. Steve or Kathie 731-0715.

ALL STAINED AND ART GLASS SALE at Big Sky Studio! All in stock sheet glass is 25% off through December 31! Call (970)731-5374 for appointment!

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OAK FIREWOOD FOR YOUR warmth and memories. Custom lengths available. Please call Canyon Lee for pricing and delivery schedules. (970)880-4086.

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ALL NATURAL, 100% GRASS finished beef and lamb, pastured pork, and organic free range chicken from GrassRoots Meats. Available at our warehouse on Mondays, as well as the Choke Cherry Tree and Joy's the rest of the week. www.grassrootsmeats.colorado@gmail.com. Call Lois for more information, (970)582-0166.

BAKFLIP G2 TONNEAU COVER for 2007 and up Toyota Tundra Crewmax. 5-foot, 7-inch bed, like new, black, originally \$858, yours for \$500. Call 946-3137.

HAND BLOWN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS on sale for \$5 through December 31st at Big Sky Studio! Hand made in Pagosa Springs! Call (970)731-5374 for appointment!

WOMEN'S DIAMOND HOOP EARRINGS. Inside out design, 34 diamonds, appraisal upon request. Appraised high, will sell low. Serious inquires only. (970)903-6094

WRIGHT NATURAL BAKERY. Locally owned Whole Grain Organic Bakery. Including pecan, apple and pumpkin pies. Delicious, nutritious items at Choke Cherry Tree and Made in Colorado Shoppe. wrightnaturalbakery.com. (970)812-8026.

WATER TRANSFER TANKS. 275 gallons. 6 miles west of Pagosa Springs on Hwy. 160. \$200 cash. Call Kurt (801)201-2122.

SEARS SNOWBLOWER, 2 STAGE, electric start, \$750. 946-7917.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

AIRSTREAM 2007 CLASSIC LTD Santa Special. Excellent condition. \$38,000. (850)585-5718.

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RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2010 POLARIS SPORTSMAN TOURING 550 eps: 2 person ATV with electronic power steering, snowplow, new top end, front and rear storage boxes. Ready to plow and play. \$4,400 OBO. Call 731-0150 or 585-9754.

AUTOS

2001 FORD SUPER DUTY XLT, 3/4 ton pickup truck. 4 door, long bed, V- 10, gas powered, automatic transmission, 2 wheel drive. After-market trailer brake controller. White, interior is tan cloth. 163,650 miles. \$8,500. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St., Pagosa, (970)731-7296.

2012 TOYOTA PRIUS C hybrid hatchback with 146,393 miles, serviced regularly. 4 door, auto transmission and hybrid power plant. New windshield, aftermarket wheels, floor mats, roof rack. \$7,000. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St., Pagosa, (970)731-7296.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

2000 FORD RANGER PICKUP. 200K, good shape, \$3,500 OBO. Call Mark (970)946-6088.

1997 4X4 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE. Runs good, looks good, has good tires. \$1,900. (970)946-3762.

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2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH TRIPLEX. 1 car garage, \$1,200 a month. Laundry room, paved road. Close in. (970)264-9159.

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LONG TERM RENTALS available. Call Sunetha, (970)459-4411 or sunethaproperties.com.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, 2 story. Master on 1st floor. 2 car garage, W/ D, unfurnished. Lakes area, walk to shopping and Recreation Center. Awesome VIEWS. Energy efficient, natural gas fireplace. (970)398-0023.

EATON DR. 2 BEDROOM 1 bath apartment, behind City Market. Water and trash included. No pets allowed. \$800 rent, \$800 security deposit. Call Ginni, 731-2216.

BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM HOUSE: January- June. \$980/ month. Furnished, all utilities paid, high speed Internet. No smoking. Text only: (970)308-1986.

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH on golf course. Garage and water paid. \$900/ month plus deposit. (479)244-7141.

LONG TERM/ SHORT TERM rental. Master bedroom, bath in 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. Spacious, quiet, clean. 1 dog possible. (970)317-4418.

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATHROOM APARTMENTS for rent. 1 upstairs and 1 ground level available. \$1,100 a month, \$500 security deposit, utilities included. NO smoking, NO pets, located 2 miles east of downtown. Call or text (970)903-0966.

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, furnished/ unfurnished, ground-level apartment in home with garage parking. No smoking; no pets. \$850 including utilities. Call (970)946-7359.

ROOM FOR RENT \$575, plus deposit. Separate entrance. References required. Off North Pagosa Blvd. menergy88@gmail.com.

LONG & SHORT TERM Rentals available. OWNERS More Properties Needed! www.NextHomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

BEST VALUE IN PAGOSA. Excellent condition 1/1, 2/2 apartment homes. Convenient location, walk to uptown grocery store. 946-9187.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

ON SITE RENTALS and portable storage containers available for delivery. Rodent proof, the best storage around at Let's Store It. 731-0007.

COMMERCIAL RENTAL: OFFICE/ MEDICAL with reception and three+ exam rooms. Approximately 1,600 sq. ft. space on ground floor. Location near Hwy. 160 and Piedra Road (near Village Interiors/ Carpet One) on Trinity Lane in Pagosa. Minimum 1 year lease \$1,300/ month, utilities included (first, last, security). Contact Susan (970)799-2559.



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

DOWNTOWN OFFICES AVAILABLE UP-STAIRS in the Heritage building, 468 Pagosa Street. Starting at \$250/ month. Includes kitchen, conference room, utilities and WiFi. 946-2728.

5,000 SQ. FT. PREMIER office, retail/ industrial. Premier Park Ave. address. Home & Ranch Property Management. (970)731-1554.

SMALL WAREHOUSE SPACE in town. 10'x15' unit with overhead door and electricity. \$80 per month. Michael C. Branch (970)769-2036.

HIGH COUNTRY MINI STORAGE. Most sizes available. Paved, lighted, security. Behind The Outfitter. Call 264-9142.

5 OFFICES WITH RECEPTION. 4 at 150 sq. ft. 1 at 230 sq. ft. 2,000 sq. ft. of shop/ warehouse space. Call (970)946-0874.

EXECUTIVE ISUITES. Up to (2) 14x14, (2) 12x12 offices. Conference room use, fast Internet, 2nd floor, utilities, paved parking. FREE month rent with year lease. Conference room with Internet (hourly, daily rates). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE. Locate your business in Pagosa's busiest shopping center. Country Center/ City Market Plaza. High traffic area with abundant parking. Common area maintenance included. For more information, please call Charlotte at (970)903-7690.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS for sale. Oxygen bar and retail shop. For more information, call (405)274-3955.

ANOTHER PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS is for sale. Successful 15 year old local Pagosa Ice Company is being sold because of personal health reasons. For more information, please call and leave a message at (970)731-8600. Very serious inquiries only.

TURN KEY BUSINESS. CUSTOMER list, equipment and supplies. Call (970)731-4585 or (970)946-1275.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Services for Archuleta County Facilities. Archuleta County is currently soliciting bids for Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Services for the following facilities: Administrative Building; Courthouse Building; Public Works Building; Nick's Hanger (Airport); Extension Office/ Western Heritage Building (Fairgrounds). Proposals shall be sent to Archuleta County Public Works Division, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, and attention: Operations Manager. Proposals shall be received no later than January 15, 2020. Envelopes containing proposals shall be marked on the outside with "Proposal for Provide Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Services for Archuleta County Facilities." Archuleta County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informalities or minor irregularities in proposals, and to accept the proposal deemed, in the opinion of Archuleta County, to be in the best interest of Archuleta County. Questions concerning this request for proposals shall be directed to Matt Archuleta at Barchuleta@archuletacounty.org) of the Archuleta County Public Works Division or by calling (970)264-8411.

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

#HUMANS OVER HOUSES

We sell a lot of Properties, it's true. Many Brokers want to talk about how awesome they are.

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Teresa Anderson "Thank you, Britney, for believing in me and helping me meet my goals! you are truly an amazing realtor!"

Liberty Bratt "What an incredible experience! I went to Next Home with a small budget and a big dream. Through Next Home I found my future homestead and future best friends"

Bruce Roman "Any realtor can drive you around to look. Then there's Britney ultimately she's still there way after the commission checks have been cashed and the last signature on the 900 documents at closing...She will stay by your side ALL THE WAY AND AFTER!!!"



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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

FORMER KFC/ TACO BELL Building- For Sale or Lease. City Market Center. Email for Info (pdf) PropertyTrust@frontier.net. Broker: F. Scott Tonges, Southwest Property Trust, (970)731-4421.

ARBOLES COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 2.54 acres. In the Piedra Park Subdivision with great views of Navajo Lake State Park. \$115,000. Possible owner carry! Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

PagosaSUN.com

HOUSES FOR SALE

SELLING OR BUYING? I am INDEPENDENT, I work for YOU! 18 years in Pagosa. Peggy Andrews, Independent Real Estate Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

5 BEDROOM 2 BATH log cabin, 20 acres. Backing to Pagosa Lakes with no HOA. Call Mrs. Archuleta, (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

NICE 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH with a third room for an office. All fenced 2 acres, next to Navajo State Park. \$265,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH on 27 acres, \$310,000. 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.

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.

CONEJOS RIVER FRONTAGE HOME! 3 bedroom, 3 Bath, 3-car garage in gated subdivision, has access to the Rio Grande National Forest. \$797,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

SANTA'S AFFORDABLE SALE! Condo, 2+ bedroom, 3 bath (\$100s). Townhouse, 2+ bedroom, 3 bath, 2-garage (\$200s). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038 Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

PROPERTY

GREAT 5 ACRE LOT to build your dream home! With awesome mountain views. 10 minutes from Wolf Creek. With public water. \$90,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

WINTER SALE ACREAGES. 107 acres (\$200s). 39+ acres (\$80s). 130 acres with 3 sides national forest! (\$500s). Private finance options. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

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JIM SMITH REALTY

LISTPAGOSA.COM OR JIMSMITHREALTY.COM

2260 PIEDRA ROAD. 1/3 acre, \$9,000. Finance available. hoganpagosa@gmail.com.

40.0 ACRES IN A GATED COMMUNITY. Power installed in 4 locations of the property, cistern, cabin and a pole barn started. \$275,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

4.89 ACRES IN ASPEN SPRINGS. No HOA! Corners marked and ready for you to take ownership. \$52,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

SECLUDED 1.50 ACRES. With water tap installed. Close to Navajo Lake State Park. \$60,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

FSBO. BEAUTIFUL, QUIET 35 acres in gated community. \$65,000, owner financing available. (970)903-2900 or (970)903-0870.

PROPERTY 5 ACRES with power on the corner and survey has been done. Possible OWNER CARRY! \$52,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

FANTASTIC LOT. BUILD YOUR dream home. In Timber Ridge, 4.73 acres, \$169,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817, text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

1.0 ACRE IN ASPEN SPRINGS AREA. Price reduced! Septic installed! Great mountain views. \$32,000. Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.

CONEJOS CANYON RIVER FRONTAGE property in a gated community with awesome views! 3.43 acres. \$125,000. Owner carry possibilities! Mrs. Archuleta (970)903-2817 or text debarch to 85377. EXIT REALTY ADVANTAGE PAGOSA.



Holiday Church Events



All events listed in December Church Events Calendar are free of charge.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Burning Bowl Ceremony. 10:30

a.m., New Thought Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160. Release the past and reclaim the future. For more information, call (505) 604-5031.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Mass. 5 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 445 Lewis St. For more information, call 731-5744.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day Mass. 9 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. For more information, call 731-5744.

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

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

The weight of four paper clips in your hand is about equal to that of a bushtit. Even some hummingbirds outweigh this tiny songbird. Commonly found in flocks of 10 to 40 birds, on cold winter nights they huddle closely together to share body heat.

Bushtits are pale, gray birds with short bills, long tails, and black legs and feet. They may show a brown cheek patch. Males have dark eyes and females light ones, but otherwise they look alike. They are birds of the western parts of North America, ranging from southern Canada to Guatemala, living in many types of wooded and brushy habitats.

These active, social birds live in flocks year-round, making twittering contact calls to keep the group together as they fly single file from shrub to shrub or tree to tree in search of food. Using their small size to advantage, they glean twigs and leaves for insects and spiders, often hanging upside down to reach the undersides unavailable to larger birds.

Their social behavior even extends into breeding season. Both members of a breeding pair typically work for a month or longer to construct a foot-long stretchy sack nest of spider webs and plant matter. The parents often have helpers, frequently unattached males, to raise their nestlings. All pile into the nest to sleep at night until the young fledge.

For information on local bird-watching events, visit www.weminuche-audubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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Dance 9PM-12:30AM

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EXIT REALTY IN PAGOSA

Over the next months, we will be introducing our Realtors

Owned and managed a cattle ranch for 30 years in Northern New Mexico with husband John
Retired and moved to Pagosa Springs in 2013
University of Colorado - Boulder, BA in History, MBA in Finance



Worked as Accountant and Information Management Officer for Denver Metro Sewer District

Airplane and Glider Pilot licenses, sold General Aviation Aircraft while in Graduate School

Love bridge, watercolor painting and Pagosa!

Jean Brittingham, Broker Associate
970-507-0885
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