



The Pagosa Springs SUN

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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com

VOLUME 110 — NO. 13, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

Courts, county receive health-impact report on courthouse

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The final report expected regarding the air quality of the Archuleta County Courthouse has arrived, with the report coming from Dr. Michael Kosnett, a medical toxicologist hired by the Colorado Judicial Department.

The report, dated Dec. 14, comes in the form of a 13-page letter from Kosnett that discusses his "assessment of the impact of the indoor air quality of the Archuleta County Courthouse Building in Pagosa Springs, Colorado ... on the health of employees who work in the building."

That assessment, Kosnett explained, was based on three "components of investigation": telephone and face-to-face interviews with employees, review of industrial hygiene and HVAC consultants' reports relating to the building, and a site visit conducted on Oct. 24.

"In conclusion, the indoor air quality in the Archuleta County Courthouse Building is characterized by strikingly inadequate fresh air ventilation, multiple offensive

■ See Courthouse A8

County budget anticipates work on Piedra, other roads

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The 2018 road construction season in Archuleta County looks to be a busy one, with the county budgeting to expend upwards of \$8 million within its Road and Bridge Fund.

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners approved the county's 2018 budget on Dec. 12, which anticipates a total of \$28,111,144 in revenues and \$34,382,329 in expenditures across all funds.

One of the biggest pieces of that budget is the Road and Bridge Fund, with anticipated revenues of \$5,991,230 and expenditures anticipated at \$8,189,780 for 2018.

"The 2018 Road & Bridge budget is about \$480,000 higher than the 2017 budget. Both maintenance and capital outlay expenditures were increased. To support these increases, about \$2,198,000 of Road & Bridge fund balance were appropriated; but a healthy fund balance remains," County Administrator Bentley Henderson's budget presentation reads.

"We've got a couple of big projects that we're going to undertake that are going to be sizable in scope and in impact," Henderson explained to the board at the meeting.

Henderson explained to the

■ See County A8



Holiday Family Night

Photos courtesy Sanya Peterson

Pagosa Springs Elementary School celebrates Holiday Family Night on Dec. 13 with over 500 people in attendance. There was a student art show where families could purchase their student's artwork. Art was also donated by community members for a silent auction. Partners in Education put on the event, which included a turkey and ham dinner complete with cheesecake. Games and crafts were also enjoyed by many and Santa made an appearance.



Two die in area vehicle accidents

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

Law enforcement agencies have responded to two different vehicular accidents that have resulted in fatalities in the last week.

One incident occurred on Wolf Creek Pass, with the other occurring west of Pagosa Springs.

Local teen dies on pass

A local teenager died on the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 18, after her car went off a steep embankment on Wolf Creek Pass.

■ See Accidents A8

PFPD discusses mill levy

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors further discussed the idea of going to the ballot for a mill levy increase in May of 2018 during its regular meeting on Dec. 12.

During the meeting, PFPD Chief Randy Larson presented figures to the board for a 9.686 mill, but later informed SUN staff that, after talking with PFPD Chairman John Thompson, he would instead bring a "significantly lower" mill levy increase to be considered by the board during its January meeting.

During the Dec. 12 meeting, the board discussed ideas such as how to communicate to the public that the PFPD is not staffed 24/7 and how much of a mill increase would need to be compared to the PFPD's last requested mill levy increase.

If the PFPD did ask the voters for a mill levy increase, it would likely be done during the May election period, as the PFPD will have to have an election for directors dur-

■ See PFPD A8

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Christmas wishes from our community leaders

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

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

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

Mark Floyd, board president for the Upper San Juan Health Service District, the body that oversees and stewards Pagosa Springs Medical Center, shared his wish: "I've always been impressed with the level of volunteerism in Pagosa Springs. That is, community members helping each other for the sheer joy of it. My wish is that this trait continues to be strengthened in the years to come."

As president of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors, Jim Smith shared: "As we enter into the Holiday season we think of giving and receiving. However, some are having a hard time due to their economic situation, health issues, or death of a love(d) one. We have several organizations here that take money donations and give it to those in need. Make this a priority and give in order to lift the spirit of the less fortunate. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let it Snow!"

Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger shared his Christmas wish: "It is my hope and prayer that every heart and home in our community will experience an overwhelming sense of peace and hope."

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners Chair Steve Wadley wrote: "I would be the happiest county Commissioner if I could untie the bow on a Brand new Jail and Sheriff's complex. Santa you've always been good to me! PLEASE!!!!!! I'll set out the milk and cookies."

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

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

Terri Lynn Oldham House

WHADDYA THINK?

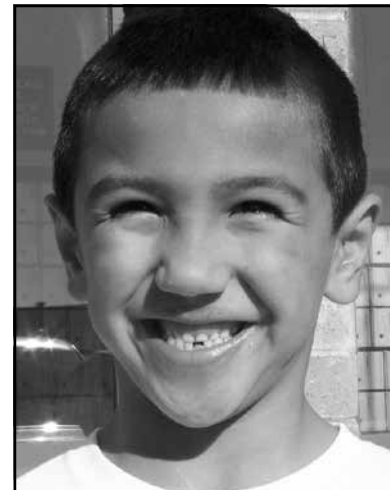
Do you believe in Santa Claus?



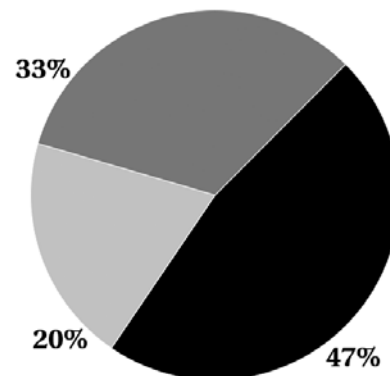
Ana Quezada
"Yeah."



Daniel Quezada
"Yes."



Oscar Quezada
"Yes."



Poll results (133 votes)
Yes — 47 percent
No — 20 percent
Once upon a time — 33 percent

This week online: Are area roads in good shape for the winter?
Vote at www.pagosasun.com

LOOKING BACK



From the December 24, 1970, Pagosa Springs SUN. SECOND PLACE — The Tony Gallegos residence was named as second place winner in the Christmas lighting contest. The very fine decorations include a number of lights, artistic cutouts, and flashers. The home is located on the last street west from the Trujillo Road.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 16, 1927
About a foot of snow fell in this vicinity the first of the week and has provided excellent sleighing. The thermometer dropped yesterday morning and again this morning to all the way from 13 to 38 degrees below zero — depending upon your favorite instrument.

Montroy Bros this morning loaded out three cars of fine cattle to the Denver market.

A report this morning from Piedra is to the effect that there are from 8 to 10 inches of snow on Yellowjacket divide, but that the highway is in excellent condition for motor traffic.

It is estimated that the San Juan Basin will be enriched in the sum of about \$150,000 as the result of the sale of this year's crop of turkeys.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 25, 1942
Work started Wednesday morning on a community ice rink on the Hersch lots at Lewis street between 3rd and 4th street. The project which is sponsored by the Lions Club, is expected to be ready for skating within the coming week, providing the weather man gives a lift. Dave Hersch is furnishing the location, Archuleta county furnishes the excavating machinery and operators and the town of Pagosa Springs will furnish the water. Pagosa Springs has been sorely in need of a good ice rink for the youngsters, for many years. In time gone by, attempts have been made to build similar rinks near the east river bridge and also near the old depot, but it is said that the ground at these locations would not hold water and was not suitable for the project.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 21, 1967
The School board this week voted to purchase land as a possible site for future school construction. The land, which adjoins the town of Pagosa Springs on the west, is part of the property of the Matthews family. It is located at the west city limits and adjoins Highway 160 on the north. A new grade school building has been contemplated by the school board for some time. The present building is inadequate and temporary structures have been leased. These are house-trailer type buildings and presently house the lower grades and the elementary library. An election for the approval of a bond issue must be held. No building can be built until such an election is held and a majority of the tax paying electors vote in favor of the bonds.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 24, 1992
Fairfield Communities Inc.'s Christmas present to Archuleta County hasn't arrived yet. It is doubtful it will arrive before Dec. 25. As part of its chapter 11 reorganization plan completed Sept. 1, Fairfield Communities was to pay Archuleta county past due property taxes for 1990 and 1991 (as well as a few unpaid 1989 taxes) in 12 equal payments, spread over a six-year period. The first Fairfield Communities payment was due on Oct. 1, 1992.
The snowstorm on Dec. 18 and Dec. 19 put a minor dent in local travel, and dumped major amounts of the white stuff at the Wolf Creek Ski area just in time for the rush of holiday skiers. Wolf Creek Ski Area received a total of 46 inches of new snow during the two-day period last week, with 30 inches of snow falling on Friday.

Your Representatives

Archuleta County Commissioners

Steve Wadley, Chair (R) 264-8304
Michael Whiting (R) 264-8305
Ron Maez (R) 264-8303

Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger, ddvolger@gmail.com

Pagosa Springs Town Council

Clint Alley, calley@pagosasprings.co.gov
John Egan, jegan@pagosasprings.co.gov
Nicole DeMarco, ndemarco@pagosasprings.co.gov
Mat deGraaf, mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov
Tracy Bunning, tbunning@pagosasprings.co.gov
David Schanzenbaker, dschanzenbaker@pagosasprings.co.gov

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Printed by
The Pagosa Springs SUN Publishing, Inc.
Subscription Rates:
Annual in County - \$25
Annual Out of County - \$35
Monthly - \$7
Advertising Deadlines:
Display - Noon Monday
Classified - Tuesday 10 a.m.
Legal - Friday 5 p.m.

Postmaster please send address corrections and changes to:
P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 970-264-2100
email: editor@pagosasun.com pagosasun.com

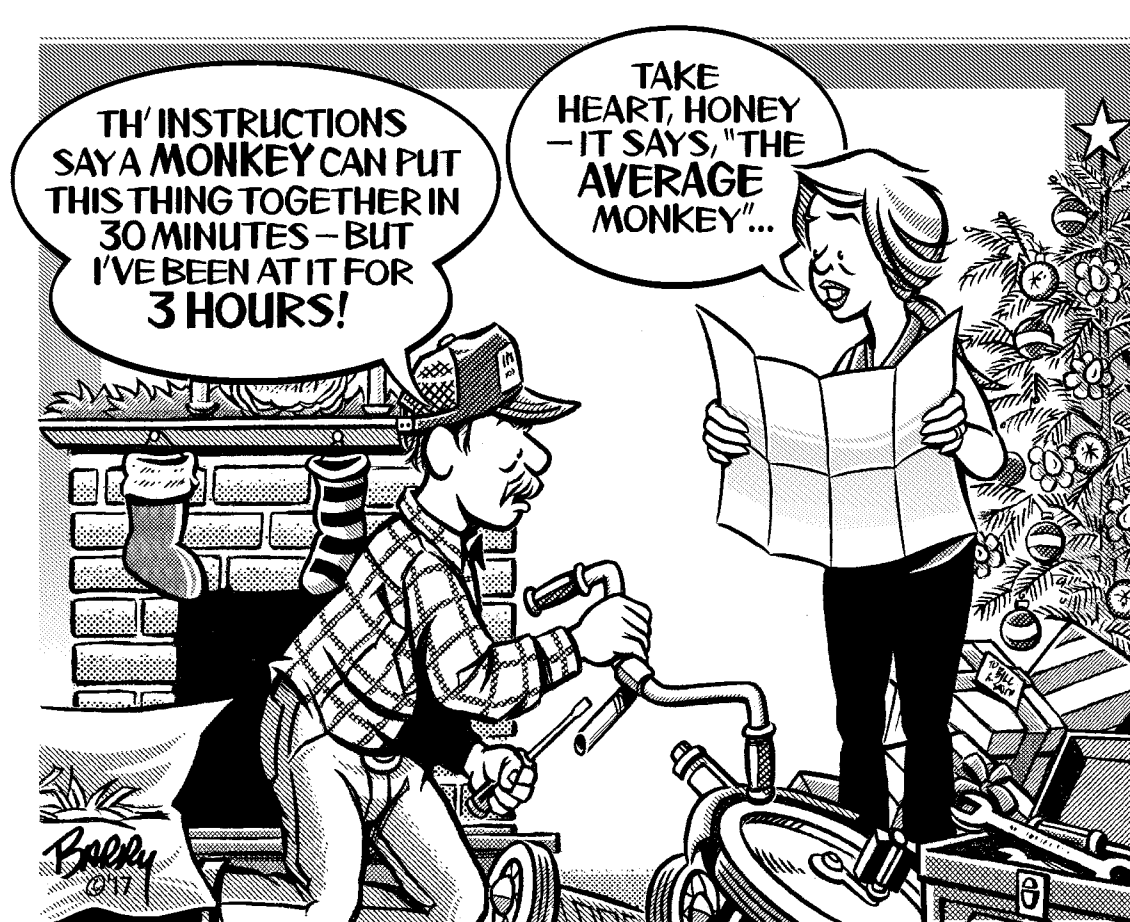
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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
12/12	54	19	-	-	-
12/13	50	17	-	-	-
12/14	43	18	S	T	2"
12/15	43	12	S	T	T
12/16	46	16	-	-	-
12/17	44	18	-	-	-
12/18	46	13	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs
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Letters

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

New bus times

Dear Editor:
It is unfortunate that three critical locations, the medical center, City Market, and Walmart are all located in the uptown area, but "it is what it is" and adequate transportation service is needed.

With the present schedule, the bus stops twice at the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, City Market, and Walmart, providing one loop for the downtown and another for uptown riders. The 2018 schedule provides only one stop at each of these critical locations, requiring riders to spend an hour on the bus to ride the complete circular route to get back home. Inconvenience would become hardship if a customer needs to purchase frozen food or other perishables, is caring for small children or, in the case

of the medical center, suffer from illness.

When comparing the new bus schedule to the present one, it seems evident that uptown customers are getting the short end of the stick. The downtown bus stops are minimally affected, while the uptown suffers the loss of six stops, counting the three aforementioned critical locations, and three convenience stops on the north side of U.S. 160.

One case in point involves a single, handicapped rider who chose her home on Lake Street in Vista for its access to bus service to get her to and from her place of employment in downtown Pagosa Springs. She has depended on bus service for nine years to do volunteer work sweeping the sidewalks and washing windows, and even shoveling snow when necessary, receiving tips to augment her SSI and care for her family of cats. She is a civic award winner and has become a part of the local color in our community. This will come to an ignominious end on January 2, 2018. How many people would similarly stand to lose their livelihood and dignity in such an abrupt manner? These are people who have come to depend on a transportation service that has made our community proud.

Mary Bailey

Sexual advances

Dear Editor:
This letter is in response to the articles covering the sexual harassment allegations made against men in the media and government throughout the United States.

To all males living in this country I issue a collective statement: enough already. Who are you to impose your sexual desires on someone because they did not give you their consent? Once again we are witnessing those in authority positions taking advantage of the situation. Resignation is the least you can do. Prosecution is the best we can do ... and we will.

What did you expect to gain from making sexual advances on a human being? If this isn't an indication of the failure to grow up I don't know what is. Those men who have permeated this transgression must seek counseling before they destroy more lives executing their perverted conquest. Otherwise time spent in prison will allow them to dwell on their evil actions while trying to survive an environment which is the closest equivalent to

hell on earth.

Perhaps I had the advantage of growing up with four sisters in my family which some say predispositions males to be kinder to females throughout all stages of their life. Frankly I remember times when I was embarrassed for making incidental contact with a female followed by an immediate apology.

Ladies of America please be assured that the actions of a few do not represent the feelings and beliefs of the many. You are our mothers, sisters, daughters, cousins etc. that compose one equal half of the species we call the human race. For that matter do not despair because the true honest and gentle men of this country know better than to act inappropriately in your company. We will always cherish your beauty, charm and most importantly your intelligence. Now help us to drive this dreadful scourge from the planet once and for all. It is up to all of us. Let us begin.

Joe Bialek
Cleveland, Ohio

Tax proposal

Dear Editor:
"According to the model of social value orientation, humans can be placed into three rough categories ... 60% of people are pro-socials, meaning they prefer resources to be distributed equally among everyone; 30% are individualists, meaning they are primarily concerned with maximizing their own resources; roughly 10% are competitive, to them, the most important outcome is that they have more than other people," Jack Turban, Scientific American article. This model is supported by the current National Geographic survey of where people are happiest: Denmark, Singapore and Costa Rica. The conclusion of this survey is happiness is the result of all three nations having programs to remove the three greatest economic threats to the average citizen, which are education, medical expenses and economic safety nets.

So what is the GOP up to with their current tax proposal? We know they are willing to suffer incredible humiliation at the hands of Trump, have no sympathy for their (new) "forgotten man" voting base, no hesitancy to sell their souls to the wealthy, eliminate medical coverage for much of America, forget their basic fiscal premise for revising the Federal tax act by loading the national debt with \$1.5 trillion. Let's just look at one

"payoff" item. The "pass through corporations" were a tax incentive for small business ... now it's extended to \$billionaire hedge fund owners ... guess who's money is passing through?

So why are they so dogmatically pursuing these changes? I think the basic driver/premise is to reverse the New Deal/Great Society Act's that created a "minimal floor" of care and economic support for the American people. Given the GOP's three pillars, God, guns and veterans; it's more of a DNA/religious thing vs. rational, ideological, economic or philosophical. But let's be more basic, which of these dictums best matches the GOP ... "Nature (society) is the realm of laws, stern and unbreakable vs. morality, that of humanism and freedom."

Dave Blake

Duplication

Dear Editor:
Why does Judge Wilson, and et al within the judiciary think they deserve a new palace on our dime. In Durango they upgraded the courthouse for a fraction of what the local good ol' boys are wanting to do here. I personally believe Judge Wilson does not care who he inconveniences as long as he gets his way. He's the new big man on campus and he's going to show everybody how it's done. The question was put to the people of Archuleta County and they answered loud and clear. I here talk of attempts to circumvent the people and move forward with schemes to

■ See Letters A4

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

May these be yours during this holiday season.



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Letters

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or fax: (970) 264-2103

All letters must:

be 500 words or less

be signed by the author, unless emailed

include the author's phone number and address

be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday), email submissions are preferred

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

If necessary, only one letter in support of a political candidate or issue will be printed each edition.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

The SUN reserves the right to edit letters.



Merry Christmas

It's been a pleasure serving you this year. From all of us here at Citizens Bank, we would like to wish all of our customers a wonderful and happy holiday season. We sincerely appreciate your business, and look forward to working with you again next year. Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year to you and your family.



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Letters

■ Continued from A3

build some big fancy new facility and strap the people with the bill anyway. The county has had the building tested multiple times and it meets OSHA standards. My question to everybody in the county is this, "In a county as small as ours why do we need duplicate agencies within the town and county"? I recently did a CORA request for the incorporation documents for the county and the response I received was, "Archuleta County is not incorporated." In a recent Sun article Judge Wilson even stated that the courthouse must be located within the incorporated county seat. That statement in itself reveals there may very well be some other legal and financial issues going on, that the general public have not been informed of but they are footing the tax bill. We have a brand new seat of government building on Hot Springs Blvd., that has been functioning just fine and probably not to full capacity for several years. The agencies that are required to be located within the incorporated county seat should actually be located there. Another completely separate, very serious question is, why is Archuleta County not incorporated? Very few people actually live inside the incorporated Pagosa Springs town boundaries. This raises a very serious financial question that needs to be addressed before anymore big financial projects are pursued. If Archuleta County is not incorporated what authority do any of the employees actually have to do anything they are doing? Archuleta County's upper management seems to be disorganized. Maybe we need a new county administrator and new county attorney? These guys have been here for several years and the current mess has come about under their counseling and leadership.

Here is a link to how Durango spent less than \$2million to handle a similar situation with their courthouse. <https://durangoherald.com/articles/184837-after-remodel-la-plata-county-courthouse-wins-gold>.

Greg Giehl

Prescribed burns

Dear Editor:
To Kevin Khung, District Ranger Pagosa District, San Juan National Forest
Prescribed burns? Stop smoking us out.

In case you haven't noticed, our community happens to lie directly downwind and in close proximity to much of the prescribed burns that the Forest Service, in its infinite wisdom, has been initiating in recent years. ("prescribed burns" hereafter referred to in this letter as PB).

The heavy blanket of smoke that settles over our community from nearby PB is causing serious respiratory health problems ... to all of us. I repeat: PB is causing serious respiratory health problems. No doubt if air quality were monitored here during the smoke filled seasons, health officials would be warning us to stay inside. Well, we don't live here to "stay inside."

And now you, the Forest Service, want to double down on the amount of burning you propose for next season, in spite of the increased danger to our health and

wellbeing. What are you thinking?

Why are you burning, anyway? The comparatively small acreage that PB could possibly cover would certainly not change the overall poor condition of the almost two million acres encompassed in the SJNE. Only nature can redefine the dying forests in the west ... and it will take its time.

And the claim that PB "provides better wildlife habitat," well, it's still just a needle in the hay stack. Some say the claim is a smoke screen for providing more grass to justify grazing permits to the cattle industry. But then that's another argument for another time.

Better you focus more on helping to protect our community from future wild fires. And do it with clean air alternatives including logging for fire breaks, thinning and chipping around our more populated areas.

It seems, anymore, when we look forward to enjoying a stretch of clear skies and nice weather, we are instead met with the aggressive agenda of PS and smoke filled skies.

Please stop the burning. We are sick of the smoke ... we are sick from the smoke.

Endeavoring to persevere.

Don Liccardi

Propane tanks

Dear Editor:

A current attempt by the general manager of the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA), Allen Roth, to override more than 3 1/2 decades of the PLPOA Environmental Control Committee's (ECC) approvals for the screening of propane tanks, for homes within the association, is very clear from the letter sent to PLPOA property owners on November 6, 2017 and the PLPOA newsletter sent out on November 22, 2017.

However, the past Environmental Control Committees have already approved and enforced the screening rule "to their satisfaction" as per the Declaration of Restrictions #4 E. The ECC is governed by this document — not by the GM or the Board. #4E states: "The Committee shall have the right to disapprove any plans, specifications or details submitted to it in the event the same are not in accordance with all of the provisions of these Restrictions; if the design or color scheme of the proposed building or other structure is not in harmony with the general surroundings of such lot or with the adjacent buildings or structures; if the plans and specifications submitted are incomplete; or in the event the Committee deems the plans, specifications or details, or any part thereof, to be contrary to the interests, welfare or rights of all or any part of the real property subject hereto, or the owners thereof. The decisions of the committee shall be final". Therefore, we believe that past ECC approvals cannot be overridden.

What property owner or building contractor who built a home or structure in PLPOA does not understand that all plans need the ECC's approval, and that their decision is final? If current management succeeds in forcing this on association property owners, where will it end ... arbitrarily making you change the color of your home, the type or color of your garage door or chim-

ney, overhangs, fencing ...

I am trying to help the PLPOA board and committees understand that management has no legal authority to make this change without a property owner vote to amend the declaration. I am also trying to help property owners avoid having to waste time and money on this matter. Home owners could incur a financial burden of thousands of dollars to bury or screen their propane tank. Let your voice be heard by emailing them and/or by attending meetings. The contact information and meeting schedules are on the PLPOA website.

The key person to contact is Sue Passant, ECC administrator, to share your thoughts on why this is so wrong on so many levels.

Jeff Maier

Hide your tank

Dear Editor:

The PLPOA is at it again. In the interest of protecting "home values" they have now decided to enforce a rule from the past that, due to fire concerns, was ignored namely hiding propane tanks or the disguising them from those driving by. The necessary action should have taken place at that time to remove it from the by laws, thus saving the owners its resurrection.

Options are given such as building three-sided structure ten feet away from the tank, bury it if it is owned and not rented or paint it an approved color, also if owned not rented, or shrubbery can be planted at a safe distance. It should be noted shrubbery must be high enough to hide tank. I have spent a great deal of time eliminating such near my home in the form of oak brush. Now I need to plant some as it seems to be the best grower on my property to meet the height requirement. I have experienced home insurance coverage cancellations. It should be noted some insurance providers use Google view rather than visiting and measuring the property to make their decision.

Property owners are directed to determine their course of action to be in compliance during this winter and be ready to submit plans to the committee for approval in May. If plans are not in adherence "action will take place." While those who do not rely on propane may view them as unsightly, we who have them find them very comforting especially in January. When I built my home twenty years ago no mention was made regarding placement or appearance of my tank. It like many others is rented. This fact limits my option of painting and burying but does leave open the option of planting oak brush or building an enclosure.

As appears so often PLPOA fails to realize those of us located south of US160 face different challenges than many of those north. Watchdog compliance to the rules is the primary benefit we receive as dues paying members of PLPOA. When rule changes along with compliance threats laid on without detailed evaluation they appear off-the-cuff and disruptive rather than beneficial.

If color of the tank is an option why have not those responsible for this resurrection of an out dated regulation not been in touch with those who own the tanks, the propane dealers. My experience is that they are very conscientious, community minded business people and would be open to such dialog. If a solution could be found it would ease the burden on owners as well as the committee who have to review applications received, if any.

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Wishing you the *merriest Christmas* and happy holiday season!

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Wildlife refuges

Dear Editor:

A wildlife refuge is precisely that, a refuge for wildlife. We've created a world where the natural creatures are refugees in this world. It appears that our civilization hasn't had the decency, courage, or ability to preserve things in their natural state, save, of course for those broken parcels of protected wilderness. These parcels are diminishing islands scattered like a checkerboard amongst our civilization.

We just can't seem to leave well enough alone. These shrinking islands of sacred lands have been preserved from inheritance and passed down from previous generations. Wild places are significant, if for nothing else than to remind us of where home is. Wilderness is a reminder of how good life is and can be, it's a reminder of where we all come from.

These patches of land have been shrinking and under attack nearly as long as we've held the thought to preserve them. Preservation is an act of charity and humility. A society that prioritizes preservation says, "Yes, of course we could find human uses for this land and turn it into dollars, but we know the benefits of preserving the world as it is far outweigh the short-term monetary gain." Instead, our culture demands more and more resources to feed our exponentially increasing appetite. Why have we lost our way? Our civilization appears addicted to an economic system that ignores the benefits of preserving sacred lands.

Instead of blindly following the narrative that destruction "is good for the economy," why don't we ask the question: "Is this current economy good for us and the world?" Rather than greedily seeking more resources to feed our growing demand, why can't we hold the moral fortitude to look instead at the source of the demand, instead of fighting over the dwindling supply?

Kevin Studley

Love always wins

Dear Editor:

This is the month when we celebrate God's gift to humanity, a babe in a manger, the Son of God. He came into this world like all of us, a baby, held in the loving arms of his mother. He lived the purpose set out by God, was loved by most, hated by the "powerful."

Can anyone practice both love and hate? Apparently, there are some who appear to do just that — they are "selective" about who they love but feel free to hate. Do they not know that God is love and only love. My answer is that hate robs them of the true joys of life — love always wins. Keep the faith, my dears.

Merry Christmas to all!

Patty Tillerson

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

for the issue of

Thursday, December 28

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 22

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Tuesday, December 26
Too Late to Classify 3 p.m., Tuesday, December 26

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 21

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

and for the issue of


Thursday, January 4

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 29

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Tuesday, January 2
Too Late to Classify 3 p.m., Tuesday, January 2

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 28

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



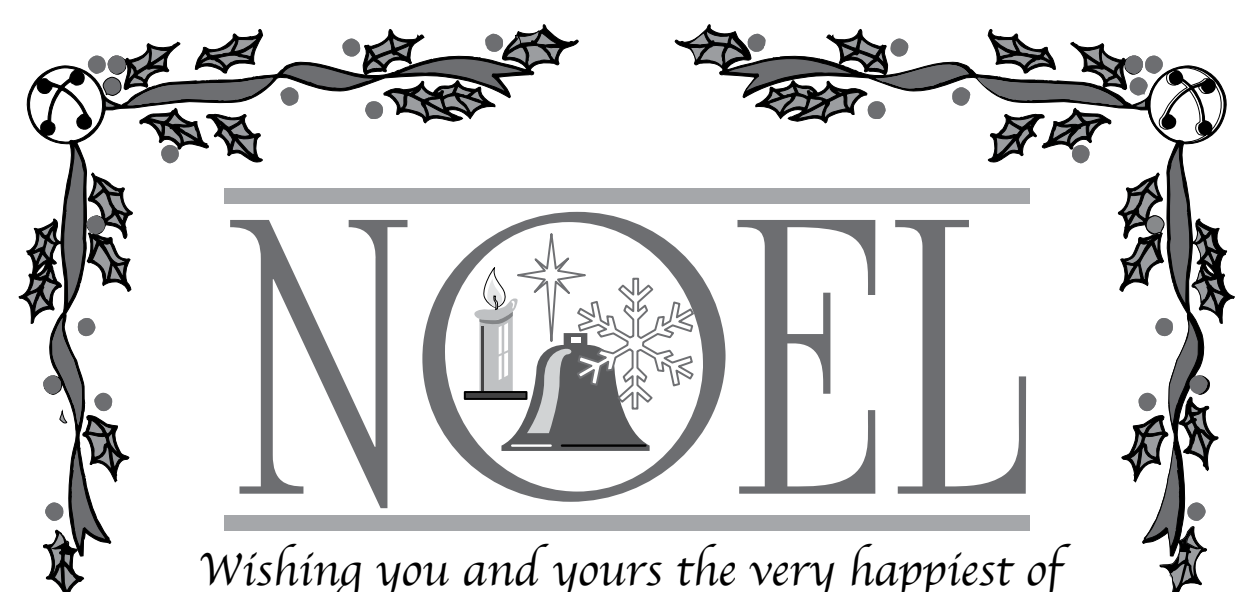
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Card of Thanks

Seeds

Seeds of Learning would like to thank Joyce Beaudry for donating homemade crocheted blankets, not once but twice. They are cozy and warm, but, most of all, just the right size.

The children at Seeds are very thankful for such wonderful blankets. Thank you, Joyce.



Wishing you and yours the very happiest of Holiday Seasons from the Staff and Board of Directors at






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Business

CHAMBER NEWS

Hats off to you: Celebration will center around headgear

By Mary Jo Coulehan
SUN Columnist

The Chamber of Commerce will host its annual membership meeting and gala on Jan. 20, 2018, at the Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse.

There are a lot of festivities planned around this year's theme of "Hats Off to You." The Kentucky Derby isn't the only event you can wear a hat to this year. Break out the elegant, the whimsical, the fedora or the bowler and just by wearing a hat to the event you will be entered into the "Best Hat" contest for both men and women.

Businesses can show off their creativity and ingenuity by decorating a hat to be used as a table decoration. Decorate a hat that represents your business or decorate one just for the fun. You do not have to attend the gala (although we hope you do) to enter a hat as a table decoration. Business cards should be included so that your business can be recognized or we will make a sign for your entry. There will also be prizes awarded for those creative hats entered. Table hats need to be delivered to the Chamber by close of business on Jan. 10.

Tickets will be on sale beginning Jan. 2. The easiest way to get tickets will be through the Chamber's website, www.pagosachamber.com. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Tables of eight may also be reserved for \$360. This price also includes a reserved table for a group of eight as well as two complimentary bottles of wine. Book a table for your business and

reward your management and staff with an evening of fun.

A delicious dinner buffet, cash bar, the community awards and entertainment will round out the gala evening. Take this time to meet some of our new business owners, catch up with more seasoned members that you haven't seen in a while, and enjoy the networking and festive activities that are planned for the evening.

For more information about entering a table decoration or the event, contact the Chamber staff at 264-2360.

Upcoming deadlines

Two important deadlines are fast approaching.

One of the deadlines involves Chamber member businesses and the need to cast your ballot for up to three candidates of the six nominees for the Chamber board of directors positions. Voting for the incoming board candidates closes at the close of business Jan. 5. The votes will then be tallied and the three new board members announced at the annual meeting on Jan. 20. Chamber businesses that are in good standing may cast one ballot per business for up to three nominees. Please take a few min-

utes to review the candidates bios and cast your vote. You can vote through the link online at www.pagosachamber.com or businesses will receive reminders through the Chamber's emails (in your Promotions tab) with a link to vote. It is important that you cast your ballot and have a voice in those who represent our business community.

The other deadline is the submittal of nominations for the Community Awards for Citizen, Volunteer, Non-Profit and Small Business of the Year. These nominations honor those individuals and groups that have contributed selflessly to our community. All nominees must have lived or been in business for at least three years.

For Citizen of the Year the candidate(s) must have impacted Pagosa Springs in at least one of the following categories: Lifestyle, Philanthropic, Economic or Cultural. The nominees must perform their volunteer activities outside of their daily paid work or position.

The Non-Profit agency of the year must be a 501(c)3, provide a necessary service, have a positive image in the community and serve the community with distinction and excellence.

Small Business award nominees

must have a reputation of quality service and employee care, demonstrate excellence and a reputable business image, consistent and friendly attitude to customers, clients, employees and other businesses, supports the local community with goods, services and time, have under 20 employees and be a leader in the business community.

We all know individuals and business organizations. Please take the time to thank these entities for their contributions to our community. You can obtain forms online at www.pagosachamber.com or detail their contributions and email them to director@pagosachamber.com.

Membership news

We have several new members to welcome to the Chamber membership this week including McDonald's, Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society and The Backyard at Pagosa Springs.

We also would like to thank the Cabins at Hartland Ranch for renewing this week.

As a reminder, the Chamber offices will be closed on Mondays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. We will be getting ready for all of the activities planned in January and February in the upcoming weeks.

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Thanks

Food drive

La Plata Electric Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 111 want to thank community members for supporting the recent (10th annual) Fill the Bucket Food Drive to help out people in need this holiday season.

The drive collected a total of 1,700 pounds of nonperishable food, plus \$290 in cash donations, and our IBEW Local 111 added an additional \$300 in cash. LPEA's CEO Mike Dreyspring accepted a corporate challenge and matched the dollars for pounds of food, so an additional \$1,700 was contributed that will help stock the shelves of our local food bank.

In addition to thanking all of our fellow community members who contributed, we also want to thank City Market and Hometown Market for allowing LPEA to use their locations to gather the food and monetary donations. (I also want to personally thank my fellow LPEA employees who volunteered time on a Sunday to come out and be a part of the event. You folks are the best.)

Finally, special thanks to Rose and her team at the Food Bank for accepting all contributions and donations, and their ongoing efforts to care for our friends and neighbors.

It was a very successful event. Thank you to everyone. This support is why we live in and love our community.

Jeremy Gurule
La Plata Electric Association/
IBEW Local 111

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PFPD responds to fire at Keyah Grande, grass fire

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) responded to several fires over the course of the week, including a structure fire at Keyah Grande and a grass fire in Aspen Springs.

On Monday, Dec. 18, the PFPD responded to a fire at the main house at Keyah Grande.

"It did a little bit of damage to the structural members between the first floor and the second floor in the pool area," said PFPD Deputy Chief Karn Macht, adding that the cause of the fire is still under investigation, but that the PFPD was hypothesizing it was electricity related.

"The breakers were tripped, and they wouldn't reset. It seemed like a lot of the charring was in the floor joist/ceiling joist," Macht said. "It's still under investigation, but that's

what we're leaning towards."

Macht explained that the PFPD was dispatched at 2:03 a.m., with the first unit arriving at 2:32 a.m.

He explained that a two-man team entered the residence and launched an offensive attack on the fire.

"We had to remove a lot of dry-wall to check for extension into some of the insulation," Macht said, adding that PFPD units used a reciprocating saw to cut away some of the char that was still smoking in the walls.

Macht said the fire was under control at 3:44 a.m., with the PFPD clearing the scene at 4:13 a.m.

"PFPD responded with two engines, two tenders, one battalion, one chief car, one rehab vehicle, four paid staff members, and nine volunteers. Mutual aid from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Department and PSMC ambulance staged on scene," reads

a press release from the PFPD. "Mutual aid from Upper Pine Fire was initiated and later canceled as PFPD firefighters extinguished the fire."

Grass fire

On the evening of Dec. 13, the PFPD responded to a grass fire in the Aspen Springs subdivision off of Doc Adams Road.

Macht explained that the fire burned about one-fourth of an acre, and was started by embers from an unattended fire.

The PFPD was paged out to the scene at 4:15 p.m., with the first unit arriving at 4:38 p.m.

"It was actually backing down the slope from a structure, but it was pretty close to the structures that were there on the residence," said Macht.

He explained that, upon arriving, PFPD units sized up the perimeter and dug a line around the fire

to keep it from spreading.

Afterward, the PFPD began suppressing hot spots.

"There were several heavy ... fuels that were burning. There were a couple of pitch stumps and a lot of duff underneath some oak and Ponderosa Pine," said Macht.

He explained that two chief vehicles, a battalion vehicle and two brush vehicles were dispatched to the scene.

In addition to that, two tender vehicles and two engines were paged out to the scene, but were later canceled.

The fire was controlled at 5:22 p.m., with the PFPD clearing the scene at 7:14 p.m.

Macht added that the PFPD returned several more times over the days that followed to extinguish some hot spots that had appeared before the fire was officially declared extinguished.

marshall@pagosason.com

Facebook group aims to help families in need

By Kim Hamilton
Special to The SUN

What started a little over a year ago as a Facebook page to help a few people in the community over Christmas and was mildly successful has blossomed into a grassroots site to help families in need all year long for a wide arrange of needs.

This year, thanks to generous donors by either cash, gift cards or going out and buying presents for families in need, the project was able to help over 30 families have a Merry Christmas who otherwise would not have. Each year, this project will be named Adopt-a-Family for Christmas.

On the Facebook page, Year-Round Blessings in Pagosa Springs, children who are on the reduced meals program in school during the school year were fed in a variety

of ways. School clothes were provided for over 20 children prior to the school year. There's been everything donated from a battery for a car to help a family's mom be able to get back and forth to work, to diapers.

How this works is the need is posted on the site either by the person or, if the person wants to stay anonymous, they can private message the administrator of the page. Then people either donate their used items or they might say they want to go buy the item for the person. Meetings are set up to exchange or purchase those items. Donors can also remain anonymous if they so choose by the same process.

What is great about this is that people who are in need are also ones who give to others. Kids outgrow their clothes sometimes without being worn out and are no longer needed by a family, who can then

pass it along to another who is in need. Dishes, tires — the list is endless.

Another advantage of this program is youngsters are starting to learn about community service at a very young age. For Christmas, some children were willing to give up one of their Christmas presents in exchange for their parents being able to help children who were going to have no presents. Children were using their allowances to go buy something for a child in need. It's just been a great big smörgåsbord of needs that have been fulfilled.

The site runs on the premise of a hand up, not a hand out. It seems to domino and everyone is helping everyone else. Singles, couples, families with children — all are helped in their particular situation.

Of course, as any other Facebook site, it's free to join. We really like to

keep it to Pagosa Springs residents only, but other nearby towns' residents are also included sometimes. So, go join the site now. The more people that are members and involved, the more people can be helped.

This is such a great, supportive community. Page administrator Kim Hamilton would like to thank each and every person who has been involved in the past year to help people in need.

The next big project will be to try to collect funds to pay off all of the kids' school meals that are on the reduced plan but still don't have the money to pay even that. As you will see on the site (and others), there are needs posted every day that we're sure there will be someone who will be able to help in some way. We look forward to seeing many new members.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Understanding home-delivery meal kit safety

By Terry Schaaf
SUN Columnist

The recent growth of the home meal kit market has expanded options for individuals or families to get in the kitchen and enjoy making meals at home.

New options are popping up each day to help make home cooking easy and often nutritious, even for the most inexperienced cook.

Consumers often make food choices by taste, convenience and cost, while trusting that food safety systems are in place. Much like consumers need to be food-safe

aware with perishables from the grocery store, farmers market or even when given foods from friends or family, consumers need to consider food safety before enjoying home-delivered meals.

Supply chain safety

Consumers should expect mail-order meal kit vendors to provide their customers with safe-handling guidelines for their products upon arrival, as well as information on their commitment to ensure a safe supply chain; it is truly in their best interest for customer satisfaction and retention.

One study out of Rutgers University found that despite good industry records and efforts in place from a large number of meal kit companies, nearly half of the tested meal kits and foods requiring time and temperature control for safety, or TCS foods, arrived at temperatures within the "Danger Zone," which is between 40 and 140 degrees F.

This temperature abuse of TCS foods was often correlated with higher counts of pathogenic microorganisms present on the food. This makes the food unsafe and increases risk of foodborne illness.

Consumer demand for safety along the food chain and ensuring safe home environments will help guide this growing market, empowering people to cook and eat more home-cooked meals.

Consumer safety

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, which oversees safety of meat, poultry, and processed egg products, has put together a Mail Order Food Safety fact sheet for general consumer handling tips. Their recommendations for safe handling of mail-ordered TCS foods includes:

1. Check temperature of foods. Use a calibrated thermometer to ensure that perishable food was received cold. Do not eat TCS foods if

the temperature exceeds 40 degrees F when delivered; instead, contact the company. Visit the Farm to Table website for a short video on how to calibrate your thermometer.

2. Refrigerate or freeze promptly. Safe handling upon delivery requires that someone is able to receive food labeled "Keep Refrigerated" at delivery or soon after. An insulated cooler at the doorstep can be useful for short-term cold holding.

3. Cook or reheat to safe temperatures. Use your calibrated thermometer again to be sure that cooked food reaches safe minimum temperatures to stop harmful microorganisms. Be aware of the meal delivery company's policy for ensuring a safe food supply chain, but always take proper handling of home-delivered meals into your own (clean) hands.

Colorado State University Extension is your local university community connection for research-based information about natural resource management; living well through raising kids, eating right and spending smart; gardening and commercial horticulture; the latest agricultural production technologies and community development. Extension 4-H and youth development programs reach more than 100,000 young people annually.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe welcomes new leadership

By Lindsay Box
Special to The SUN

On Monday, Dec. 18, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe inaugurated a new tribal chairman, Christine Sage. Sage was elected by the Southern Ute tribal membership after a successful run-off campaign.

Sage grew up on the Southern Ute Reservation and continues in the footsteps of her father, the late chairman Christopher Baker.

Sage named Esther Rima as her

executive officer. Rima previously worked 11 years with the Southern Ute Permanent Fund finance department.

"I am looking forward to working with all officials on a tribal, city, county, state and national level," stated Sage.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe also elected two new tribal council members: Cheryl A. Frost and Cedric J. Chavez. Both have worked for the tribe and will be serving their first term.

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Town's comprehensive plan enters 60-day review period

By Cindy Schultz
Special to The SUN

The Town of Pagosa Springs is wrapping up a more than a year-long process of updating the comprehensive plan. The most recent draft is available for review on the Town of Pagosa Springs website.

The adoption of the comprehensive plan follows a 60-day review period as required by the Land Use and Development Code. This period will begin when the plan is distributed to the Archuleta County Planning Department and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, by Dec. 22.

The Planning Commission will consider the plan for a recommendation to town council at its Feb. 15, 2018, meeting, after which town council is expected to consider adopting the plan by resolution Feb. 22, 2018.

A comprehensive plan is a long-range planning document that provides direction for future growth and development for the next 10-20 years. Periodic plan updates are anticipated to

address changes in community, demographic and economic profiles and to incorporate the town's current goals and objectives as recognized through ongoing public dialogue. The existing plan was adopted by town council in May 2006 and much has changed since then.

The community process to revise the plan began in February 2017 with consultant interviews of 150 community stakeholders, followed by gathering a 13-member steering committee that met regularly with consultants over several months to shape and refine the elements that comprise the plan. The town hosted a series of three public open house events to view key elements of the draft plan and provide feedback. The revised plan incorporates and synthesizes multiple goals, perspectives, values and actions as heard from a diversity of individuals and interests.

While the anticipated timeline was laid out early on, additional, needed time was provided to allow greater public review and consideration. Input gathered throughout the process has been incorporated into the plan.

The plan is arranged into the following chapters: environment and energy; culture, heritage and the arts; human environment; transportation and mobility; land use; economy; infrastructure and government. Each chapter includes a long-term vision, goals and actions that support and work toward achieving the vision.

Some of the themes that reflect current community concerns and opportunities addressed in the plan include: affordable housing; early learning and child care; protecting and promoting our unique alternative energy resources; connecting our past, present and future in a cohesive identity; highlighting our vibrant arts community; future transportation opportunities; increased urbanization in the core areas; continued promotion of economic resiliency through tourism, local and national businesses; and the infrastructure necessary to accommodate our community's changing needs.

For more information on the comprehensive plan, visit www.pagosaprices.co.gov. For more information, contact the planning department at Town Hall, 264-4151.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Pagosa Peak Open School board special meeting. 4 p.m., 7 Parelli Way.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Tuesday, Jan. 2

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.

Pagosa Peak Open School Community Outreach committee meeting. 5:30 p.m., 7 Parelli Way.

Thursday, Jan. 4

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 S. 8th St.

San Juan Water Conservancy District special meeting. 7 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

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

Pagosa Springs Area Tourism

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

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

Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Commission. 5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Town of Pagosa Springs Historic Preservation Board. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall front conference room, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Pagosa Peak Open School work session. 4 p.m., 7 Parelli Way.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

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.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 17

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

Pagosa Springs Town Council, Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, San Juan Water Conservancy District joint special growth meeting. 5 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Archuleta School District Board of Education community engagement. Noon, location to be determined.

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

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

Archuleta School District Board of Education community engagement. 6 p.m., location to be determined.

Thursday, Jan. 19

Pagosa Peak Open School board meeting. 4 p.m., 7 Parelli Way.

Monday, Jan. 22

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) work session. 11 a.m., First Southwest Bank conference room, 249 Navajo Trail Drive.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

Joint town/county work session. 8 a.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 9:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

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



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PFPD

Continued from front

ing this time period anyway. Larson introduced the agenda item to the board and explained that he had erroneously reported to the board that the latest day to file for a ballot issue was the first day of 2018.

“We actually have until February to make a final decision,” explained Larson.

He later added that former PFPD board member Ken Rogers had volunteered to spearhead a campaign for the mill levy increase if the board decided to go through with it.

The PFPD's current mill levy is

set at 4.067.

Larson pointed out that .5 mills of the total revenue from mills goes to the PFPD's pension fund per state statute, so the PFPD is actually only receiving usable revenue for 3.567 mills.

In a previous meeting, Larson had given figures to the board for a 9.686 mill, or \$2.5 million, that would accomplish and allow for the following:

- Hiring an additional 12 full-time personnel.
- Reserves for apparatus of \$100,000 per year.
- Reserves for infrastructure of \$175,000.

• Budget adjustments for inflation of \$45,000 for 10 years.

• Raises for current employees. “After discussion with community leaders and board members I was asked if it would be possible to lower the mill request,” reads a document that Larson handed out to the board at the Dec. 12 meeting. “I have run the numbers to decrease the expected mill needs and below are some other options.”

The letter states that \$1.99 million would require a mill of 7.75, and if reserve funds were reduced, the PFPD would still be able to hire 24/7 staffing.

However, the document states

that current employee raises would be reduced.

His document also states that a mill of 8.0 would bring in \$2.064 million, which would allow for 24/7 staffing, allow for a small amount of reserves and a small amount to account for inflation.

Employee raises would again be reduced.

“For every 2 mill point you can expect, at our current evaluation, an increase in revenue of approximately \$500,000. By using the 7.75 or 8.0 options it would be expected that the District would need to look for an increase in the mill levy in another 5-7 years,” reads Larson's document. “It's likely that we will see another Gallagher adjustment next year, which would reduce the taxable valuation and decrease revenues.”

Larson pointed out that the prospect of what to ask for was a fine line, in that asking for too large a mill increase won't bring public approval, but asking for too small of a mill increase could mean that the PFPD would need to go to the voters again much sooner.

In a follow-up interview with SUN staff, Larson explained that he had spoken with Thompson and he instead would be coming to the board during its January meeting to suggest a “significantly lower” mill levy request.

Larson added that, after discussing the matter with members in the community, he was told by some

that the original mill levy increase of 9.686 mills was overreaching.

During discussion at the Dec. 12 meeting, PFPD Chairman John Thompson read a letter he had received from a person whose advice he had solicited regarding the idea of a mill levy ballot issue.

“Her reply was, ‘My best advice is to let you know why I think this didn't pass last time. I heard over and over the request for money was over reaching. I heard the same with the jail. I think if you make this excruciatingly bare bones and simple ... it would have a better chance. No high administrative salaries that look like ulterior motives. Not going out 25 years into the future based on theoretical population growth,’” said Thompson.

At one point, the board discussed the idea that perhaps the majority of the public already perceives that the PFPD has fully paid staff available 24/7.

In a previous interview with SUN staff, Larson pointed out that the PFPD is still a department that heavily relies on volunteers.

He explained that the PFPD utilizes paid staff from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, but any other response to calls is handled by one paid staff member on call and volunteers.

This means that, if a call comes in at 3 a.m., volunteers must wake up, travel to the PFPD, retrieve gear and vehicles, and then respond to the incident, which can impact

response time, he explained.

Larson stated that one of his biggest goals is to have paid staff covering the district constantly, instead of just during business hours.

“By putting on paid crew and having them stationed here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we can look at quicker response times,” Larson said. “Our turnout times to out the door will decrease significantly.”

Larson also pointed out that the PFPD wouldn't be replacing volunteers, either.

“This department will always need volunteers. The size of our district and the amount of area we cover, to be able to try and fully staff a department for this size, we'd be looking in the \$10 to \$12 million range, and that's just not going to happen,” Larson said. “Our volunteers are our core, and they'll always be our core. They're the most important part of this department. We're trying to supplement the volunteers with a quick-response paid staff.”

The next PFPD board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2018, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at PFPD Station 1, which is located at 191 N. Pagosa Blvd.

The PFPD board will have to decide whether or not to go for a mill levy increase and in what amount no later than their regular meeting in February of 2018.

marshall@pagosasun.com

Courthouse

Continued from front

odors, unacceptably elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide of geothermal origin, and the potential presence of mold or mildew derived contaminants. The indoor air quality in the building has exerted adverse impacts on the health and well-being of employees. Re-occupancy of this vacated building should not occur until all of the contributory factors detailed in this report are completely remediated,” Kosnett's report concludes.

“We will not be re-occupying the courthouse building,” Rob McCallum, public information officer for the Colorado Judicial Department, wrote in a Wednesday email to The SUN. “We are continuing our search to find a suitable location in Pagosa Springs to reconvene court operations.”

Archuleta County administration received a copy of the report on Monday, Dec. 18, said County Administrator Bentley Henderson.

Following the county's receipt of the report, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners discussed the matter at Tuesday morning's commissioner work session.

“You are all in possession of one more, I wouldn't even call this an air quality assessment, I would call this an evaluation of pre-existing documentation ...,” Henderson said in introducing the topic Tuesday morning, adding that the report looked to be a peer review of previous reports.

“With the notable exception of the Herron report and an opinion,” Henderson said, emphasizing, “The notable exception of the Herron report.”

Henderson noted that the Kosnett report includes documentation back to 2006, but fails to include any discussion around the September 2017 report by Herron, who was hired by the county.

Commissioner Michael Whiting then noted the letter's conclusion and suggested Kosnett was clear on what the contributory factors are and that the county could remedy them.

Henderson noted that the courts have pointed toward more factors that were not included in that report.

At that point, County Attorney Todd Starr suggested that the conversation would be better as a part of a scheduled executive session that afternoon, which was held for the purposes of the board receiving legal advice on potential next steps regarding the courts.

No decisions were made after that executive session, which took place during the board's regular meeting.

During the morning work session, Commissioner Ron Maez also asked for a status update on the county's long-term monitoring equipment for the courthouse, with Starr reporting that the equipment should be in place within the next couple weeks.

More about the report

The Kosnett report notes that Kosnett conducted telephone and face-to-face interviews with 18 employees who contacted him directly.

Four additional employees, he noted, provided written information or medical records, but were not interviewed.

“According to court and county officials, fifteen district court employees, thirty-eight Sheriff Department employees, and additional county employees worked in the building as of August or early September 2017,” the report states.

The report later continues, “The majority of the employees complained of headache (62%) or eye irritation (57%) associated with the building. Considered jointly, 15 of 21 (76%) of the respondents identified either headache or eye irritation. Other symptoms identified by multiple respondents included cough or wheeze (38%), nasal or sinus congestion (24%), fatigue (24%), and throat irritation (19%).”

The report then delves into discussion concerning a number of prior reports concerning the building that were issued by industrial hygiene and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) consultants.

The third portion of the report relates to a site visit performed by Kosnett on Oct. 24.

“I visited the building on October 24, 2017 in the company of Joe Gifford, CIH of AG Wassenaar, industrial hygienists and environmental health officials from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and employees from the County Court and the Sheriff's Department, several of whom had recently worked in the building,” Kosnett writes.

The report then lists Kosnett's observations, which included “An odor characteristic of hydrogen sulfide” detected throughout the building and a faint odor of hydrogen sulfide intermittently detected; black deposits consistent with copper sulfide and areas of corrosion on exposed copper pipes and fittings in the Sally port and portions of the jail; stained

ceiling tiles and drip marks in several rooms on the second floor of the building; that many windows could not be opened; and that “The entire east side of the building, the sally port, and most rooms on the west side of the building lack any fresh air supplied by mechanical ventilation.”

The fourth portion of Kosnett's report is the assessment of the data, which begins:

“The indoor air quality throughout the Archuleta County Courthouse Building is unacceptable, and is exerting an adverse effect on the health and well being of employees.

“a. Ventilation in the building fails to provide an adequate volume of fresh (outdoor) air.

“b. The health symptoms reported by building employees, in the setting of inadequate fresh air ventilation, are indicative of ‘sick building syndrome’

“c. The adverse health effects resulting from inadequate ventilation are further compounded by geothermal gas emissions that enter the building through multiple pathways. These emissions result in elevated indoor concentrations of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide that contribute to employee health complaints.

“d. The offensive odor of hydrogen sulfide and other reduced sulfur compounds from indoor sewer gas emissions contributes to occupants' health complaints.

“e. Water intrusion in the building from leaks in the ceiling and from poorly maintained fan coil units may have resulted in intermittent growth of indoor mold that could possibly be contributing to adverse health effects in some building occupants.

“A substantial number of employees who work in all sections of the Archuleta County Courthouse Building have complained of a constellation of symptoms, particularly headache, eye irritation, upper respiratory tract irritation, and fatigue, that is highly characteristic of ‘sick building syndrome.’ Sick building syndrome is a well-documented condition that occurs among occupants of buildings with poor indoor air quality due to inadequate fresh air ventilation and/or the presence of a strong source of indoor air pollutants...”

The report later points toward the lack of ventilation sufficient to mitigate sick building syndrome symptoms, while also acknowledging that “quantitative measurement of the fresh air ventilation rate” in the building was not undertaken.

Accidents

Continued from front

“Juliana Sunn Ellsmore, 19, of Longmont was pronounced dead at the scene on Monday after the 2006 Acura she was driving rolled down an embankment and collided with trees and a large rock,” reads an article from the Alamosa Valley Courier.

The article goes on to explain that Colorado State Patrol (CSP) responded to the accident at 1:25 p.m., and that it occurred on U.S. 160, 17 miles west of South Fork.

“Investigation at the scene revealed a 2006 Acura was westbound on Colorado Highway 160. The vehicle traveled off the left side of the road and went air-borne down a steep embankment,” reads the article. “The vehicle collided with several trees and a large rock. The vehicle then rolled one time and came to rest on its wheels facing east.”

The article goes on to explain that Ellsmore suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Mineral County coroner.

“It is unknown at this time if alcohol or drugs were a contributing factor in the crash. Seatbelts were not in use by the driver,” states the article. “Speed is not believed to be a factor. The crash remains under investigation.”

A fundraiser has been created for a scholarship to be made in memory of Ellsmore.

“In Memory of Julianna Ellsmore a scholarship has been set up to benefit Pagosa Springs High School kids

pursuing music or singing, whether by way of private lessons to help them after High School or for those taking a College path in music,” reads the fundraiser's description.

To donate to the fundraiser, visit www.gofundme.com/juliana-memorial-scholarship.

One dead, four hospitalized Thursday

On Thursday, Dec. 14, the CSP and Pagosa Fire Protection District responded to a three-vehicle accident that resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries.

The crash occurred near mile marker 137 on U.S. 160 at 10:22 a.m.

According to a CSP incident report, Neil B. Caryl, 27, of Loveland, suffered fatal injuries when his Dodge Ram hit an icy spot and crossed the median into oncoming traffic.

Two passengers, 24-year-old Talor B. Estrada and a 1-year-old infant, were transported to Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) by PSMC EMS with serious injuries.

According to the report, Caryl's Dodge Ram crossed the median and collided its right side into the front of a Toyota RAV4 driven by 69-year-old Leslie Kron, of Pagosa Springs.

Kron was transported to PSMC with serious injuries.

The Dodge Ram then rotated clockwise and collided its left side into a Ford F-250 driven by 57-year-old Kellie D. Lewis, of Sun Valley, Calif.

Lewis was transported to PSMC with serious injuries.

The report states that all vehicles came to rest on their wheels.

All individuals involved were wearing seat belts, and no drug use, alcohol use or excessive speed is suspected in the crash.

A press release from the PFPD states that four patients required technical extrication, and that the highway was closed to through traffic for approximately one hour.

A fundraiser has been created for Estrada and her infant child for helping with medical expenses.

“My sister and her young beautiful family were involved in a tragic car accident on Thursday, December 14th while driving from Colorado to New Mexico,” reads the fundraiser description. “Her partner in life and father of the baby did not survive the accident. Their new puppy was another casualty.”

Continues the description, “Both baby and my sister were both airlifted to Denver, Colorado. While they have made it out of ICU, they have a long road ahead of them - both physically and emotionally. Our precious little baby is suffering from a broken arm, femur, clavicle, and concussion. My sister has a large laceration to her liver, broken ribs, clavicle, arm, pelvis and five lumbar fractures.”

The fundraiser can be found at www.gofundme.com/9h95tj-support-for-surviving-family.

marshall@pagosasun.com

County

Continued from front

board that the work will include reconstructing the southernmost 1.3 miles of Piedra Road from U.S. 160 to roughly Cloud Cap Avenue, and will again include work on East Golf Place, Monument Avenue and Butte Drive that was deferred in 2017.

That deferment, he indicated, was based on “unfavorable contracting situations last summer.”

The planned road work also includes other large projects.

“We will continue with our fairly

aggressive gravel reconstruction efforts,” Henderson said.

In 2017, with weather allowing for work into the fall, Henderson said crews pursued a program on some of the more highly traveled county roads to pull gravel from the shoulders and out of the ditches and reapply that to the roads.

That effort, he noted, provided an estimated savings of close to \$600,000 on the purchase of new gravel.

Henderson's budget presenta-

tion notes that “A 2018 priority for the R&B function will be to look for alternatives to address an ever diminishing supply of locally available gravel.

“But, regardless, we're going to continue to purchase a lot of gravel,” Henderson said, adding that the county will also be “very aggressive in its gravel and magnesium chloride applications programs, and will continue the pavement maintenance program.

randi@pagosasun.com

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Dec. 11 — Criminal mischief, North Pagosa Boulevard.
Dec. 11 — Warrant arrest, County Road 600.
Dec. 12 — No insurance in possession, expired license plates, drove vehicle when license suspended, vehicle with defective or no stop lights, U.S. 160.
Dec. 12 — Drove vehicle without insurance, expired license plates, drove vehicle without driver license, Rob Snow Road.

Dec. 12 — Theft, Haley Place.
Dec. 13 — Parole violation hold, U.S. 160.
Dec. 13 — Failure to appear, County Road 600.
Dec. 13 — Agency assist, Parelli Way.
Dec. 16 — Animal complaint, Carino Place.
Dec. 17 — Information only, South Pagosa Boulevard.
Dec. 17 — Violation of restraining order, Pines Club Place.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department
Dec. 11 — Assault/trespass warning, South 6th Street.
Dec. 11 — Theft, San Juan Street.
Dec. 11 — Theft, San Juan Street.
Dec. 11 — Theft, San Juan Street.

Dec. 13 — Marijuana possession/under 21, South 8th Street.
Dec. 13 — Information only, Parelli Way.
Dec. 14 — Found property, Talisman Drive.
Dec. 14 — Suspicious activity, South 8th Street.
Dec. 16 — Information only, Eagle Drive.
Dec. 17 — Agency assist, South Pagosa Boulevard.
Dec. 17 — Shoplifting, Aspen Village Drive.

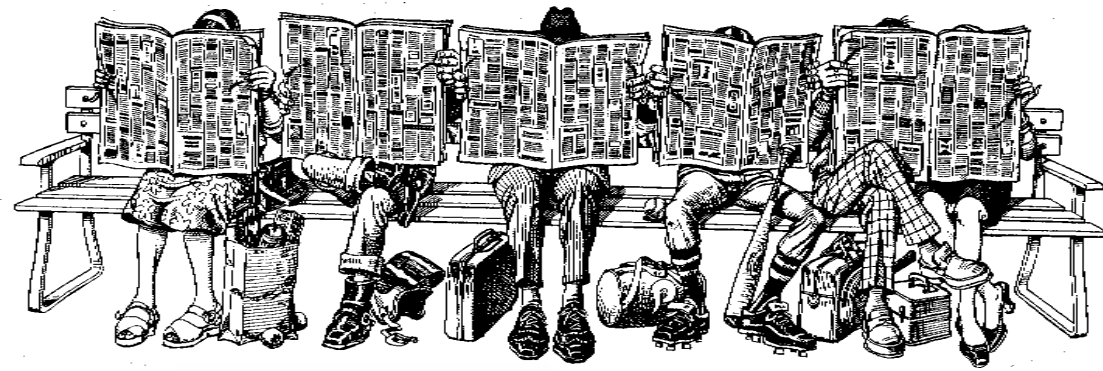
Dec. 13 — Marijuana possession/under 21, South 8th Street.
Dec. 13 — Information only, Parelli Way.
Dec. 14 — Found property, Talisman Drive.
Dec. 14 — Suspicious activity, South 8th Street.
Dec. 16 — Information only, Eagle Drive.
Dec. 17 — Agency assist, South Pagosa Boulevard.
Dec. 17 — Shoplifting, Aspen Village Drive.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge William Anderson
No report.

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

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

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Education

School board hears audit results, facilities feedback, superintendent report

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

During its regular board meeting on Dec. 12, the Archuleta School District (ASD) discussed a variety of things including its 2017 financial audit, feedback regarding its facilities community conversation and Linda Reed's superintendent's report.

Drew Lehr from Holscher, Mayberry & Company LLC presented the Board of Education (BOE) with its 2017 financial audit.

Audit results

Lehr began his report by stating that one of the first things that is tested is the "internal controls over any assets."

"What we found this year was nothing out of the normal for a school district or a small government entity. Mike [Hodgson, ASD's finance director] is doing a good job there controlling everything and making sure everything is in its place," Lehr said.

No issues were found with the internal controls, Lehr later added.

Lehr noted that he is not worried with how the school is operating.

BOE member Bruce Dryburgh raised concerns over the amount the school board contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA).

"The amount that we contribute as a school board is over three times what the city of Chicago contributes," Dryburgh said.

BOE member Jason Peterson mentioned that the board's liability doubled.

"It was a change in the mortality rate, so the mortality rate of all PERA members went up, and so that means that they're [PERA] going to have to be paying out longer, so that's part of it," Lehr responded.

Another part is the decrease in the rate of return, Lehr later added.

"We are still well above any rational interest assumption that other government agencies use. And we are way more than any other private industry," Dryburgh responded.

Peterson then cited that within the footnotes of the audit, even with an unexpected rate of return, ASD's section of the trust fund is "\$30 billion short."

Within the "statement of activities" there was a negative interest on long-term debt, Lehr noted.

"That is due to the bond payment and your deferred gain on refunding and bond premiums," Lehr explained.

Moving forward with the governmental funds portion of the audit, Lehr explained that everything looked fine.

"The only thing I really wanted

to touch on here is your bond redemption fund. You guys have enough to cover next year's and part of the year after that. Just wanted to make a note that coming up in the next few years it is going to go up, the payment," Lehr clarified.

Lehr also commented on ASD's general fund noting that it was "fine" for the year.

"We did just barely spend over this year by \$27,000. Right now, that fund is sitting at 7.78 months of reserves, which we usually suggest about 6 to 9 months, so that's about right in the middle there," Lehr said.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) reserves went up by \$37,000, Lehr added.

Finishing up with his audit report, Lehr reminded the board that this audit was still just a draft.

"We are looking for any more quality issues with the draft to get you guys a final. Hopefully by the next board meeting," he said.

The changes that need to be made in the audit are minuscule, Hodgson noted.

"The majority of the changes though, are, as we were talking earlier, things like, there's a dollar sign that should be a percent sign," Hodgson said.

"Decimal points and things like that. None of your numbers are going to change," Lehr added.

Later in the meeting, the board went on to discuss its facilities community conversation meeting that was held on Dec. 5.

Facilities feedback

BOE president Greg Schick noted that he had not received any feedback from the facilities meeting.

"Basically, what I've heard, was great process, great engagement, lots of people there," Reed said.

BOE member Brooks Lindner also commented that the meeting was great.

"I thought the turnout was excellent. I thought the discussion that I observed was excellent. We got over 100 written responses," Lindner said.

Those written responses will go to the Planning Assistance Team, Reed added.

"What I thought was most remarkable was I didn't run into a single person who said something that was absolutely extreme," Dryburgh mentioned.

Everyone that Dryburgh talked to had different ideas, and they were very civil and supportive, he noted.

Reed also added that community members who could not attend the meeting have reached out to her looking for ways to help.

According to ASD Assistant Superintendent Laura Mijares, 270 informational cards were handed out to community members as they entered the meeting.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School Principal Justin Cowan noted that the feedback he received was positive.

"It was very much, they were processing it," Cowan said.

Schick commended the public for asking good questions and being open-minded about the ideas presented to them.

A question on how to get the retired community to show up to some of these public meetings was then posed by Schick to the board.

"We need to do a lot more for that group," Dryburgh said.

There were a few people over the age of 70 at the basketball game, but not many, Dryburgh added later.

Giving not only the retired community, but other groups a forum to answer their questions is important, Dryburgh also mentioned.

Lindner then added that, despite that he has led the charge on these meetings, it could not have been done without the efforts of others.

"For this meeting, Linda and her staff worked really hard," Lindner said.

"I think it was exciting. I don't think you have seen community engagement on this level in this

school district, maybe ever," Lindner added.

Peterson noted that the feedback he received from the public is that they are thankful for the process that ASD is taking by getting the community involved.

Superintendent's report

Reed began her report by stating that she had met with the Archuleta County Republican Women's group earlier that day.

Reed shared the information regarding the facilities project with the group, and they have asked her to come on a monthly basis for updates, Reed explained.

ASD has also hired Todd Stevens as its new food service director, Reed added later.

"He is doing a great job getting up to speed," Reed said.

Moving on with her report, Reed mentioned that ASD, through the implementation of the Take 10 grant, has been able to utilize a work-site wellness program within the ASD.

Through a variety of teachers at various ASD schools, ASD staff and teachers take part in various physical challenges.

Each challenge is two weeks long, Reed explained.

These challenges include: a push-up challenge, eating five fruits and vegetables a day and drinking 64 oz. of water a day, Reed added later.

"I think this has been a really fun way for our staff to really rally around the idea of being healthy, eating healthy, staying fit," Reed said.

To conclude her report, Reed then explained a new entrepreneurship arising at Pagosa Springs

■ See Board A10

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Photo courtesy Terri Hardeman

The Seeds of Learning children sing Christmas carols, present seniors with handmade gifts and enjoy lunch at the Silver Foxes Den at the Community Center last week.

Seeds of Learning classes pay a visit to senior center

By Terri Hardeman
Special to The SUN

Classes from Seeds of Learning visited the Silver Foxes Den at the Community Center last week to sing Christmas songs and share gifts with the seniors.

Three-year-olds from Miss Lyndsey's Dragonfly classroom visited on Tuesday. Four-year-olds from Miss Frances' Ladybug classroom visited on Wednesday. On Thursday the 5-year-olds from

Miss Ruby's Butterfly classroom completed the visits.

Lynne Bridges, Seeds' executive director, reported that the preschoolers have visited the senior center during the Christmas season for the past 15 years. Before the current facility was built at 7th and Apache streets, the young children walked from their education center on Hot Springs Boulevard to the Community Center for the visit. Nowadays, the preschoolers enjoy the trip

on Mountain Express.

Prior to their visits, the children made Christmas ornaments for the senior citizens with cardboard, yarn, beads and pom-poms.

Teachers at Seeds plan the event to help their young students understand the importance of giving and remembering others during the holidays. The concept was realized as young children presented their gifts to the seniors and enjoyed some conversation. Two little boys told the seniors

about their new shoes and how fast they could run in them.

Many families joined their children in the celebration and had lunch together after the program. Research shows that inter-generational gatherings benefit both young and old.

If you are interested in learning more about Seeds of Learning or how you can contribute to the success of its young children, please call 264-5513 for more information and a tour of the center.

Board

Continued from A9
High School (PSHS).

Students in Lorna Medici's special talents program, in association with the Pagosa Area Builders Committee (PABC), are setting up a coffee shop within PSHS.

One of Medici's students, Diego Rivas, made a presentation to PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell.

O'Donnell then had Rivas pres-

ent to the faculty at PSHS and, ultimately, the presentation was made to the PABC, Reed explained.

The PABC, students in the building trades program at PSHS and students in Jenna Gannon's art class have all worked together to support the project, Reed noted.

"What we are going to have is a coffee cart that our students in the special talents class will be manag-

ing and manning," Reed said.

The students will have coffee available for other PSHS students during the academic advisory period, but not throughout the whole day, Reed noted.

"But then, eventually, we're hoping that this will be something that they can introduce during sporting events and concerts at the high school," Reed said.

This program is a way for the students to learn real-life job skills and put things that they are learning in the classroom into practice, Reed added later.

"I think that this is a great collaboration between the different organizations that I've mentioned," Reed added later.

The project, Mojo Coffee, will eventually be housed within the space that previously held the Treasure Chest, a student-run business

that sold snacks to PSHS students after school, Reed explained.

The special talents class has also been redesigning the kitchen space around their classroom to act as a staging area, Reed also added.

An old computer cart has been outfitted to become the students' coffee cart, Reed explained.

O'Donnell added that he was excited for the students that have started this project.

"Those kids, kind of their sense of purpose, energy and all that kind of stuff centered around the possibility of being entrepreneurs a little bit," O'Donnell said.

The process of the students presenting to O'Donnell, to the faculty and to the PABC was huge, O'Donnell said.

"We'll see where it takes them," O'Donnell said.

chris@pagosasun.com

Card of Thanks

CUP

Curtains Up Pagosa is fortunate to be in a partnership with Archuleta County schools. CUP is the foundation and support of the performing arts program at the high school, as they mentor students, provide theatrical and technical training, offer financial assistance to music and theater programs, purchase instruments and supplies, and loan out to the schools all of their sets, props, sound, costumes and anything else pertaining to theatre arts. CUP

shares storage with the schools in the old bus barn and just completed a mass reorganization.

Many thanks to Jesse Morehouse, David Morehouse, Kaitlen and David Smith, Joanne Irons, Kim and Walt Moore, the Tanners, Hunter Swinehart, Dan Burch and Jason. CUP maintains a large library of sets, props and costumes, all of which are housed in the bus barn, thanks to our ongoing partnership with the schools. We are grateful for the relationship and our ongoing work with our family of students in Pagosa.

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School district recognizes Realtors' contributions

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

During its regular board meeting on Nov. 12, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) recognized members of the Board of Realtors for their contributions to the Scholarships in Escrow program.

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) counselor Mark Thompson began by giving a background on the scholarship.

Around 1991, Witt Newton gave PSHS \$250,000, and Newton wanted that money to help the education of the students, Thompson said.

The BOE at the time came up with the idea to work with the realtors and, at closing, they would give a little bit of their money and donate it to the schools, Thompson added.

The idea was to keep that initial \$250,000 growing in order to eventually give scholarships to kids, Thompson added.

"The way it works is if you get an 'A' in a core subject there's \$40 put in an account. If you get a 'B' in a core subject they put in \$20 in an ac-

count," he said.

Thompson added that the average amount a student earns is around \$300 a child.

A straight "A" student can earn up to \$1,000 and other students can earn around \$500 or \$600, he explained.

"It can go to any college, any school that's federally funded. And you have up to five years to use that money," Thompson said.

PSHS starts introducing this scholarship to kids in the eighth grade, and it encourages students to take harder classes, he noted.

"These guys have just given their money, whatever money they're making at closing, they're giving a part of that to Scholarship in Escrow," Thompson added.

Thompson also added that it's a big deal to PSHS and they want to say thanks.

PSHS students receive the money as part of their graduation packet.

"A lot of them have forgotten by the time they are seniors. They go, 'Man, I just got a \$600 scholarship out of the blue,'" Thompson said.

PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell then provided some statistics on how much impact the

escrow scholarship has had on students.

O'Donnell explained that 2,563 PSHS graduates have received Scholarships in Escrow, which goes toward postsecondary education.

PSHS has been giving the scholarship for 27 years and \$300 is the average amount of money a student receives from the scholarship, O'Donnell also added.

The total amount donated to students of PSHS by the scholarship is \$908,555, O'Donnell mentioned.

"We can't thank you guys enough," he said. "Thank you all so much; we really appreciate it," ASD Superintendent Linda Reed said.

Reed also mentioned that some students have accrued a balance to their lunch bills and are not able to pay it off.

An individual realtor, Barbara Swindlehurst, and her husband, Donald Farr, were recognized by Reed for paying off the balances for a number of students.

"We just wanted to publicly recognize them and thank them for doing that. And, that's happened before, too, so thank you," Reed said.

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Step Back into Colorado's Territorial Days,

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Valley of the Healing Waters

And the continuing saga of the Hensen and Cooper families ...

T-Bar Three

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School board: Middle school presents on leadership opportunities

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

On Dec. 12, Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) Principal Chris Hinger made a presentation about leadership opportunities his staff is involved in.

That presentation was made to the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) during a work session.

Hinger began his presentation by introducing teacher quality standards.

Focusing on the last teacher quality standard, teacher leadership, Hinger noted that it "raised the bar."

Hinger then explained that there are four elements that contribute to the quality standard of teacher leadership.

These elements include:

- Teachers demonstrating leadership in their schools;
- contributing knowledge and skills to the educational practices and teaching profession;
- teachers advocating for the school and students, and partnering with parents and the community; and
- high ethical standards.

Hinger then went on to describe how PSMS teachers can exhibit these traits in a proficient, accomplished and exemplary manner.

When describing the exemplary ways in which teachers can show this behavior, Hinger said, "This exemplary was really never defined in our old evaluation system."

Hinger noted that he liked the teacher quality standards because they are well researched.

"There are some powerful things that are embedded in these teacher quality standards. And, research is one of them," Hinger said.

In order to improve learning in PSMS, the teachers have to be leaders in improvement strategies and integral in conversations, Hinger added.

Hinger than alluded to the leadership of PSMS schools being like a peloton, a bike racing term in which the main group of riders saves energy by riding close, with one individual leading the pack.

"In education, our staff has to kind of approach this idea of teacher leadership as a peloton," he explained.

Hinger gave a brief list of teacher leadership opportunities that PSMS teachers are a part of.

Some of these opportunities include peer coaching, being involved in school and district communities, and mentoring.

Hinger then turned over the presentation to the PSMS teachers to have them explain the various leadership opportunities they take part in.

Teacher input

PSMS seventh-grade history teacher Missy Shaw began her portion of the presentation by giving a brief history of what she has been working on.

Shaw explained that she had just finished her master's degree in educational leadership.

Part of the program involved implementing "action research," Shaw explained.

A gap had been noticed in reading intervention for seventh- and eighth-graders, Shaw explained.

"So, I've piloted a program called Reading Plus. It's a very individualized reading program that's an online platform. Now it's school-wide and we've had really great data and amazing results with the program," Shaw explained.

Shaw went on to mention that she was on the school's Instructional Leadership Team from 2015-16.

Shaw also mentioned that she serves on the District Accountability Committee (DAC) and the School Accountability Committee.

The Teach Plus Fellowship, focusing on school finance, was also named by Shaw as something she is involved in.

"I'm really excited because today I found out that I am actually going to sit on a subcommittee for the Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance," Shaw explained.

The District Launch Team, which Shaw is also a part of, developed a plan regarding personalized learning plan, she explained.

"Our plan was to have, basically, a personalized learning format that could work for any subject and any grade level," she noted.

Shaw then explained that she is the lead teacher for social studies curriculum alignment for grades five through eight.

High school students are also taken on trips by Shaw as a group leader, she noted.

Shaw concluded her portion of the presentation by stating that she is the common assignment system regional facilitator through Colorado Education Initiative (CEI).

"Basically, I have collaborated

with other teachers from around the states on common assignments," she explained.

Shaw is the facilitator for the groups and started the creation of the units and helps the teachers implement the units, she explained later.

"As a professional, it's been a really rewarding experience," she said.

PSMS seventh-grade math teacher Robin Bayles then contributed to the presentation with her leadership opportunity involvement.

Bayles began by thanking Hinger for the opportunities to grow professionally.

Bayles has been involved in the math/science partnership grant and is also a Boettcher scholarship mentor.

Bayles is involved in Common Assignment Study (CAS).

The CAS has allowed Bayles to work in Durango with various seventh-grade teachers.

"We have been just working on our fall units that we've written together and implemented together. Now, we are revising together, as well as getting ready for a spring event," Bayles explained.

The CAS has been great because it allows for teachers to collaborate, Bayles later added.

The personalized learning plan was also touched on by Bayles.

Citing the ratio and proportion unit for seventh-grade math, Bayles described how the personalized learning plan has been utilized.

"So, I started off by giving my students a writing assessment and seeing where they were at," Bayles explained.

This writing assessment allowed Bayles to create three different "assigned levels" that cater to each student's various learning needs for ratio and proportions.

"Students within each one of these levels, there is a playlist of different activities they can go to," Bayles later added.

The playlists were developed based on the level in which a student was placed, Bayles noted.

The students are also required

to utilize a Google Doc to reflect on their learning, Bayles mentioned.

The reflection logs allow Bayles to answer questions by students that she may have not gotten to.

The goal is to have each student reach level two or above, Bayles added.

"But the goal is that, along with deep learning, different types of learning experiences, that they'll also gain some ownership over their grade, as well," Bayles explained.

Bayles went on to add that Shaw created a student survey which allows Bayles to receive feedback from her students on the process.

The students have enjoyed it and are excited about it, Bayles noted.

PSMS fifth-grade math teacher Janae Ash then presented on her involvement with various leadership opportunities.

Ash began by explaining her involvement with the America Achieves Fellowship (AAF) from 2016-17.

"They kind of, really, promote teachers to find their voice and elevate it," Ash said.

Within the AAF, there was a teacher-led initiative to secure tax dollars from legalized marijuana, Ash explained.

The money would be used for scholarships and prevention, Ash also added.

"I am so pleased to announce, if you haven't already heard, that we got \$10,000 from the town. And so we are going to be able to do two \$5,000 scholarships with that," Ash explained.

Adding on to Bayles' discussion pertaining to the math/science partnership grant, Ash explained that "number talk" and Math Practice Standard Professional Development have been implemented in the school.

Ash then described how she is the core planning team member for CEI-Accelerator II to implement personalized learning plans.

"What that means is that we kind of start the planning with CEI and the BOCES [Boards of Coop-

■ See Leadership A12

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Leadership

Continued from A11

erative Educational Services),” Ash explained.

When Ash attends these meetings, she always wants to know how these ideas will affect her fifth-grade students in Pagosa Springs.

Despite it being hard to be out of her classroom, Ash recognizes the importance of these meetings.

“But the unique thing about teacher leadership, that I think we need to celebrate in all of us, is that when we go, we collaborate, when we go we bring back great ideas. And it makes this community stronger, it makes the school stronger, it makes me stronger as a teacher,” Ash said.

PSMS eighth-grade science teacher Anita Hinger then added her experiences to the presentation.

Anita Hinger noted that she is thankful for the opportunities to advance their career towards teacher leadership, but also being able to stay in the classroom.

The things Anita Hinger men-

tioned that she had been involved in include being a peer coach, and being involved in the Instructional Leadership Team, among other things.

Citing a Teach Plus project that utilized TELL survey data, Anita Hinger explained the connections between the amount of teacher leadership in a district and student achievement.

“Not surprisingly they found there was a clear correlation amongst all of these different kinds of ways teachers can lead within a district and school and student achievement,” Anita Hinger explained.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has also looked at the idea of teacher leadership, Anita Hinger explained.

CDE has also stressed the importance of offering advancement opportunities that encourage teachers to remain in the classroom, Anita Hinger added.

PSMS eighth-grade math teacher Andy Guinn concluded the

teacher portion of the presentation by describing his involvement with teacher leadership.

Guinn began by also mentioning the AAF that he, Ash, and Pagosa Springs Elementary School first-grade teacher Caitlin Snarr have been a part of.

Guinn mentioned that he is also a member of CDE Commissioner’s Teacher’s Cabinet.

This means that Guinn meets with the CDE commissioner to provide feedback and input on state-level education policy, Guinn explained.

Guinn is also a member of the DAC, CAS and DUST2.

DUST2 is a local nonprofit that aims to get more students to ride bikes through the creation of trails.

Guinn concluded his statement by commending ASD.

“When we’re asked to come up with ideas and we’re allowed to innovate we usually get ‘yes’ as an answer,” Guinn said.

ASD board president Greg Schick then asked Chris Hinger

what PSMS needs from the board to further the work.

Just being ‘average’

Chris Hinger responded to Schick’s question with another short presentation.

“Everyone of these folks has really stepped up and led. Whether they were really payed to do or not,” Chris Hinger explained.

Almost all of these efforts are done outside of the school day or on the weekends, Chris Hinger explained.

“Fortunately, we were wise enough to get partners like Colorado Education Initiative and BOCES and different organizations to grant us some money to pay them,” Chris Hinger explained.

Hinger then explained that out of the 50 states, per pupil, Colorado funds K-12 education 40th out of 50 states.

“Basically we fund at the bottom of the barrel Colorado education,” Chris Hinger noted.

In order to recruit quality educa-

tors to teach students, Chris Hinger noted that he has to pay those teachers a stipend that makes them want to be a part of the team.

Looking at the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Chris Hinger implored the board to not look at state data, but national data.

The test has been given three times to eighth-graders within ASD and, in math, Colorado came in 16th out of 50 states, Chris Hinger noted.

“So we fund at 40th, we perform at 16,” Chris Hinger said.

For the reading portion of the NAEP, Colorado performs at 18th out of 50 states, he added.

“We need to value education, we need to value the people that are working with our children and fund it like our values say we do,” Chris Hinger said.

He then noted to the BOE that in terms of PSMS, “I want to be average.”

“And what I mean is I want to be average in just, as far as, school funding. Because if that was the case, if we were 20th, think about what we could do,” Chris Hinger explained.

The number of teachers PSMS could hire and what those teachers could be paid to accomplish, such as being true leaders, were mentioned by Chris Hinger.

BOE member Jason Peterson mentioned, at the end of Chris Hinger’s presentation, that the same sentiments were expressed at the most recent Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) sessions he attended about Colorado being just “average.”

“It was either \$1.8 or \$2.1 billion in additional funding that we have as a state. Just to be average. I mean that’s how far down on the scale we are in Colorado,” Peterson said.

chris@pagosahun.com

Is there any hope for the 2018 snow season?

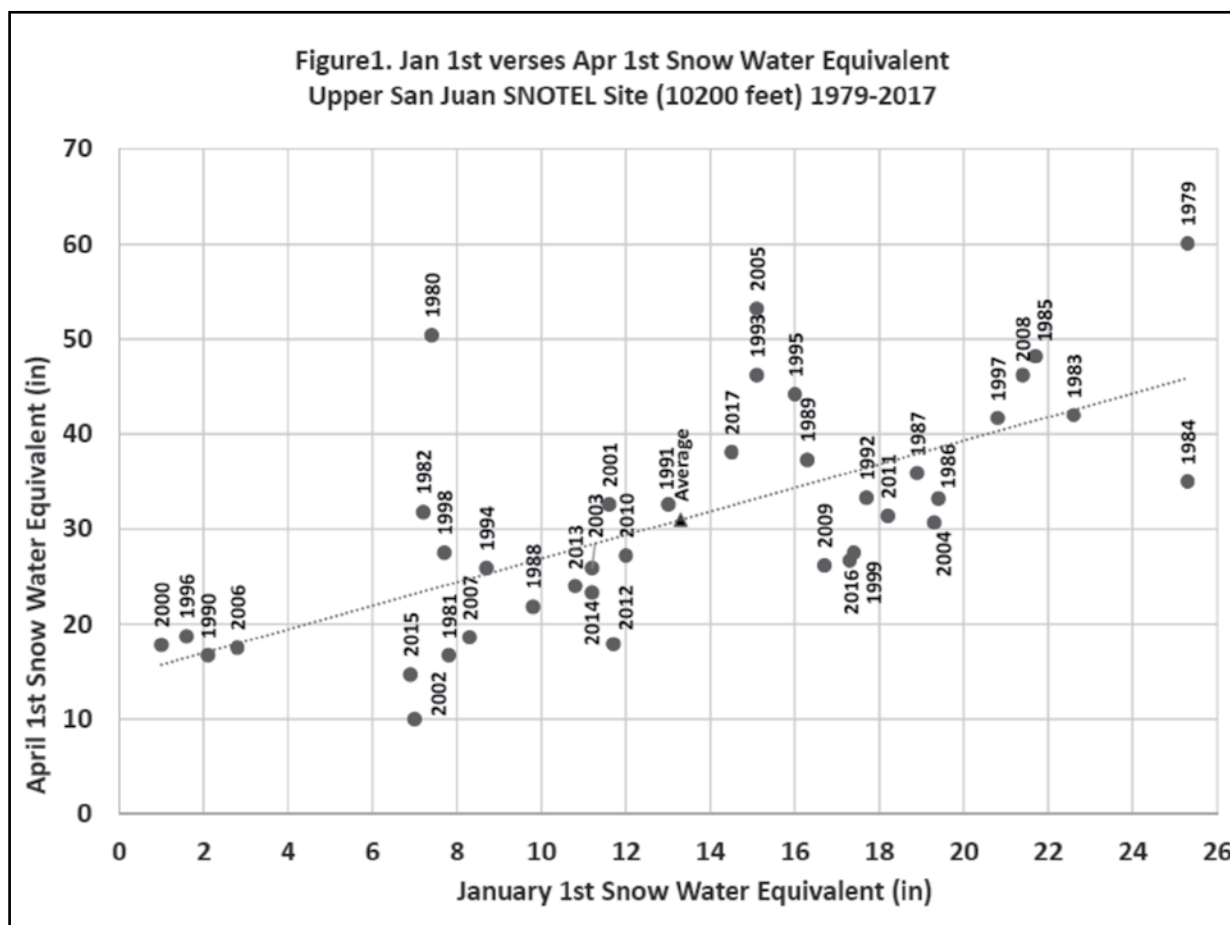
By Pagosa Springs High School global science class
Special to The SUN

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? This year is rough in terms of the white stuff, but have we ever started off this badly before in the past? Did Wolf Creek Ski Area season pass holders waste their money, or can we recover from this sluggish start to the ski season? The Pagosa Springs High School global science class set out to answer those questions.

We analyzed 38 years of data from the Upper San Juan SNOTEL site, which sits at 10,200 feet near the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. Snow water equivalent (SWE) is a common snowpack measurement because the snow depth is not as important as the amount of water in the snow. If you melted down the newly fallen snow, you can determine how much water is contained in the snow, the SWE.

Based on the past 38 years of data, we should have 13 inches of SWE by the first of the year on Wolf Creek Pass. Currently, as of mid-December, we only have around 2 inches of SWE. From our analysis, we determined that the years 2000, 1996 and 1990 all had less SWE by Jan. 1 (Figure 1). The current bare-ground conditions in Pagosa by mid-December are unusual, but not unprecedented.

Unfortunately, most of us season pass holders haven’t punched in that many days, but is there any hope for more? Based on the past, we will probably have a below-average snow year because the years with the lowest SWE on Jan.



Illustrations courtesy Pagosa Springs High School global science class

The Pagosa Springs High School global science class analyzed 38 years of data from the Upper San Juan SNOTEL site, which sits at 10,200 feet near the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. Snow water equivalent (SWE) is a common snowpack measurement because the snow depth is not as important as the amount of water in the snow. If you melted down the newly fallen snow, you can determine how much water is contained in the snow, the SWE.

I also ended up receiving below average SWE by April 1. The year 1980 is a notable exception — like this winter, the snow season started out slow, but ended up ranking as the third-best year. So, for all of you

snow junkies, there still is a chance that Saint Nick will be delivering the snow that you desire, but, alas, it is an abysmal chance that your ski season will be the white one you’ve dreamed of all year.



Photo courtesy Loaves and Fishes

Two kindergarten classes entertain the guests of Loaves and Fishes with Christmas carols on Dec. 14. Pagosa Springs Elementary School teachers Phil Rizzo and Donna Hudson took their classes to the Parish Hall for the occasion. The students were animated and enthusiastic, to the delight of those enjoying a meal.

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” Luke 2:13-14

I do not know if you believe in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But it is undeniable that something happened 2000 years ago that made an impact on the world. That impact is seen especially at this time of the year. Even with all the commercialism of Christmas, there is more love, joy, peace, and giving at this time of the year. You may deny Jesus is the Son of God, but you cannot deny that one named Jesus lived and had a great impact on the world. As Christians, we celebrate Jesus as the Savior of the world and Son of God. If we can help you learn more about Jesus, please contact us.

Dorman Diller, minister

Merry Christmas

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Sports

BASKETBALL

Pirates leave Palisade tournament with one win, defeat Durango on Tuesday

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirates boys' basketball team left the Palisade tournament this past weekend with a record of 1-2.

After the Palisade tournament, Pagosa then traveled to Durango on Tuesday and defeated the Demons.

The Pirates began action at the Palisade tournament on Thursday, Dec. 14, and faced off against the Cheyenne South (Wyoming) Bison, coached by former PSHS boys' basketball coach Jim Shaffer.

Cheyenne South

Though it was a close contest, the Pirates could not hold off the Bison and lost in the opening game of the Palisade tournament by a score of 42-44.

The Pirates began the game by trailing in the first quarter to the Bison by a score of 13-16.

Pagosa then trailed at the half to Cheyenne South by a score of 24-30 after being outscored in the second quarter by a margin of 11-14.

Returning from halftime, the Pirates' defense stifled the Bison, allowing them to only score two points in the third quarter while the Pirates scored six.

Opening the final quarter, down 30-32, Pagosa and Cheyenne South drew even in the fourth, each scoring 12 points in the final frame, allowing the Bison to secure the victory 44-42.

In an email written to The SUN on Wednesday morning, coach Randy Sorenson noted that for the last two quarters it was pretty close.

"Weinberger for South made five threes in the first half, with four of those coming in the first quarter, and that really hurt us," Sorenson wrote.

Isaiah Griego led the team in scoring for this game with 14 points. Keaton Laverty was the second leading scorer with 13 points.

Jesus Pacheco, Ty Kimsey and Mason Snarr also contributed in the scoring department, each adding six, five and four points, respectively.

Griego was the team's leading rebounder with 13, while Laverty had five.

The Pirates shot 71 percent from the line for this game, making 10 of their 14 opportunities at the charity stripe.

Griego and Pacheco were the only contributors to the assist cat-

egory, having two apiece.

Defensively, Griego and Pacheco also led the team in steals, with Griego tallying seven and Pacheco adding five.

Kimsey also added four steals, with Cade Cowan and Snarr adding one apiece to round out the team's total of 18.

Griego led the team in blocks with three, while Kimsey added one himself.

The Pirates turned over the ball 11 times this game.

Pagosa needed to regroup after the loss, however, because the host of the tournament, the Palisade Bulldogs were next up on Friday.

Palisade

Pagosa got back on the right track on Friday, Dec. 15, by defeating Palisade 43-28.

The Pirates trailed at the end of the first, 3-4, but that would be the only time the Pirates would trail in the game.

Pagosa went on to take the second quarter from Palisade 16-5 to lead at the break 19-9.

The Pirates went on to lead in third and fourth quarters by margins of 12-9 and 12-10 and went on to defeat the Bulldogs 43-28.

Sorenson noted that both teams struggled to score in the first quarter, but once the second quarter started, the Pirates were able to control the game.

Griego led the team in scoring this game with 12, while Laverty followed with 10.

Mitch Lewis added seven points and Pacheco added four.

Four Pirates contributed two points in the game.

Griego led the team in rebounds with 12 and Ryan Lewis followed with four.

Laverty and Mitch Lewis both added three rebounds apiece.

Griego led the team in assists with three, and Laverty and Cowan added two, as well.

The Pirates turned over the ball 10 times against the Bulldogs.

Laverty, Ryan Lewis and Griego all added one block apiece for Pagosa.

The Pirates would then conclude the tournament on Saturday by taking on the Montrose Indians.

Montrose

Unfortunately, the Pirates could not end the Palisade tournament on a winning note, losing to Montrose by a score of 48-38 on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Pagosa struggled defensively in the first quarter, giving up 19 points while only scoring 14 themselves.

After only scoring two points in the second quarter, the Pirates found themselves trailing the Indians 16-26.

In the third quarter, Pagosa found its stride, outscoring Montrose 10-6 and cutting the overall deficit to 26-32 heading into the final quarter.

Pagosa could not hold off Montrose's final push in the fourth quarter, being outscored 16-12 and losing to the Indians 48-38.

Sorenson explained that the team was not ready to play against Montrose, which was evidenced by giving up 19 points in the first quarter, forcing the team to play catch-up.

"We were able to cut the lead to two at one point but they extended it back to six or eight and we had to foul late in the fourth to try and get back in the game. They made free throws and put us away," Sorenson later added.

Two Pirates scored in double figures in this game: Griego had 13 and Pacheco had 10.

Laverty, Snarr and Kimsey all added eight, four and three points, respectively.

Both Kimsey and Griego led the team in rebounds with seven each.

Laverty led the team in assists with four.

Laverty and Kimsey also recorded the only steals for the Pirates.

Leaving with a record of 1-2 from the Palisade tournament, the Pagosa's overall record moved to 4-2 on the year.

Pagosa would need to bounce back quickly as they would travel to Durango on Tuesday to take on the Demons.

Durango

Pagosa was able to garner a road win on Tuesday, defeating Durango by a score of 48-33.

Knotted up with the Demons 9-9 after the first quarter, Pagosa went on to outscore Durango 14-9 to gain a 23-18 lead going into halftime.

The Pirates then had another solid two quarters, outscoring the Demons 13-5 in the third and 12-10 in the fourth to seal the 48-33 victory.

The team again got off to a slow start, Sorenson explained, losing to Durango early in the first quarter 2-9.

"Their zone gave us problems early and we turned the ball over

against it but we were able to adjust and start scoring the ball," he wrote.

Griego led the Pirates with 22 points, and Laverty followed with 10.

Snarr also contributed seven points.

Pagosa shot 61 percent from the free-throw line for this game, only making 14 of their 23 chances.

Griego also led the team in rebounds with 10, and Laverty followed with five.

Ryan Lewis and Snarr also contributed four rebounds each.

Snarr also led the team in blocks with two.

Pagosa turned over the ball 12 times against Durango.

"We have done a lot of good things the first seven games and for the most part our defense has been solid. We really need to work on getting off to better starts and scoring and finishing," Sorenson explained.

After the win, Pagosa's overall record moved to 5-2, while Durango's dropped to 1-6.

Up next

Pagosa has an extended break for the holidays until its next game against league opponent the Alamosa Mean Moose (5-1 overall) on Jan. 9 in Alamosa, with varsity action set to tip off at 7 p.m.

Pagosa is not allowed to practice for a few days of the Christmas break, but Sorenson noted that on the days the team is allowed to practice, they need to work hard and improve in all areas.

"Our league is going to be really tough and we will have to play well each and every night to have a chance," he wrote.

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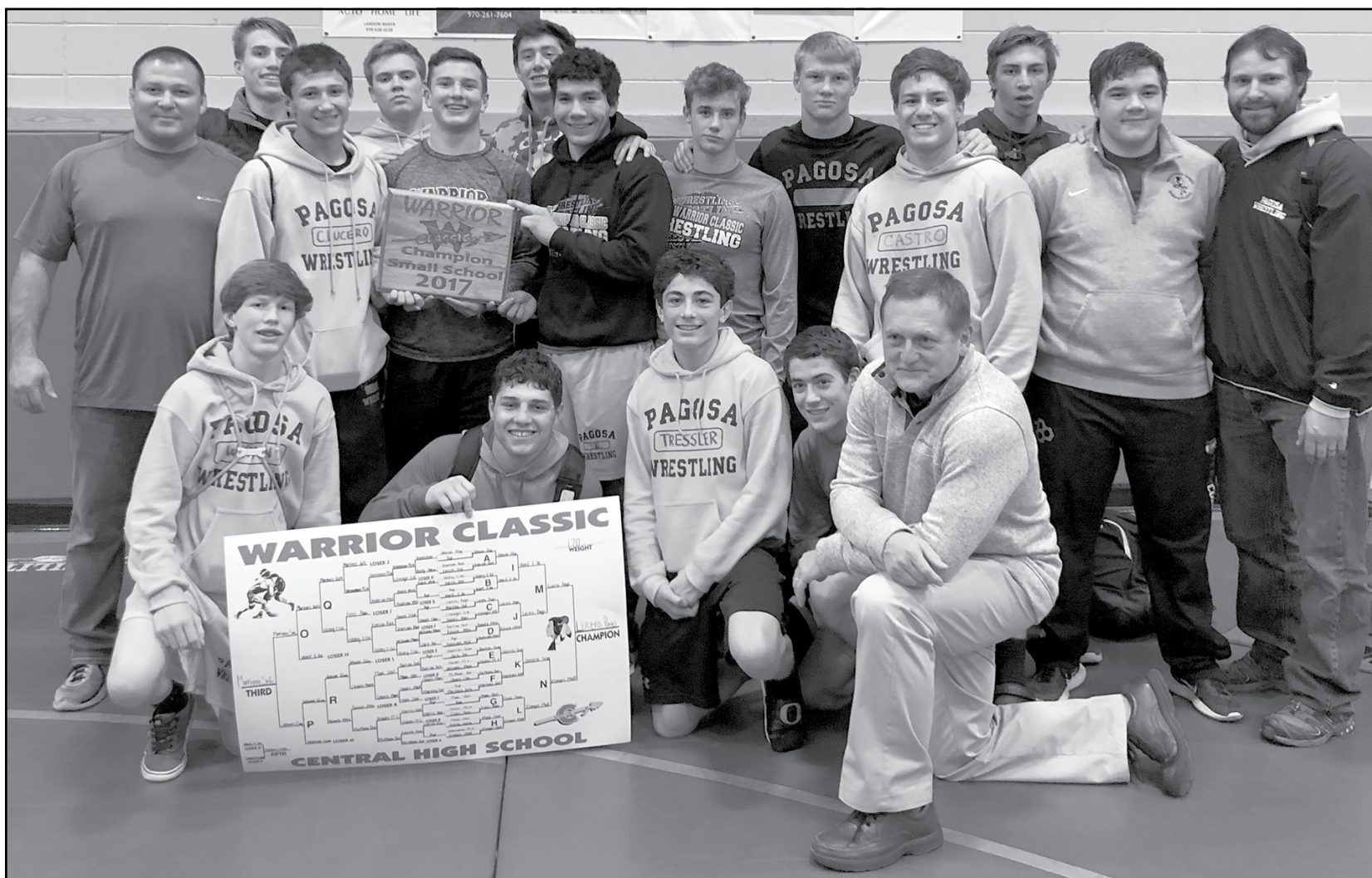


Photo courtesy Stacia Aragon

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team poses at the Grand Junction Warrior Classic last weekend. The Pirates scored 163 points and placed fifth out of 42 teams.

Pirates place fifth at Grand Junction Warrior Classic

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team participated in the Grand Junction Warrior Classic on Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, placing fifth out of 42 schools.

"That was the best performance of the season so far," commented coach Dan Janowsky. "Everyone's been good, but each one is getting better."

The Grand Junction Tigers won the tournament with 250 points, the Rocky Mountain Lobos placed second with 187 points, and the Thompson Valley Eagles took third with 172 points.

The Pirates placed fifth with 163 points.

Janowsky said that he was really proud of the Pirates' ability to keep wrestling to the end of the match.

He said that while the first part of the season has gone better than expected, he's not surprised as he knew the Pirates could wrestle this well all along.

"I'm not blown away by it. I've seen the potential to do this kind of stuff coming," Janowsky said. "I want our guys to feel really good about what they've accomplished so far, but I do not want to get distracted by it."

He explained that he had six wrestlers medal, which was pretty rare, and that Dalton Lucero was

the champion for his weight class — and the third Pirate to ever be a champion at the Warrior Classic.

"We scored a lot of points in the final and won four out of six, that was a big deal," said Janowsky, adding that this tournament was evidence of the Pirates' ability to compete with some of the state's best athletes.

Freshman Erik Wyman wrestled in the 106-pound division and had a win-loss record of 9-5, scoring the team six points.

In the 113-pound division, freshman Dillon Tressler wrestled 10-2 and earned the team four points.

At 126 pounds, junior James Thomas went 9-4, placing sixth and scoring the team 21 points.

In the 132-pound division, freshman Cameron Lucero went 12-3, placing third and scoring the team 26 points.

"He placed fourth at the Columbine Tournament and climbed all the way to third in this tournament," Janowsky said. "He learned some lessons from the Columbine Tournament. He had a great tournament, and for a freshman to take third at a weight like that is a real accomplishment."

At 145 pounds, senior Tate Hinger went 12-2 and scored the team 12 points.

At 152 pounds, junior Ethan Evans wrestled 1-4.

In the 160-pound division, senior Trevor Bryant had a win-loss record of 11-3, placing fifth and scoring the team 17 points.

At 170 pounds, senior Dalton Lucero

■ See Wrestling A15

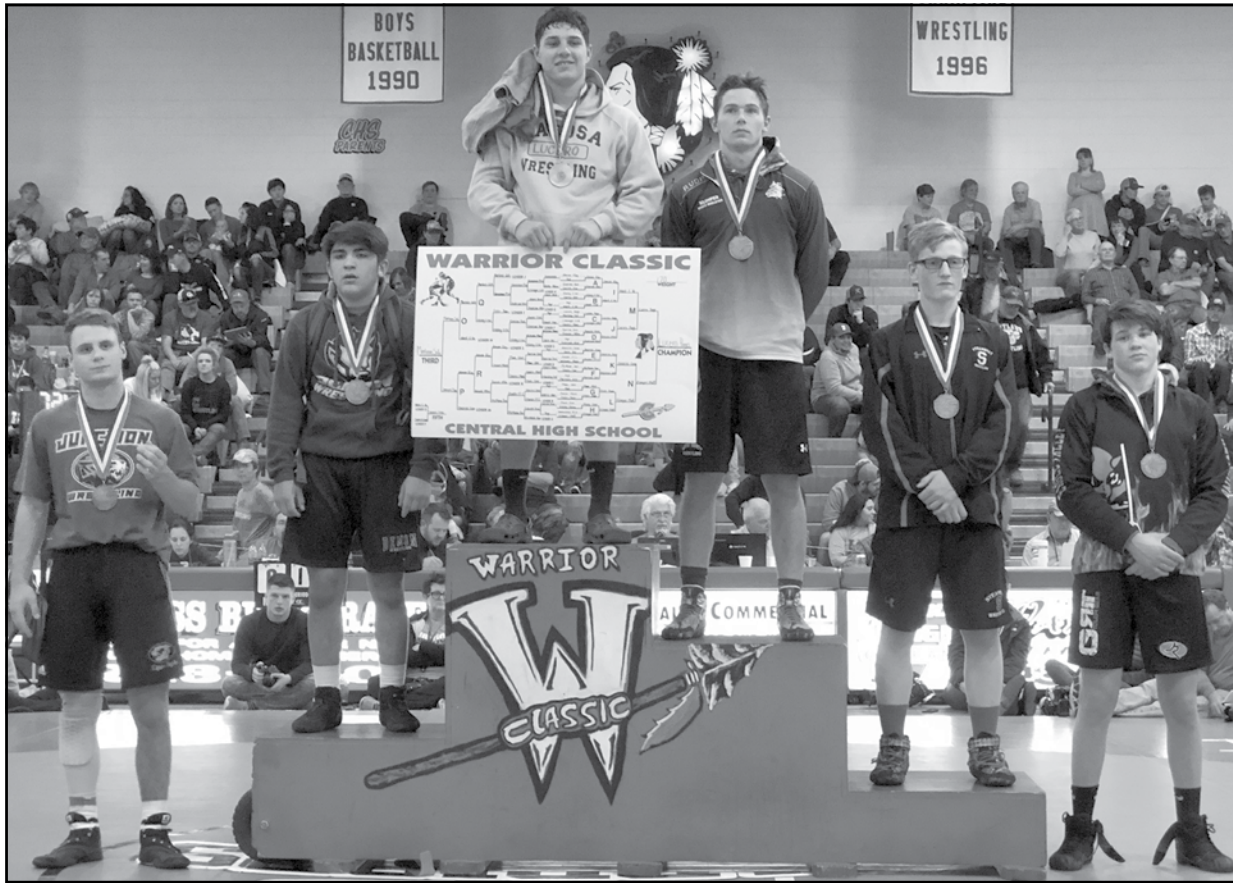


Photo courtesy Stacia Aragon

Senior Dalton Lucero stands on the podium after becoming champion of the 170-pound division at the Grand Junction Warrior Classic. Lucero had a win-loss record of 13-0.

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BASKETBALL

After 3-0 week, No. 5 Lady Pirates take on No. 3 Colorado Springs Christian today

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

It was a good week for the No. 5 Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates, with the basketball team winning three games and improving to a 5-1 record on the season.

The team's play started on Dec. 15 at Lutheran High School in Parker and, after winning that tournament Saturday, hit the road for Durango Tuesday to record another victory over the 4A Durango Demons.

The Lady Pirates will play one more game before the holiday break, with the team taking on No. 3 Colorado Springs Christian today at 1:30 p.m. in Colorado Springs.

The Lions are 4-0 on the season. "We've got a big one with CS Christian," coach Wes Lewis said Wednesday, adding, "They're a really good basketball team. We're going to have to play well. We can't leave points on the floor."

Too, Lewis noted that the Lions have "two really dynamic players" the Pirates will have to do a good job on.

"We're excited to go up there and get it played," he said.

Following that, Lewis said the team is looking forward to the Christmas break and, after Christmas, delving into home games and league play.

Olathe

Pagosa's Lady Pirates started the Lutheran tournament with a 61-20 win Friday over Olathe's iteration of the Pirates.

Pagosa took the lead early in the game, tallying 14 points in the first quarter compared to Olathe's eight, and continued the trend in the second quarter, outscoring Olathe 16-8 to take a 30-14 lead into halftime.

"We didn't play well early, and

then we kind of got going a little bit and that was nice," Lewis said.

Pagosa continued the roll in the third, besting Olathe by a 15-4 margin, and rounded out the win by holding Olathe to two points in the game's final quarter while notching 16 points of their own.

"We kind of played in spurts," Lewis said, adding, "We obviously held them to 20 points. That's not bad; we're good with that."

Lewis also noted that Pagosa saw points put on the board from a number of different players.

Morgan Lewis led the team with 14 points in the game and was followed closely by Taylor Lewis' 12.

A trio of Pagosa's Lady Pirates notched eight each — Keena Murphy, Ada Peshlakai and Devin Wilson — while Hailey Griego tallied seven, three of which came from the free-throw line in the team's only four attempts.

Wilson put up two 3-pointers in the game.

DeAnn Schaaf and Zoe Strohacker rounded out Pagosa's scoring with two points each.

The team also tallied 34 rebounds in the game, with eight players sharing the total, led by Morgan Lewis with eight.

Pagosa turned the ball over 11 times while stealing it 12 times.

Olathe is now 2-5 on the season.

Manitou Springs

The following day, Pagosa's Lady Pirates took on the Manitou Springs Mustangs, who now rank as the No. 9 3A girls team in the state with a 2-3 record as of Dec. 18.

The Pirates went on to hand the Mustangs a 56-36 loss, with Pagosa winning the tournament.

"We came out and played really well against Manitou in the first quarter, got up pretty nice," Wes

Lewis said of the team's 20-2 lead after the first quarter.

But, halfway through the second quarter, when the Mustangs went to a zone defense, the Lady Pirates struggled attacking, besting the Mustangs 11-10 in the quarter to take a 31-12 lead into the second half.

The coach explained that the Lady Pirates made adjustments at halftime and got a little better in the second half, outscoring the Mustangs 11-8 in the third quarter.

The Mustangs put up more points than the Pirates in the fourth quarter, 14-16, but it was not enough, and the Pirates claimed the victory.

"They're a good team," Wes Lewis said. "It was a good win for us. We were glad to get it and glad to come away with a win up there in the tournament. It was a quality tournament. We enjoy going to it and it was nice to get the win, not only with our varsity, but also with our JV."

But, despite the win, the coach noted the Lady Pirates are still playing in spurts.

"Right now, we're kind of playing in spurts," he said. "We're not really putting any lengthy stretches of quality basketball together. We'll play good for two or three minutes and bad for two or three minutes, and we need to get a little bit more consistent, especially on the good side."

Morgan Lewis again led her team in scoring in the game, notching 25 points, with Peshlakai following with 10.

Taylor Lewis scored nine in the game, followed by seven from Wilson, three from Murphy and two from Griego.

Morgan Lewis and Wilson each sank a 3-pointer in the affair.

The team shot 57 percent from the free-throw line, converting eight of 14 chances.

Like the day before, the Lady Pirates pulled down 34 rebounds in the game, again led by Morgan Lewis, who had 12.

Pagosa turned the ball over 16 times in the game and notched nine steals.

Durango

The Lady Pirates hit the road again Tuesday, this time for a jaunt to Durango to take on the Demons.

And, again, the Lady Pirates returned home with a win, this time by a margin of 30-14.

"We were good defensively in the first," Wes Lewis said, noting that the Pirates held the Demons scoreless.

Pagosa relented in the second, allowing the Demons to score four while scoring seven themselves to take a 13-4 lead into halftime.

"We had ... several opportunities offensively in the first half that we didn't come away with, which was disappointing to say the least," Wes Lewis said. "We did some good things, we just didn't finish when we had the chance. So, we've got to be better at finishing the easy shots."

Both teams put up five points in the third quarter, with Pagosa kicking things up a notch in the fourth quarter to outscore their hosts 12-5.

"Our defense was kind of our saving grace last night," the coach said Wednesday. "We weren't very good offensively."

Too, the coach noted the team had too many turnovers with 19.

Morgan Lewis led the team with 11 points in the game, including one 3-pointer, and the team converted five of six chances from the charity stripe.

The Demons are now 1-8 on the season.

randi@pagosasun.com

Wrestling

Continued from A14

Lucero went 13-0, placing first and scoring the team 17 points.

"He majored and pinned everyone up until the finals," said Janowsky. "He was a dominant wrestler all day long. The finals match was tough, and it went into overtime ... When you start com-

peting and beating those types of guys, then you're in the conversation."

Senior Colton Castro wrestled in the 182-pound division, going 10-4, placing fifth and scoring the team 15 points.

At 195 pounds, junior Connor Aragon went 9-4 and scored the

team eight points.

Senior Nolan Stretton wrestled in the 220-pound division, went 8-3, placed fourth and scored the team 22 points.

"They're wrestling hard for themselves, but they're wrestling for each other, too," Janowsky said. "I think they're able to give a little

bit extra, because they're wrestling for their teammates, as well. It's really been a fun first half of the year."

On Wednesday, Dec. 20, the Pirates wrestled the Durango Demons at a dual in Durango.

For details on this dual, see next week's edition of The SUN.
marshall@pagosasun.com

FACE awards 14 grants to area teachers

By Cindi Galabota
Special to The SUN

The FACE grant cycle has once again concluded and the board of directors is pleased to share the results of another successful grant cycle.

In 2017, 14 grants were awarded for a total distribution of \$10,089.

FACE, the Foundation for Archuleta County Education, has been awarding grants since 2013 and, in that time, we have awarded nearly 50 grants, supporting teachers in public, private and home schools in Archuleta County.

Our mission is to provide grants that will enrich the educational experience in Archuleta County for teachers and educators in grades kindergarten through 12. We strive to fund the most innovative ideas

that are likely to impact the greatest number of students over the years.

This fall we awarded three grants to Pagosa Springs Elementary School, five grants to Pagosa Springs Middle School, three grants to Pagosa Springs High School, two grants to the Pagosa Family School, one grant to Our Savior Lutheran School, one grant to the Home-school Connection and two grants to the Pagosa Peak Open School.

One such innovative program that FACE excitedly supported was the Drumfit Project that will serve students in all elementary grade levels and provide multiple opportunities for cross-curricular programming. The project will be shared by PE, great body shop and music classes.

Another unique project supported by FACE is the fantasy base-

ball math elective offered by the seventh-grade math teacher, Robin Bayles. During this unit, students will create their own fantasy teams by gathering and analyzing data that will help determine players' strength and weaknesses. "Games" will then be played to determine the winning team.

FACE also funded the new building trades program offered at Pagosa Springs High School for the first time in 2017. During this first year, 32 high school students will learn skills in the building and construction trades, including reading plans, proper use of tools and learning about OSHA through weekly safety meetings.

The FACE board of directors is anticipating ever-increasing requests as educational options expand in the county and will con-

tinue to find creative ways to raise funds in support of K-12 education in Archuleta County. The foundation exists because of the generous support of our community.

Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 2051, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Or, please visit www.facepagosa.org to learn more about FACE.

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Photo courtesy Sanya Peterson

Pagosa Springs Elementary School teacher Lori Lucero's fourth-grade class sings Christmas carols at downtown businesses last Thursday.

VETERAN'S CORNER

New veteran identification card program overwhelmed with applicants

By Raymond Taylor
SUN Columnist

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has suspended applications for its new veteran identification card program due to a large number of applicants, according to a notice on its website.

The new, free ID card was ordered by Congress in 2015 as a way to give veterans proof of service at businesses without carrying a copy of their DD-214 forms. The VA rolled out the online application for the card for all honorably discharged veterans, but the system appeared to immediately face technical problems.

Currently, veterans who look to apply for the card are instead told they need to come back later.

"Thank you for your interest in the Veteran Identification Card! Currently, we are experiencing a high volume of traffic. We apologize, and want you to know we're working to fix the problem," the notice states. "In the meantime, please enter your email address and we'll send an update when the Veteran Identification Card application is back online."

Officials with the VA did not respond to requests for information on when the application will be reopened, how many users successfully applied for the ID card before applications were suspended or how many users started but did not complete the application process.

"We are aware some veterans have experienced issues with the application process, but leaders of VA's Office of Information and Technology are actively engaged in fixing them," Curtis Cashour, the agency's press secretary, said in a statement.

"Still, many veterans have successfully registered for the card since the program was announced and we are excited finally to begin providing this resource to veterans, fulfilling a promise that was made to them more than two years ago under the previous administration," he added.

To apply for a card, users had to log in to the VA website using either a DS login or the ID.me system, provide a variety of personal information and upload a copy of a government-issued ID. They also needed to provide a shouldered-up photo to be displayed on the ID card. VA officials said Nov. 29 that users could expect to receive their new ID cards within 60 days of application.

Some veterans, such as those who receive health benefits from the VA and military retirees, already have IDs that can provide proof of service. The new IDs will not qualify as official government-issued identification for air travel or other uses. The ID card program is voluntary.

Services available for local veterans

Pine Ridge Extended Care Center is VA-certified, which means there are services available for our local veterans. These services have eligibility requirements and specific programs. For more information, please contact this office or Pine Ridge.

For more information

The office of the Archuleta County veterans service officer (VSO) provides assistance to qualified military veterans, and their families, or a veteran's survivors, in applying to and in obtaining VA program assistance, benefits and claims.

This assistance is provided within the guidelines, policies and procedures established by the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. This is a mandated program of the state of Colorado.

For further information on VA benefits, please call or stop by the Archuleta County Veterans Service Office, located at the Senior Center in the Ross Aragon Community Center on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The best way to contact me is to set up an appointment, for either at your home or in the office, so I can schedule a specific time in order to answer and assist each veteran in

Archuleta County. The office number is 264-4013, fax number is 264-4014, cell number is 946-3590 and email is raytaylor@archuleta.com. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Bring a DD Form 214 (discharge) for applications to VA programs or benefits for which the veteran may be entitled to enroll, and for filing in the Archuleta County VSO office.

Always leave me a message and phone number to contact you.

Veterans' groups

The following veterans groups meet in Pagosa Springs:

- American Legion Post 108: second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.
- American Legion Post 108 Ladies Auxiliary: second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.
- Veterans for Veterans: Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.
- Combat Veterans PTSD Group: Every other Tuesday at noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Contact Kevin Kelly at (505) 699-0824.
- Women's Group of Spouses of Veterans: First and third Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., Dr. Sharon Carter's office. Contact Charlotte at 903-9690.

Important numbers

- 799-VETS, www.Vets4VetsP-SCO.org.
- Durango VA Outpatient Clinic: 247-2214.
- Farmington VA Center: (505) 326-4383.
- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M.: (800) 465-8262.
- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M., emergency notification: (800) 465-8262, ext. 5739.
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P O BOX 3900
DURANGO, CO 81302
FALCON'S NEST LLC
P O BOX 3900
DURANGO, CO 81302

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2017, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 73 IN LAKEWOOD VILLAGE ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED APRIL 30, 1979 AS RECEPTION NO. 94867

Account Number: R010346
Schedule Number: 569919435020
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03121

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 27th day of November 2017
/s/ Betty A. Diller
Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
Published December 7, 14 and 21, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to:

MONTDEV INC
1133 N 18TH STREET
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 763 IN PAGOSA HIGHLAND ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD FEBRUARY 7, 1972 AS RECEPTION NO. 75409.

Account Number: R009141
Schedule Number: 558336209003
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03068

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 14th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 21st day of November 2017
/s/ Betty A. Diller
Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
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To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to:

DEREK VAN ATTA
P O BOX 3900
DURANGO, CO 81302
GREG DYAL

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 46 IN LAKEWOOD VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED APRIL 30, 1979 AS RECEPTION NO. 94867

Account Number: R010313
Schedule Number: 569919434035
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03119

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 21st day of November 2017
/s/ Betty A. Diller
Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
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To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to:

DEREK VAN ATTA
P O BOX 3900
DURANGO, CO 81302
GREG DYAL

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 45 IN LAKEWOOD VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED APRIL 30, 1979 AS RECEPTION NO. 94867

Account Number: R010313
Schedule Number: 569919434035
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03119

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 27th day of November 2017
/s/ Betty A. Diller
Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
Published December 7, 14 and 21, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 45 LAKEWOOD VILLAGE, according to the plat thereof recorded April 30, 1979 as Reception No. 94867.

Account Number: R010314
Schedule Number: 569919434036
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03120

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of DEREK VAN ATTA and FALCON'S NEST, LLC and GREG DYAL for said year 2013.

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

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To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to:

JAMES M HENDRIX II
2911 ALLISON DRIVE
AUSTIN, TX 78741
JANET V B HENDRIX
2911 ALLISON DRIVE
AUSTIN, TX 78741

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 236 LAKE FOREST ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JUNE 4, 1973 AS RECEPTION NO. 77869.

Account Number: R009146
Schedule Number: 569918305023
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03104

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

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ANGELA M JARAMILLO
201 LA ENTRADA ROAD
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031
DAVID JARAMILLO
201 LA ENTRADA ROAD
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 750 PAGOSA HIGHLAND ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD FEBRUARY 7, 1972 AS RECEPTION NO. 75409.

Account Number: R001972
Schedule Number: 558336210009
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03069

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of ANGELA M JARAMILLO and DAVID JARAMILLO for said year 2013.

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

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ANGELA M JARAMILLO
201 LA ENTRADA ROAD
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031
DAVID JARAMILLO
201 LA ENTRADA ROAD
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 749 IN PAGOSA HIGHLAND ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD FEBRUARY 7, 1972 AS RECEPTION NO. 75409.

Account Number: R001973
Schedule Number: 558336210010
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03070

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of ANGELA M JARAMILLO and DAVID JARAMILLO for said year 2013.

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

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Published December 7, 14 and 21, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 21st day of November 2017
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Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
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To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to:

STEVEN D BERG
580 OLD GRUCE ISLAND ROAD
MIDWAY, GA 31320

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of November 2014, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to

FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Lot 4 OF BLOCK 3, PIEDRA PARK SUBDIVISION NO.1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JUNE 29, 1960 AS RECEPTION NO. 59290.

Account Number: R017702
Schedule Number: 616117213001
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2014-03138

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2013

That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of STEVEN D BERG for said year 2013.

That on the 27th day of October 2017, said FIG CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CO13, LLC assigned said certificate of purchase to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC;

That said BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC on the 15th day of November 2017, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to BLUE SPRUCE SERVICING COMPANY, LLC On the 25th day of April 2018, unless the same has been redeemed.

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Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
Published December 7, 14 and 21, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

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To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all

Outdoors



Fire officials warn fire danger is high this dry winter

By Ann Bond
Special to The SUN

San Juan National Forest fire officials are warning that continued dry conditions in southwestern Colorado mean that fire danger is a concern.

"Although it's winter, we are extremely dry and there is potential for fire activity because of our prolonged lack of moisture," said

Richard Bustamante, San Juan National Forest Fire Management officer. "Dry grasses are very flammable right now and can act as a carrier fuel to quickly spread a fire even though days are short and nights are cold."

The public is asked to follow these fire safety tips:

- If you must have an open fire outside, clear a wide area around it of all burnable material and keep a

bucket of water, shovel and other implements on hand.

- Never leave a fire unattended. Stir water and dirt into the coals until coals are cool to the touch and there is no smoke. Do not dump hot coals onto vegetation or flammable surfaces.
- Never toss cigarette butts out the car window. Extinguish smoking materials only in cleared areas free of vegetation or debris. Don't park

hot cars or recreational vehicles over dry vegetation. Exhaust systems can ignite flammable materials below.

- Off-road vehicles and chain saws should be equipped with approved and recently updated spark arresters.
- Fireworks, including sparklers, are illegal on National Forest lands.
- Use of tracer bullets and exploding targets is illegal on National Forest System lands.

San Juan Stargazers to share photos of the August eclipse, study pictures of comet crash

By Joan Mieritz
Special to The SUN

The San Juan Stargazers will hold their regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 28, in the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center conference room, located on Hot Springs Boulevard.

We will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. If it is really cold outside, we will warm up with hot coffee, cocoa, tea and apple cider. If the roads are bad, we will cancel the meeting and postpone the program. Watch for a computer blast.

This past summer, several club members traveled to areas of totality for the August eclipse and we have not formally shared our photos. We will take a brief opportunity to share our photos and what we learned from the experience.

Our main program will be a video lesson using the great photos taken by the Hubble space telescope of Comet Shoemaker-Levy crashing into Jupiter.

The comet was first discovered in 1993 and very quickly was deter-

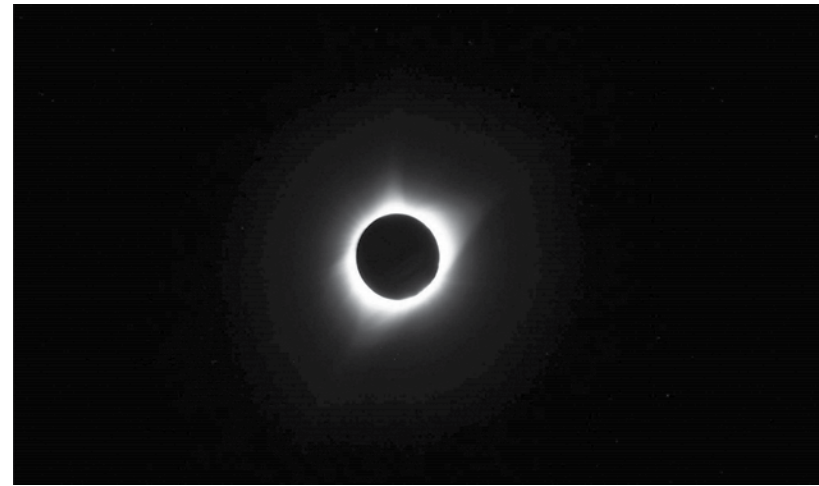


Photo courtesy Melania Lopez

The next meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will give members of the group the opportunity to share photos of August's eclipse. The meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 28.

mined to be on a path that would crash into the largest planet of our solar system. In July 1994, the world and the Hubble telescope were awaiting the crash.

No one knew what might happen and how serious the impact could be. Hubble documented everything,

including one earth-sized impact site and 20 other smaller impacts. This was supposed to be a wake-up call for planet Earth, since we know that other comets have crashed into our home in the past.

We will discuss how threatening comets are and what can be done.

This meeting will be both educational and very interesting.

We also will be getting the schedule for next summer's Night Sky programs at Chimney Rock. It is nice having this winter break, but summer comes quickly and we will be hosting nine star parties for locals and visitors from around the world.

We are so incredibly fortunate to have that many opportunities to view the amazing night sky in the darkness of Chimney Rock. It is an important reason to join the San Juan Stargazers, to learn yourself and then be able to share with the visitors. I invite you to join us at the December meeting.

The San Juan Stargazers are part of the Astronomical League, which includes clubs from all over the U.S. We have a website, www.SanJuanStargazers.com, as well as an email address, sjstargazers@gmail.com, and a club phone number, 731-0186, to help communicate with the public.

Out-of-town amateur astronomers are always welcome to come and share your ideas. Anyone interested in learning more about astronomy is invited to all our events.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife announces new agency-wide integrated purchasing system

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Special to The SUN

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to announce the arrival of a new integrated purchasing system, which will serve as a one-stop shop for all CPW products, including hunting and fishing licenses, campsite reservations, OHV and snowmobile permits, and more.

The transition to the new purchasing system will begin Jan. 1, 2018. During this time, we will have a period of several days when all CPW purchases will be unavailable.

The changeover to the new system will cause a temporary shutdown of purchasing services at all CPW offices, parks, licensing agents, online and phone sales. Hunters may reach out to a regional or area office if you run into licensing issues.

"We are thrilled to roll out this updated purchasing system, which

will provide a more streamlined experience for every CPW customer," said Bob Broscheid, director of CPW. "But we do want to acknowledge the small downside of this brief system blackout for purchases while we implement these upgrades."

During the changeover to our new system, customers will not be able to make any purchases online or at our offices, parks or sales agencies. All purchases will be impacted, including:

- All camping, cabin and yurt reservations.
- Online hunter education, including mountain lion exams.
- Hunting reservation system.
- All license purchases (including waterfowl stamps).
- Habitat stamps.
- Online park passes.
- All registration renewals.
- Online retail orders.
- Online license purchases.

"We really want to get the word

out for customers to plan ahead and be aware that this brief transitional period is coming," said Broscheid.

CPW suggests that customers prepare now by taking the following steps:

- Plan ahead, buy ahead: Customers are urged to plan ahead and buy ahead for courses, licenses, reservations or gifts that can be purchased or reserved in advance. If you are a camping customer planning to camp in the next six months, book your reservations now. If you are an established mountain lion hunter in Colorado and know exactly when you plan to hunt, purchase your winter 2017-2018 license before Dec. 31.
- Create a new customer identification number (CID): CPW strongly recommends that any hunter that has never hunted or fished in Colorado create a CID in our system in advance of this system update. This will ensure a

smooth transition into the new system. New hunters are able to create an account and receive a CID during business hours by calling any CPW office or the main telephone number, (303) 291-1192.

- Prepare for new account requirements: Please ensure every customer in your family or group, including children, have a separate and valid email address. Each individual making a purchase, including youth licenses, will need an individual account in the system.

For a full list of frequently asked questions and to learn more about what the new integrated purchasing system means for you, visit cpw.state.co.us/cpwshop.

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Christmas Eve | 11am - 4pm
Closed Christmas Day
New Year's Eve | 11am - 8pm
New Year's Day | 11am - 4pm

Cocktails Made From Scratch
Colorado Spirits
Happy Hour 3 - 6 Pm

Fresh Market & Eatery
Call (970) 731-MEAT (6328) for pick-up
19 Navajo Trail Dr.
(At the corner of North Pagosa Blvd. and Navajo Trail Dr.)
Mon - Sat | 11am - 8pm • Sun 11am - 4pm

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Make sure your family is safe this winter.

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There is no better time to have your vehicle winterized, put on all-season or studded snow tires, and equip it with Winter Wiper Blades to ensure easy start-ups and safer driving on the snowy, icy roads.

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Piedra Automotive
(970) 731-3335
505 Piedra Rd.
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- Dental Implants decrease the possibility of bone loss, periodontal disease, tooth movement, and further tooth loss.
- Dental Implants replace the need for a Removable Full or Partial Denture.
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Eric M. Smith DDS
www.pagosa.dentist • 101 Pagosa Street

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ANthem BlueCross **DELTA DENTAL** **Cigna**

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Recreational & Medical Dispensary

Holiday Weekend Sale starts 12/22

Kief-Infused Doobies starting at \$10 (tax included)**

Select Edibles and Vapes **25% off****
While supplies last

Open X-Mas Eve until 7pm!

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235 Bastille Dr.
21+ (970) 731-4204
Open Daily from 8am-7pm

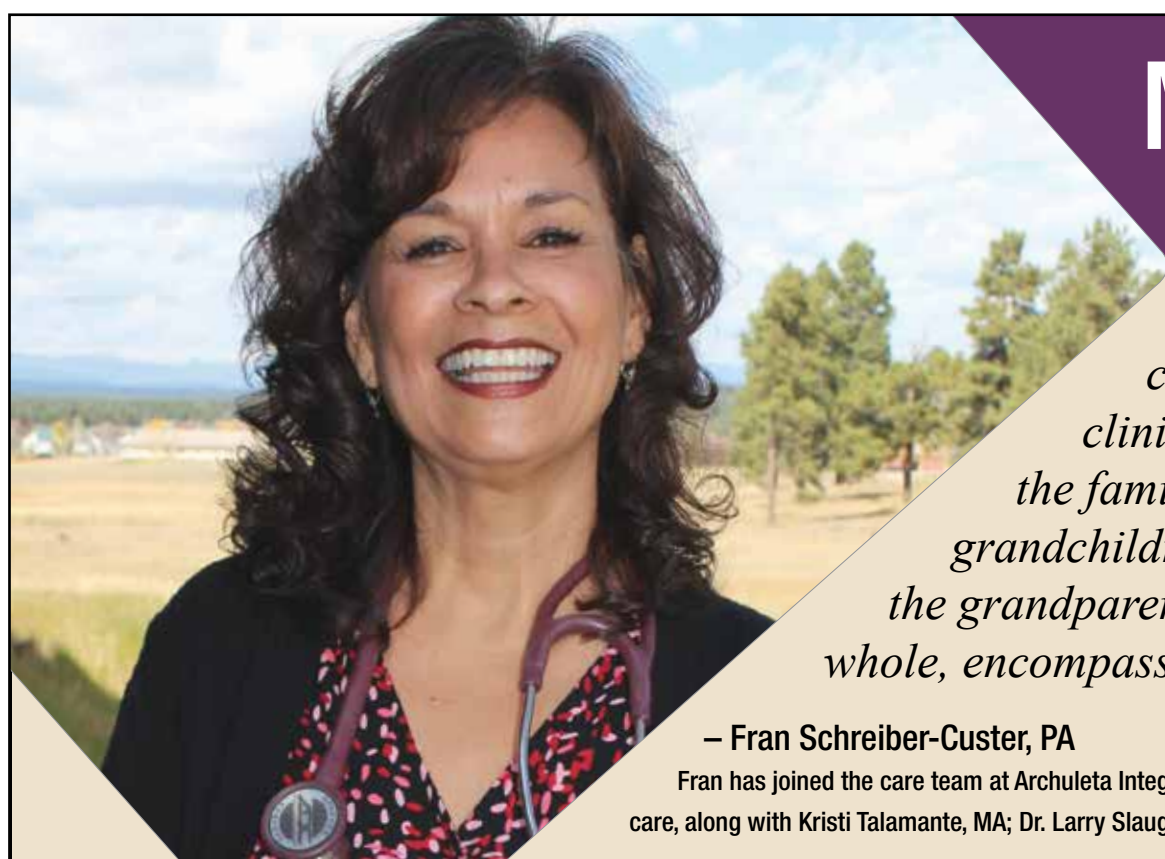
Medical 970-731-4420
Open Daily from 10am-7pm
(Located on Bastille Dr. between Hopi Dr. and N. Pagosa Blvd.)



The Heralds of Christmas concerts

Photos courtesy George Hunyadi

The most wonderful time of the year includes the festive Heralds of Christmas concerts hosted by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society, which took place Sunday and Monday at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Members of the Pagosa Springs Community Band performed music to celebrate the season. A string quartet version of "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" was played, and the Pagosa Brass Quintet played several pieces joined by Sally Neel playing organ on "In Dulci Jubilo" by Michael Praetorius. There were also trumpet solos, a piano solo and a trumpet quartet. D'Ann Artis played "O Holy Night" on horn. There were a variety of ensembles with flute, violin and piano and a vocal piece performed by mother and daughter Brandye and Gracelyn Kiker. The brass ended the concert with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" joined by the audience singing along.



Meet Fran Schreiber-Custer

Primary care provider joins Archuleta Integrated Healthcare

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— Fran Schreiber-Custer, PA

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Letters to Santa



Letters to Santa



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

Dear Santa,
Can I have a toy elf? Can I have leggings? Can I have some boots? Can I have a toy reindeer with Santa in it? Can I have hatchamals?

Your friend, Brynn

Dear Santa,
Can I have a iphone I and hatchamals?

Your friend, Aniyah

Dear Santa,
What are your elves names? What are your reindeer names? I want a card game.

Your friend, Treyson

Dear Santa,
Can I have a video game and a remote control car? I would like a nut cracker?

Your friend, John

Dear Santa,
I like your elves. I like you Santa. I like your presents.

Your friend, Caleb

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a elf on the shelf? I hop you stay

■ See Letters on next page

THE HISTORIC PAGOSA BAR

Pool Tournaments - 8 Ball Sun. 7:30 • 9 Ball Tue. 7:30
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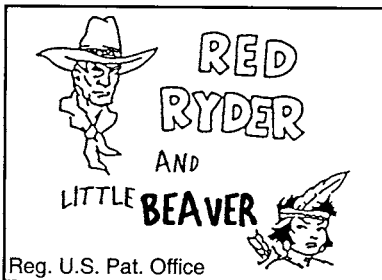
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Thursday
Borde Rio: Songs of the Fall, 6 p.m.
Riff Raff Brewing Company: Justin Donovan, 6 p.m.

Friday
Borde Rio: Justin Donovan, 6 p.m.
Riff Raff Brewing Company: Gary Gorence, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Borde Rio: Justin Donovan Quartet, 6 p.m.
Coyote Moon: Lisa Saunders Karaoke, 9 p.m.



The Pagosa Springs SUN thanks longtime Pagosa Springs supporter Mrs. Shirley Slesinger Lasswell for the privilege of being the only newspaper in the United States to publish the 'Red Ryder and Little Beaver' comic strip. The ongoing adventures of Red Ryder and Little Beaver which began appearing in the Preview section with the December 26, 1996, edition of the SUN first ran in major daily newspapers across America from December 25, 1938 through December 4, 1963. Drawn by the late Fred Harman, the comic strips are under the registered copyright restrictions of Red Ryder Enterprises, Inc.

© Red Ryder Ent. Inc.

By Fred Harman



Letters

■ continued from previous page
warm. Can I please have a ornament?

Your friend, Veda

Dear Santa,
I like your elves. I like you Santa. I like your presents.

Your friend, Jammer

Dear Santa,
I want a robot dog and two birds. I also want a elf. How is Rudolf?

Your friend, Dakota

Dear Santa,
Can you bring me a video games? I also want a lego bat man. How did Rudolph a red nose.

Your friend, Monte

Dear Santa,
May I have an alive elf? Why do you want kids to be asleep when you come? How do you deliver presents?

Your friend, Avery

Dear Santa,
How do you deliver all of the presents? Can I have an elf on the shelf? Can I have a stuffed owl? Thank you Santa.

Your friend, Corinna

Dear Santa,
I wish I had a toy elf. I wish I had a doll that looks like me. I wish I saw Santa.

Your friend, Olivia

Dear Santa,
How does Santa get all the presents at every house in one night. I would like a drone with a camera. How did Rudolph get his red nose?

Your friend, Briggs

Dear Santa,
I don't want any presents, all I want for christmas is to spend time with my family. What is christmas rilly about. I bon't now if you want to give me presents for christmas.

Your friend, Nina

Dear Santa,
I would like a bike with no training wheels. I also want a phone and a lol surprise, big surprise ball. I hope you do not get cold.

Your friend Abby

Dear Santa,
How are your elves doing? Can I have a bat man toy? How do you bring presents in one night? Will you make sure the bat man toy can

go in water?

Your friend, Garrett

Dear Santa,
May I have a video game? How does Rudolfs nose glow red? Why do the children have to be asleep when you come?

Your friend Colson

Dear Santa,
How do you deliver all of the presents in 1 night? How did Rudolph get his nose? Can you say hi to the elves for me.

Your friend, Laken

Dear Santa,
I hope you like my cookies and milk and my Christmas tree. I want a phone for Christmas.

Your friend Eliso

Dear Santa,
My name is Logan and I am 3 years old. I have been a good boy this year. So have the cats, Bungee and Kashmir. This year I would like big longhorns from a bull, a new worker flashlight, a new digger excavator like grandpa's, and two Bear feet (slippers). I will leave you cookies and milk and a candy cane.

Love, Logan

Dear Santa,
I want for Chrimas. A Star Wars jackit in my room. I want a emoji blanket. A coffey mug for my antea. And a popleyler dog. A traper. Then I love you Santa.

Love, Alihana Perea 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing good. To let you know what I want for Christmas is popcorn because I can put the pop corn around my Christmas tree and a phone because I can call my whole family for an emergency just in case.

Love, Deanda, age 9

Dear Santa,
I hope your boing well this year. I've ben good I want a bascet ball hop with a gray bascet ball. I also want snow snow snow on Christmas eve lots lots lots lots of snow to santa.

Love, Wyatt, age 9

Dear Santa,
I hope you her well and I love your Elf because your Elf help your and even I love you make toys.

■ See Letters on next page

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In the River Center, next to the Malt Shoppe

Letters

■ continued from previous page

That's why I love you santa. What I want for Christmas is bunny, compter kit, phone, rotod bug santa if you don't have bunny it okay.

Love, Biak, age 7

Dear Santa,

I love you and Mrs. Claus. I really wish that I could go to the north pole. What is Christmas really about? Santa the kids who don't believe in you and think your fake do they still get presents? I don't think they should. The last thing is can you send me an elf on the shelf? Merry Christmas!

Love, Teyann Quezada, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

I hope your having an awesome day. I'm writing to let you know what I want for Christmas. I have been Very good! The thing I want most of all is a puppy. I also want a hover board. Thanks for the presents Santa.

Love, Stefani, age 8

Dear Santa,

I like Christmas beacuse you bring us presents. I will like a hover board that floats. I will like a lambergny and a batmobile real. I will like a flip mals hair. I will like a real puppy. I will like adritbike. I will like Rangers. I will like a Descendants 2 bed sheet. I will like a Xbox 360. I will like a nintendo. I will like a chrome book touch skern. I will like a elf on the shelf.

Love, Ximena Garcia, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

Could you send me and my sister an elf on the shelf? When is your birthday? Is it on Christmas? Could I see Rudolph on Christmas? I realy want to see him. I saw Comet and Dasher when I was in Michigan and I saw Mrs. Claus and you. How many elfes do you have? Do you have elf dogs? Do you have elf cats? Is Buddy a real elf? Do you have

grand children? Say hi to Mrs Claus and your elves. Merry Christmas. One more thing I want a Just dance.

Love, Italia Pereyra, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

Why can we not see you? And why do you never get me what I want?!!! Please bring me books and notebooks and a pokemon plushy and a my little pony packs also a my little pony plushy and a vr.

Love, Leona Buck, 9 years old

Dear Santa,

I hope you are dooing well this Christmas. I love Christmas it is my favorit time of the year. what I want most for Christmas is a wiiu. I hope you can get me it. I will give you cookies and milk I here it is your fravorit also Christmas. I wonder if you like the snow. there is no snow ofer here I hope you can send snow. a nuther thing that I want for Christmas is to see you. Thanks santa.

Love, Melissa, age 9

Dear Santa,

thank you for the prents. And I won't a lizad please! And a slim kit! You rock and how do you do Christmise in one night?

From, Kaylee, 9

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I am letting you know what I want for Christmas. The thing I want is a tablet, a game called toilet trouble and a stuffed, fluffy bear.

Love, Melissa, age 8

Dear Santa,

I want a telescop and a Lego elfs Christmas with 2 pegasus. Also I woud like a Hatchimal. I hope you have a great Christmas and I wish that I could meet you.

Love, Shantee Marphy, 9 years old

Dear Santa,

I hope you're doing well. I'm writing you a letter, so you know what I want for Christmas. First, my best friend to have a good Christmas with her dad. Second, and third, a paved road so I may have a hoover board. Last, a warm, cozy, fun Christmas. Thank you!! Oh, I'll right another because this isn't everything.

Love, Makaela, age 8



Karaoke Dance Party

Saturday, December 23rd

Lisa Saunders at 9 pm

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Happy Holidays

from Ivy, Jann, Blue, Kalei, Lee,
David & our fantastic support team
— Kathy, Joni, Jody and Jordan.

Letters

■ continued from page 4

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas a soccer ball. I don't have one and I really need one please.

Love, Mark Ray, 8 years old
Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. and I hope your elf and I hop you bring me a intendo swich. Thank you santa for bringing me presents every year.

Love, Brandon, age 8

Dear Santa,
The True meaning of Christmas is spending time with family and friends. Also it is Jesus birthday. Please bring me a puppy and lazer tagset. P.S. Christmas rules!

Love, Aryah Trujillo, 9 years old
Dear Santa,

I hope you have fun dilivering presents to kids but what I want is Bike, snow and more school and if I could get enything els I would give it to the people who can,t get any presents.

Love, Sebastian, age 9

Dear Santa,
I hope your doing the best you can. I been a realy boy this year. What I want for X-mas Is a com nerf gun, nerf swords, and what I really want and always wanted is an elf on the shelf and oh a bike.

Love Quentin, age 8

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing good. I'm hoping to get a 3-Ds because my 2-Ds broke. I also want Robley gift kards and a lot of snow. I have been very good this year. I would also want to spend time with my family Thanks Santa!

Love, Erile, age 9

Dear Santa,
I hope you get some cookies and milk well your deliverring presents and what I want for Christmas is a hoverboard, car a laplop, a ipod, and have some time to hang out with my family. And i hope some time i can meet you. And why isn't snowing? Are we gonna have Christmas? By!!!!

Love, Aki Chita, age 9

Dear Santa,
I've been kind to evrey one evrey

day. I do it by playing with evrey one saying kind things and many more nice things like that. I want a Big Hachamal for Christmas.

Your Friend, Layla, 7 years old
Dear Santa,

My name is Ava. I am 4 years old. My favorite color is pink and my favorite thing to do is play at the park. Here are my Christmas wishes: LOL doll, Lo sister.

Love, Ava

Dear Santa,
My name is Nevaeh. I am 6 years old. My favorite color is purple and my favorite thing to do is iisten to musci on the swing. Here are my Chritmas wishes: purple computer, X.box one, LOL surprise pet, Iphone X, Disney princes carriage.

Love, Nevaeh

Dear Santa,
My name is Jesse Arevald. I am 8 years old. My favorite color is pink and my favorite thing to do is watch you tube. Here are my Christmas wishes: another phone, computer, controller- Xbox1.

Love, Jesse

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl this year. I would like you to bring me a fidget spinner with a keychain and a bottle opener attached. I would also like a bean bag chair and a hot wheels ballistic racr. One last thing. Will you pleas fill my stocking with candy. Merry Christmas.

Love, Laykyn Baxstrom, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I'm well too. I am very very well. I was very good. I would like a new life and a new friends.

Love, Emmanuel, age 8

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing will. I wont for Christmas is pockman chairs, Nitend switch and phone also I wont are snow a lot of it.

Love, Zaden, age 9

Dear Santa,
I hope your doing good but I am writing to let you now what I wan't A iphonex, walky talky, computer, bebe gun, crossbow, shot gun Xbox one's, nintendo switch, book, nut-

cracker, game new hat, nerf guns.

Love, Daniel, age 9
Dear Santa,

Thank you for everything you do on Christmas eve. I like how Christmas is for giveing not getting. Do the bad kids get coal for Christmas? Say hi to Mrs. Claus. I want art stuff for Christmas.

Love, Rylimay Bishop, 8 years old
Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. My elf Mistletoe is doing good. Me and my mom are going to make you special cookies how are your reindeers doing. i have always wanted to go to the North pole. I have been good this year. What I really want is my familly to get here faster thank you for everything you have done thanks for the bell, notebook, and pencil.

Love, Sophie, age 9

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. Im writing to let you know what I would like for Christmas I have been very good this year. The thang I want the most is a hover bord and a roker Bmx and a lago set and a Boaanda rc car and a elf on the shelf. Thank you

Love, Trevor, age 8

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I'm writing to let you know what what I would like for Christmas. I have been very good this year! The thing I want most of all is a Pink Maverick hoodie aka Logan Paul Merch. I

■ See Letters on next page



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Letters

■ continued from previous page
also would like some snow and a onsie. Thanks Santa!

Love, Kyndyn, age 9

Dear Santa,

Hi I hope you are doing well. Ive been doing dood but what I really want for Christmas is a DS, snow and a puppy Thank you.

Love, Felise, age 8

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I'm looking forward to Christmas this year. P.S please don't send any snow. By the way we will remember Christmas cookies and a glass or milk to put on the fire place for you. I hope you and your rain deers have an extra safe trip back to the north pole. And also you can help yourself to extra cookies. that all I wish you a mary Christmas.

Love, Lyzi, age 9

Dear Santa,

Christmas is about joy, giving to others, and it is about family. I love Christmas so much and it is my favorite holiday. Speaking of Christmas, for Christmas I want a lego Elves gun bragon, mini hachimals, and a loft bed for my American Girl. Can you get my dog Pepper something in her stocking please? See you next year!

Love, Taylor Kerns, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

hi Santa, I have been very good this yere! So, don't werwer you can get me inething you want, but for Christmas I want a lanchpad. If you can get me that then you will be the best Santa! I know that all the other Santas ar fake, but you your not fake.

Love, Cole, age 9

Dear Santa,

I hope that you are feeling good. What I want for Christmas is time whith wyatt and snow, lots o snow, I want it to dump on Christmas eve whith snow and the crazy 8 trak from cars 3.

Love, Jackson, age 8

Dear Santa,

I want anthing life or stuff. I want anea animal. I Love animal, plant, fareas east bunea, sandman, and santa claas. you are the king of the north pole. I want to

see the king or the elf. I want to go to the north pole everea day of Christmas. Christmas is the spilshul tim mar the ear But the gratus part of Christmas is spintel-ing time with family. santa if you can get me anthing thas animal or plant. thanks Santa! P.S. I love you with all my heart. You have a mary Christmas!

Love, Angel Marie Graves, age 9

Dear Santa,

I want a keybord and roller skates. I like Chritmas becasue you give us gifts and we give you love. I wish I can vist you. have a nice chritmas.

Love, Teliyah Anderson, 9 years old

Dear Santa,

I like Christmas because you get to sled on snow. and you get present's and a lot of candy. and Christmas is with your family and friend's this year I want a pack of pencils for school and a elf on a shelf for home, a falcon jersey and a lego Batman set and a dashcam car and a real little puppy for my sister.

Love, Gabriel Mendez, 9 years old

Dear Santa,

I hope I can have a soccer ball and new head phones and a nek-less I'm sorry if you get bernt by the stove and watch out my cat came frome the grave.

Love, Gavin, age 8

Dear Santa,

I want for christmas is snow becuase I like snow and a coment car and a cama with green viser and a gun and 5 cars in a box and 10 markers in a box and crayolas and a tank with a roment with bol-less well thats all and santa marea christmas santa and thangs santa.

Love, Zaiden

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I'm writing to let you know what I would like you to get me the present I won't please and I wan't a Nintendo switch and I have been good for the year! Thanks Santa!

Love, Christoper Blanco, age 9

Dear Santa,

I want a hover board but the one that foats. what is Christmas? I want a bat Mobile. A real one. I

want a Lam-borgini a real one. I want a panda a real once. Are you friends with god I want an artifact from Rome please.

Love Enrique Quezada, 9 years old



Dear Santa,

I like Christmas because you give and receive from others. It's about getting together and eating. I believe in God I believe in Santa. I like the presents you bring me. please get me a nerf terrascout gun.

Love, Gavyn

Dear Santa,

I hope you're doing awesome. I am wrighting this letter to tell you what I want for Christmas. I've been really good. So all I want for Christmas is a laptop, phone, computer, and a onsie. As you can see, I don't want very much.

Love, Cheyenne, age 8

Dear Santa,

The things I want for Chistmas is a huge bieny boo pug. I also want a new Star Wars Lego set. A nuther thing I want is a lot of snow! By Santa!

Love, Connor, age 9

Dear Santa Closet,

I've done my best to be a good listener and helper this year. I

■ See Letters on next page

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and Happy New Year

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DECEMBER 22, 2017

Christmas Carols by "NOEL"
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@
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124 E. PAGOSA #5 (NEAR MALT SHOPPE) TUES-SAT 11:30AM-5PM

Letters

■ continued from previous page

hope I am on the nice list, not the naughty list. i would like: a scooter, Anna and Elsa socks, water bottle with a staw, a portend elf I can hold, Moana.

Love, Sage, age 5

Dear Santa,

I think you are real and I am very happy for you and the only thing I wan't for christmas is a youtube chanle please thank you sooo much!

From Chloe

Dear Santa,

What I want for christmas is all of the fnaf games.

From, Brian, 8, 3rd grade

Dear Santa,

for Christmas all I want is a xbox and a lava lamp and my own room and galaxy slime thats all I want for Christmas.

From, Sienna, 8

Dear Santa,

I only want three thenas. I wont my cousin's hip to be OK. I wont Alsaflan and a horse.

From Alillyanna, 10

Dear Santa,

I would like only three things a blanckt a mouse from city market tha is as big as me and a candycane hershey bar thank you santa. Merry Chistmas

From Taryn, age 9

Dear Santa,

my elf on the shelf sparkles is still gowing krasye as alwees. wat I want for chrstmis is a Barbee glamer kaper, a Berbee ker. and a Ken dol.

From Vivy, 7

Dear Santa,

i want rubber bands art sets Lego ninjagomovie distynys bounty Thank you

Fox, age 6

Dear Santa,

I want tech deck mega ramp valiue pack and tech deck, long board's 4 of them IphoneX 15 tech deck packs cod WW2 xbox one battle field one. Love you santa.

From, Sandero, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

I beleevin you santa. It's abut famley and friends. You ere my dreem santa, go santa! your amazing too!

From Zaider, age 7

Dear Santa,

What i want for Chistmas is here but for a reason ... because ... i love those things so I will tell you what I want l. minecraft for the nintando

3tS edition. 2. Super Mario oddesey for the nintendo suite 9. 3. Pat and Jen minecraft figures. 4. all 3 Ariana grande ablblums.

Love, Ismael Sanchez

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good Christmas. I'm writing to tell you my Christmas list. First, I want fidget spiners, candy, dirt bike, cross bow, iphone, a bigigloo out side and money. Have a good Christmas Santa.

Love, Deegen, age 8

Dear Santa,

You are the best person ever. You are the joliest person ever. I just wated to say my mom is very sick, and I've been very good to her, so I want you to take care of her for Christmas. Thank you.

Love, Bryant Sanchez, 9 years old

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing good. I have had experience being an elf. What I want for Christmas is a pop socket. When I go to the North Pole I will hug you.

Love, Alec, Age: 8

Dear Santa,

I have ben a good boy so may I pleas have a drone, a laptop that turns into a tablet, a smal tooth for Bella, 4 lego city sets.

Love, Jaxon Postolese, age 9

Dear Santa,

You are better then Halloween. Am glad your real. And the Kids who do not believe in you shoulde not get presnts!

Love, Jeremi Gutierrez, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

All I hope I get is my rc fixst and a mavenck hoodie and a mouse for my laptop. I want a phone so I can contact my parants.

Love, Toby, age: 9

Dear Santa,

I hop you and Mrs. Claus are okay. Here's what I want for christmas, Here's what I want, a tablet, car and a rock star guitar.

Love, Tucker, age: 9

Dear Santa,

I want an auto matic car. I want it to be water proof can go on rocks, grass, broken roads, mud dirt, logs with a control. I want the monopoly Gamer. I want I box of police of the city. I will believelin you for the rest of my life!!

Love, Fernundo Robles, 8 years old

Dear Santa,

I hope you're doing great. I'm writing what I want for chrismas. I want the happiest family ever! My daddy would go to work and

kai my broth-er would play, my mommy would cook. Also, I would like my best friend to have a cute kitty. Thanks Santa.

Love, Isabella, age: 9

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I'm doing well like you. I hope there are a lot of christmas magic for us. I would like an iphonex, a nintendo swith, and last of all a hug. Love you

Love, Jimmy, Age: 9

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I was good this year. I would like a dirt bike, a haver board, and a drone. I also want a happy family and a good dinner. Also I want a very good Birth Day and Happy Chrismas.

Love, Horacio, Age: 8

Dear Santa,

What I want for critsmes is five nights at fredys stuf

Love, Izaiah, Age: 8

Dear Santa,

I hope your doing well so you can Deliver presents. What I want for Christmas is snow, a nintendo switch, a rocket fishing rod, a tablet, a air soft rifle, a puppy. Have a merry christmas.

Love, Hunter, Age: 9

Dear Santa,

My Mom Really wants a car with four seats. I want a lego spider man home coming set & a Bat man Lego set to I want one more present please. Bring it, a trampoline.

Love, Damien Aragon, 8 years old

■ See Letters on next page





Christmas

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Justin Donovan

Saturday 6pm

Justin Donovan Quartet

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Christmas Day Closed

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Experience the positive potential of music in Tuesday class

By Paul Roberts
Special to The PREVIEW

Join musician and music therapist Paul Roberts for a free hand-drumming class at the Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse on Tuesday, Dec. 26, at noon.

The class offers a welcoming environment that encourages fun, creativity, playfulness and connecting with others. Hand drums are provided for those who don't have one. Even participants who have no experience playing a musical instrument can immediately get into the groove. Besides hand drumming, the class includes body percussion and songs of indigenous peoples.

My father, a distinguished neuroscientist, told me he thought music was the only thing that might enable the survival of the human race, that language and rational thinking won't suffice, and that music can bring people together in a harmonious way as nothing else can.

I suspect I was genetically predisposed to music, but I am sure that my musical circuits were permanently connected listening to my father playing his mandolin. He played with a tremendous amount of feeling. One of my strongest early memories was playing with my blocks on the floor while listening to my father's music. Whenever he played a tremolo, a rapid reiteration of a note, I felt a powerful sensation of energy moving up my spine, a phenomenon, I later learned, Hindu philosophy

refers to as kundalini awakening. Whether my inclinations came from nature or nurture, my early musical hardwiring certainly pre-determined my fate.

When I was 20, I created a music therapy program at McLean Hospital, a highly esteemed psychiatric hospital in Belmont, Mass. Observing dramatic improvement of seriously disturbed patients, I developed a lifelong fascination with the healing power of music. Working at McLean and several other psychiatric institutions expanded my perception of music. I developed a sense for what seems like music's limitless positive potential.

"If I'm playing the guitar because I'm just filled with some emotion, playing music vents a lot of feeling," a young man in one of my patient bands told me. "It brings me out of feeling bad and turns it into something tangible that I can work with. Hearing it is working with it, just having it there instead of running around in my head, to have it through my fingers, into the amplifier, out and into my ears, dreaming into the fingers and letting things come at the spirit of the moment."

The saying "music begins where words end" really came to life for me when patients who could not speak became actively engaged in music and gradually recovered their ability to communicate through words. Music was their bridge to mental health. Those experiences helped motivate me to continue trying to build musical

bridges with others.

"The sense of community at the drumming class is very valuable for me, especially as a newcomer to Pagosa Springs. Another thing I love is that my senses are stimulated. I feel more alive after the class." — Catt LeBaigue.

"As a part-time resident of Pagosa Springs, I have attended several of the drumming classes generously given by Paul. Being a complete beginner I felt comfortable in the friendly environment he creates and I received gentle encouragement. I have fun and it's a great way to recharge my energy." — Marti Bledsoe.

For more information about the hand-drumming class, email banjocrazy@centurytel.net or call 731-3117. The Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse is located at 230 Port Ave.

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Letters

■ continued from previous page

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I am doing well, but I am sick. I am writing to let you know what I want for Christmas. What list am I on? This is what I want for Christmas. I want a tablet and a phone and a figet spinner and a dirt bike. Love you SANTA!

Love, Stetson, Age 8



Merry Christmas!

to our customers & friends during this season of faith and love for one another.

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Christmas Eve Services Schedule

8:15 AM — Contemporary Sunday Service

11:00 AM — Traditional Sunday Service

6:00 PM — Traditional Christmas Eve Service

ALL ARE WELCOME Candlelight and Carols

Community United Methodist Church • 434 Lewis Street





Photo courtesy Elly Heitkamp-Osmera

Dennis Elkins and Dan Morrison play over 22 outrageous characters in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas, in the hilarious “A Tuna Christmas,” playing now at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Texas sized laughs for ‘Tuna Christmas’

By R. Eli Townsend
Special to The PREVIEW

The laughs don’t come better or bigger than from Tuna, Texas, a fictional town that delightfully passes through Thingamajig Theatre Company’s stage via the talents of Dennis Elkins and Dan Morrison. These two guys are made for the hilarious spoofery of “A Tuna Christmas,” created by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard.

This quirky world of Texas appeal picks up where the trio’s first play, “Greater Tuna,” left off, with our boys Thurston Wheelis and Arles Struvie on the air at the radio station talking weather and Tuna news. It’s the day before Christmas and all is not in perfect order in the greater Tuna area.

We meet 22 citizens of Tuna, ranging from Petey Fisk, the only member of the town’s Humane Society, to Elmer Watkins, its arson enthusiast. There is a dreaded Christmas phantom loose who renders Christmas decorations unfit for the annual Tuna Christmas Yard

Display Contest. Vera Carp, acting leader of Smut Snatchers of the New Order, makes an appearance, along with Didi Snavely, owner of Didi’s Used Weapons. The Bumiller family returns and Joe Bob Lipsey

Elkins and Morrison are splendid as the Tuna-ites and you’ll leave the theater with a Texas-sized smile as you welcome the holiday season.

directs a problem-beset production of “A Christmas Carol.”

The biggest hoot of the evening is watching these two pro comedic actors rapidly change costumes and characters, a feat that they accomplish with maximum hilarity and skill. They portray all ages and

genders with humor and panache, but both are especially funny in their female roles. The plot, such as it is, unfolds one or two characters at a time, though Elkins and Morrison can give the impression of five or six Tuna citizens appearing all at once. The play turns on one-liners and sight gags and the fast pace of character changes, feeling like a familiar romp through “The Carol Burnett Show,” complete with side-splitting stage mishaps and slapstick comedy. For all its boisterous irreverence, “A Tuna Christmas”

■ See Laughs on next page

GET INVOLVED.

Now is your chance to be part of the decisions made by the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

HERE’S HOW.

The Town’s Three District seats on Town Council will be up for election on April 3.

Candidate packets, information, and requirements will be available beginning January 2, at Town Hall. Information can be found on the town’s website: www.pagosasprings.co.gov.

All candidate packets are due January 22.

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

APRIL 3, 2018 · 7 AM — 7 PM

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Christmas Eve Service


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December 24 • 6 pm

We have a wonderful evening planned! There will be a Kid Drama, Kids Singing, Song Specials, the story of the birth of Jesus told, and of course a lighting of the candles while we all join in carols!

Come a few minutes early and enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies.

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Light the inner meaning of Christmas at New Thought Friday

By Constance d'Angelis
Special to The PREVIEW

Join the Rev. Janet Wyrick in a reverential candle lighting ceremony with the Pagosa Community of New Thought on Friday, Dec. 22.

Unite and collaborate in our greatest desire for peace and goodwill among all peoples — all nations binding together through golden bounds of love.

Come to the Center for Spiritual Growth at 40 N. 15th St. on Friday, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m.

There will be no Sunday service

on Dec. 24. Enjoy your Christmas Eve holiday.

There is a new time for movie/discussion group: 10 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month. Look for movies and discussions on Jan. 6 and Jan. 20, 2018. All are welcome.

Pagosa Community of New Thought is establishing community by exploring all paths to the divine. We focus on opening minds and hearts to what brings us together, rather than what divides us.

We welcome you and your insights, beliefs, knowledge and

talents. Please be part of our candlelight and special services, Sunday discoveries and/or come to our Saturday movie/discussions of higher consciousness and principles.

We are always here for you. Request a concentrated affirmative mind treatment or obtain information about the church by joining us, emailing PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com, calling 949-9020 or snail mailing to P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1052. Find us on Facebook or our website, www.PagosaNewThought.org.

Laughs

continued from previous page delivers a sweet ending, which the two actors play deliciously well.

Melissa Firlit directs the show and serves as sound designer. John Santangelo's setting is simple and very effective: an illuminated shack with a couple of tables and chairs and a small tree that changes adornments depending on the scene. The actors provide the rest and never leave us longing for more.

It looks like local Pagosans have

endorsed this one as well. A review on the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts' social media page offers the following fabulous endorsement: "Two weeks ago we saw Tuna Christmas in Austin with Jaston Williams directing (the playwright) and (my opinion) this performance was better. The actors were so in sync, it was like watching hilarious choreography. Yay! A must-see." — P. Love.

"A Tuna Christmas" may serve for some of you as an excellent

antidote to the humdrum aspects of the season. Elkins and Morrison are splendid as the Tuna-ites and you'll leave the theater with a Texas-sized smile as you welcome the holiday season.

"A Tuna Christmas," rated PG-13, is playing at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts weekdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets and information, visit pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW (7469).

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New Bus Route Times

beginning January 2018



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		Rte 1	Rte 2	Rte 3	Rte 4	Rte 5	Rte 6	Rte 7	Rte 8	Rte 9	Rte 10
1	Rio Grande Savings & Loan		8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM
2	City Market Bus Stop		8:04 AM	9:04 AM	10:04 AM	11:04 AM	12:04 PM	1:04 PM	2:04 PM	3:04 PM	4:04 PM
3	Navajo Trail & Hopi		8:07 AM	9:07 AM	10:07 AM	11:07 AM	12:07 PM	1:07 PM	2:07 PM	3:07 PM	4:07 PM
4	Prospect & Lyn	7:11 AM	8:11 AM	9:11 AM	10:11 AM	11:11 AM	12:11 PM	1:11 PM	2:11 PM	3:11 PM	4:11 PM
5	Bonanza Ave @ Vista Blvd	7:14 AM	8:14 AM	9:14 AM	10:14 AM	11:14 AM	12:14 PM	1:14 PM	2:14 PM	3:14 PM	4:14 PM
6	Lakeview Estates	7:17 AM	8:17 AM	9:17 AM	10:17 AM	11:17 AM	12:17 PM	1:17 PM	2:17 PM	3:17 PM	4:17 PM
7	Pagosa Springs Medical Center	7:20 AM	8:20 AM	9:20 AM	10:20 AM	11:20 AM	12:20 PM	1:20 PM	2:20 PM	3:20 PM	4:20 PM
8	Wal-Mart (eastbound)	7:24 AM	8:24 AM	9:24 AM	10:24 AM	11:24 AM	12:24 PM	1:24 PM	2:24 PM	3:24 PM	4:24 PM
9	Aspen Village/Cornerstone/Boulder Dr	7:25 AM	8:25 AM	9:25 AM	10:25 AM	11:25 AM	12:25 PM	1:25 PM	2:25 PM	3:25 PM	4:25 PM
10	Harman Loop (Wells Fargo)	7:27 AM	8:27 AM	9:27 AM	10:27 AM	11:27 AM	12:27 PM	1:27 PM	2:27 PM	3:27 PM	4:27 PM
11	Ruby Sisson Library	7:31 AM	8:31 AM	9:31 AM	10:31 AM	11:31 AM	12:31 PM	1:31 PM	2:31 PM	3:31 PM	4:31 PM
12	So. 8th & Piedra	7:32 AM	8:32 AM	9:32 AM	10:32 AM	11:32 AM	12:32 PM	1:32 PM	2:32 PM	3:32 PM	4:32 PM
13	So. 8th & Apache	7:33 AM	8:33 AM	9:33 AM	10:33 AM	11:33 AM	12:33 PM	1:33 PM	2:33 PM	3:33 PM	4:33 PM
14	Town Hall / Senior Center	7:35 AM	8:35 AM	9:35 AM	10:35 AM	11:35 AM	12:35 PM	1:35 PM	2:35 PM	3:35 PM	4:35 PM
15	Post Office	7:36 AM	8:36 AM	9:36 AM	10:36 AM	11:36 AM	12:36 PM	1:36 PM	2:36 PM	3:36 PM	4:36 PM
16	Hot Springs (east side of street)	7:37 AM	8:37 AM	9:37 AM	10:37 AM	11:37 AM	12:37 PM	1:37 PM	2:37 PM	3:37 PM	4:37 PM
17	River Center	7:39 AM	8:39 AM	9:39 AM	10:39 AM	11:39 AM	12:39 PM	1:39 PM	2:39 PM	3:39 PM	4:39 PM
18	2nd Street @ Hwy 160	7:40 AM	8:40 AM	9:40 AM	10:40 AM	11:40 AM	12:40 PM	1:40 PM	2:40 PM	3:40 PM	4:40 PM
19	N. 4th Street & Lewis Street	7:41 AM	8:41 AM	9:41 AM	10:41 AM	11:41 AM	12:41 PM	1:41 PM	2:41 PM	3:41 PM	4:41 PM
20	Methodist Church	7:42 AM	8:42 AM	9:42 AM	10:42 AM	11:42 AM	12:42 PM	1:42 PM	2:42 PM	3:42 PM	4:42 PM
21	Archuleta Housing - N 6th St	7:43 AM	8:43 AM	9:43 AM	10:43 AM	11:43 AM	12:43 PM	1:43 PM	2:43 PM	3:43 PM	4:43 PM
22	Archuleta Housing - N 7th St	7:44 AM	8:44 AM	9:44 AM	10:44 AM	11:44 AM	12:44 PM	1:44 PM	2:44 PM	3:44 PM	4:44 PM
23	N. 8th Street & Rosita	7:45 AM	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	11:45 AM	12:45 PM	1:45 PM	2:45 PM	3:45 PM	4:45 PM
24	Eagle Drive @ Majestic	7:48 AM	8:48 AM	9:48 AM	10:48 AM	11:48 AM	12:48 PM	1:48 PM	2:48 PM	3:48 PM	4:48 PM
25	Giant Gas Station (Piedra Rd.)	7:50 AM	8:50 AM	9:50 AM	10:50 AM	11:50 AM	12:50 PM	1:50 PM	2:50 PM	3:50 PM	4:50 PM

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His name is Jesus

By Jan Davis
Special to The PREVIEW

Sam had never seen an angel before. But, tonight, several appeared in the sky. Sam and his father watched the brilliant display in the field where sheep grazed. One angel declared the good news of a king born in Bethlehem.

"Let's go with the other shepherds and search for this baby destined to be the savior of the world. The star may lead us to the child. But first we must find the perfect lamb as a gift." Sam's father hurried to his flock.

A quiet hush lay over the little town of Bethlehem in the early morning light. While other travelers slept in the inn, a peaceful commotion lingered around the small stall. The cattle rested on soft hay while a donkey nibbled oats from a bucket. The star resided above the stable and provided a soft light on all the activities.

Sam cradled the lamb close and stood beside his father.

"My name is Daniel and this is Samuel." The shepherd continued, "We saw the star in the nearby pastures and followed it here."

"I'm Joseph, this is Mary and our newborn son." He motioned toward the manger where a baby slept. "The same star helped guide us from Nazareth."

Sam turned at the sound of hoofs on the cobblestone. He watched in awe as three men adorned with crowns and dressed in splendid robes sat atop magnificent camels.

A peaceful reverence descended over the scene as they dismounted and opened their satchels to reveal

A Matter of Faith

With a slight nudge, his father motioned Sam forward. It was time to present their gift.

gifts wrapped in ornate boxes. In an act of worship, they placed their gift offerings at the foot of the manger. With respect worthy of a king, the three men knelt, removed their crowns and bowed their heads. They never said a word.

Sam looked up at his father. "Who are these men and where did they come from?"

"They are men of great wealth. I've overheard rumors of a small group of astronomers from the Far East headed in this direction. They asked for an audience before King Herod to determine the star's purpose. This must be the star." Joseph pointed upward.

With a slight nudge, his father motioned Sam forward. It was time

to present their gift.

Sam noticed a single tear roll down Joseph's cheek as he reached out to accept the lamb. Why tears? Joseph should be happy to receive such a special gift.

They walked throughout the herd in search of a lamb without spot or blemish. Father chose this one over all the others.

Confused, Sam turned his attention to the infant. The baby's hands waved in the air as his feet kicked against the swaddling cloth wrapped around him.

Sam couldn't resist. He touched one of the little hands. The baby reached for Sam's finger.

Sam gazed at the child in wonderment. This baby could become a shepherd with his own flock and slay wolves who dare to venture close. Or a carpenter who carves beautiful pieces of woodwork from rough-hewn logs. Maybe a great teacher who dumbfounds the Pharisees with his wisdom. Perhaps a high priest, dressed in fine robes of purple and scarlet as he offers blood sacrifices for the sins of the people.

Sam looked up at the child's father and asked, "What is his name?"

Joseph smiled at the little shepherd boy. Then he lifted his infant son high so all could witness. "His name is Jesus."

Because of Jesus, we have been given a priceless gift.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." — Matthew 1:21.

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UU announces Christmas Eve Celebration of Light

By Dean Cerny
Special to The PREVIEW

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship invites you to join us for a social hour followed by a candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

The social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with a light food and beverage offering. The candlelight service will follow at 6 p.m.

This month is a special one for many of us. It is a month of holiday festivities where we can either feel joyous or skeptically onerous (or both). As with many things in our current culture, Christmas can be a divisive issue. More specifically, there is some polarization concerning how one celebrates or the extent to which one participates in this holiday.

As a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship with deep roots in Christianity, we gather in the warmth of companionship to embrace the light of hope that is the focus of this holy night. This will be a service that truthfully and honestly honors the pagan consciousness of this seasonal celebration that was insightfully re-imagined by Christianity.

Pastor Dean Cerny's interest in religious concepts has always been motivated by his passion to question religious orthodoxy. This reasoned approach led him to obtain an undergraduate degree in religious studies from Arizona State University and a master of arts degree in religion and theology from United Theological Seminary in Minnesota. Of prime interest to Cerny is the relationship between religion and spirituality wherein religion serves as a language to articulate spiritual experience.

Cerny lives with his partner of 39 years, John Ehlert, and their three dogs in an off-grid

home in rural Kanab, Utah. Cerny serves as part-time pastor at the Pagosa UU Fellowship, leading services twice each month and is a part-time resident of Pagosa Springs.

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a caring, inclusive fellowship dedicated

to spiritual growth, justice and serving the needs of our larger community. As a Welcoming Congregation, we invite everyone to share in our faith community. We cherish diversity and foster a safe environment for all.

For further information, see pagosauu.org or call 731-7900.



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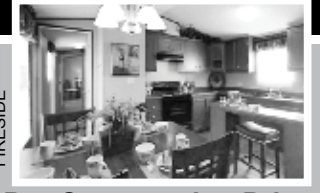


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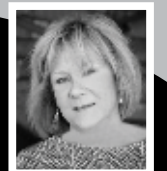
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Christmas at St. Patrick's a musical and spiritual feast

By Sally Neel
Special to The PREVIEW

Soon all the shopping, parties and Christmas preparations will be over and Christians all over the world will gather at their places of worship to pay homage to the birth of the Christ child.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will offer, in addition to their morning Advent worship service at 10 a.m., two Christmas Eve services officiated by the Rev. Douglas Neel, rector.

The first Christmas Eve celebration will begin with the 5 p.m. family service of Holy Eucharist, including a sermon geared towards children and music provided by young musicians.

The second service will be preceded at 7:30 p.m. by 30 minutes of Christmas music provided by guest musicians, including NightSong Trio, members of the Dorian family, flutist Kathy Wadenpfohl and tenors Robert Neel and Dale Scrivener.

At 8 p.m., the choir and altar party will process into the church to the glorious strains of "O Come All Ye Faithful," accompanied by organist Sally Neel and guest musicians.

The choir of St. Patrick's will provide Christmas anthems during the 8 p.m. service and traditional Christmas hymns will be sung by the congregation. Both services will include the singing of "Silent Night" with lights dimmed and candles glowing following Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day at 10 a.m., a



Photo courtesy Sally Neel

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (225 S. Pagosa Blvd.) will offer two Christmas Eve services. The 5:30 p.m. service of Holy Eucharist is recommended for families with small children, with a children's sermon and music provided by young musicians. At 7:30 p.m., guest artists will offer 30 minutes of classical Christmas music preceding the formal 8 p.m. candlelight Communion service. Christmas Day will offer a service at 10 a.m. The Rev. Douglas Neel, rector, will officiate.

quiet service of Holy Eucharist will include the singing of carols and a Christmas sermon from Douglas Neel. This service is a perfect way to celebrate the nativity for those who prefer a less formal setting.

All are welcome to partake of Communion at St. Patrick's and to join in the celebration of the birth of Jesus at these services. St. Patrick's is located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Holiday Church Events

All events listed in the Holiday Church Events Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent Anticipatory Mass. 5 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church (JP II).

Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service. 8 a.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Christmas Eve Service. 9 a.m., Al-

lison Community Presbyterian Church.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Anticipatory Mass. 9 a.m., JP II.

Christmas Eve Service. 10 a.m., Amazing Grace Community Church, 77 Navajo Circle. Starts with breakfast.

Christmas Eve Service. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This service will conclude the season of Advent

■ See Events on next page

Come celebrate Christmas with us!

12/17: 9:00 am Christmas Choir performance during service

12/24: 9:00 am Regular church service

4:40 pm Brass Prelude

5:00 pm Candlelight Service

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209 Harman Park Dr. (behind Wells Fargo)

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Born For You

Grace in Pagosa has come together with several local churches to host a free service on Christmas Eve. This has become a cherished family tradition for many in our community. This year, our service will be all about the music — as we sing and learn about some of our favorite Christmas hymns and songs. We hope that you will make plans to join us for this wonderful worship experience!



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Holiday Church Events



■ continued from previous page

as we anticipate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve Service. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive. Holy Communion and sermon.

Christmas Eve Service. 11 a.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Anticipatory Mass. 11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church (IHM).

Christmas Eve Music. 3:30 p.m., IHM. Christmas songs will be sung before Mass.

Christmas Eve Service. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Grace Church has come together with several other local churches for this service. We will sing and learn about some of our favorite Christmas hymns and songs.

Christmas Eve Mass. 4 p.m., JP II.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Brass prelude at 4:40 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. We will gather for

the family service and Holy Eucharist. The service will include special music. The Rev. Douglas Neel will offer a special sermon directed towards the younger members of the congregation.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. A social hour with light food and beverage will begin at 5 p.m., with the service following at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service. 5:30 p.m., Allison Community Presbyterian Church.

Christmas Eve Service. 6 p.m., Church of His Glory. 7 Parelli Way. There will be a kid drama, kids singing, song specials, the story of the birth of Jesus told and a lighting of the candles with carols.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Candlelight and carols.

Christmas Eve Service. 7 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive. Lessons and carols, Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve Service. 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Classical

Christmas music provided by NightSong Trio.

Christmas Eve Music. 7:30 p.m., IHM. Christmas songs will be sung before Mass.

Christmas Eve Mass. 8 p.m., IHM.

Christmas Eve Service. 8 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. The organ and instrumentalists will announce the great procession of the choir and clergy into the church as the congregation joins us. This service is a traditional service with carols, choral anthems, sermon and Holy Eucharist, punctuated with the candlelight singing of "Silent Night."

Monday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Mass. 9 a.m., JP II. Pagosa Catholic Church community family Mass.

Christmas Day Service. 10 a.m., Amazing Grace Community Church, 77 Navajo Circle. Devotional-style service.

Christmas Day Service. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This Holy Eucharist service will include the singing of carols and a Christmas sermon.

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

CHRISTMAS TEA

PREVIEW photos/Terri House

Scene ... at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church's annual Christmas Tea recently. Women were invited to dress up in Christmas finery to be treated to an elegant afternoon of savory and sweet treats, special entertainment and visiting with one another while celebrating the holiday season.



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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 21

Paws to Read. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For kids in grades K-5th. Come and share your favorite book with Hondo, a therapy dog who loves listening to stories. Paws to Read is a great way for beginning readers to build confidence. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Candy Creations. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Put your creative talents to the test and don't let your sweet tooth get the best of you. Using candy and chocolate, we will be making some holiday treats. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Adult ESL Classes. 5-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. English as a second language class. Free child care is provided. Contact ACEC-manager@gmail.com for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'Tuna Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. A brilliant and hilarious two-man show that takes place in Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Between the holiday yard display contest and the Little Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on the brink of cancellation, it's a miracle anyone gets tinsel on the tree. For tickets and more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Friday, Dec. 22

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., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. 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.

Hand and Foot. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Gaming. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Wii and Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'Tuna Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. A brilliant and hilarious two-man show that takes place in Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Between the holiday yard display contest and the Little Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on the brink of cancellation, it's a miracle anyone gets tinsel on the tree. For tickets and more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Meditation and Recorded Dharma Talk. 10 a.m., Unitarian Universal Fellowship, 70 Greenbriar Drive, Suite B-15. All are welcome.

Yoga: Laugh and Let Go. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center. This class explores the ancient technique of chi self-massage followed by a lighter yoga asana practice. Call 264-4152 for more information.

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.

Santa at the Visitor Center. Noon-3 p.m., Visitor Center. Hot drinks and cookies will occupy those waiting for Santa as he hears the wishes of the children.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents

'Tuna Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. A brilliant and hilarious two-man show that takes place in Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Between the holiday yard display contest and the Little Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on the brink of cancellation, it's a miracle anyone gets tinsel on

■ See Calendar on next page

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

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
the tree. For tickets and more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'Tuna Christmas.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. A brilliant and hilarious two-man show that takes place in Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Between the holiday yard display contest and the Little Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on the brink of cancellation, it's a miracle anyone gets tinsel on the tree. For tickets and more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Uke Jam. 2:30-4:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Come strum, sing and share the fun. All levels welcome. Instruction for beginners provided.

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.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Hand-Drumming Class. Noon,

PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Join musician and music therapist Paul Roberts for a hand-drumming class. All are welcome. Hand drums will be provided for those who don't have one. For further information, email banjocrazy@centurytel.net or call 731-3117.

Men's PTSD Group. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Focusing on resolving anger and conflict. Contact Kevin Kelly, Ph.D., at (505)699-0824 for more information.

Teen Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks. For teens in the 7th-12th grade. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Adult ESL Classes. 5-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. English as a second language class. Free child care is provided. Contact ACEC-manager@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Kids Kare VBS. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Ave. This is a program for kids ages 3-5. The program includes Bible time, crafts and game time. This is a service to the entire community: all little kids are welcome. Parents are welcome to come and visit

with their little ones. For more information contact Frank and Connie Porter at (303) 901-5290 or email at CEFlittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Flow Yoga Class. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Please bring a mat and a towel. For more information, call Roz at (281) 435-0563.

Free Blood Pressure Checks. 10:30 a.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Yoga. 4-5 p.m., Community Center.

Role-Playing Game. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Use your imagination to go on adventures and battle monsters in our ongoing role-playing game. This is a recurring program. If you want to be a part of the game but missed the last event, don't worry, you can join in anytime. For teens in the 7th-12th grade. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

The Most Excellent Way. 7 p.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship Church, 1044 Park Ave. The

■ See Calendar on next page

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be yours
during this
holiday season.*



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'Tuna Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. A brilliant and hilarious two-man show that takes place in Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Between the holiday yard display contest and the Little Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on the brink of cancellation, it's a miracle anyone gets tinsel on the tree. For tickets and more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Paws to Read. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For kids in grades K-5. Come and share your favorite book with Hondo, a therapy dog who loves listening to stories. Paws to Read is a great way for beginning readers to build confidence. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Adult ESL Classes. 5-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. English as a second language class. Free child care is provided. Contact ACEC-manager@gmail.com for more information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents

'Tuna Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. A brilliant and hilarious two-man show that takes place in Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Between the holiday yard display contest and the Little Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on the brink of cancellation, it's a miracle anyone gets tinsel on the tree. For tickets and more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

San Juan Stargazers. 7-8:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. Our main program will be a video lesson using the great photos taken by the Hubble space telescope of Comet Shoemaker-Levy crashing into Jupiter. For more information, go to www.SanJuanStargazers.com, email sjstargazers@gmail.com or call 731-0186.

Friday, Dec. 29

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., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. 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.

Gaming. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Wii and Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Baby Storytime. 9:05-9:25 a.m., Sisson Library. For babies 0-12 months. Twenty minutes of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills in everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Toddler Storytime. 9:30-10 a.m., Sisson Library. For toddlers 12-36 months. A half hour of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills in everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

■ See Calendar on next page

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And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." Luke 2:13-14

I do not know if you believe in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But it is undeniable that something happened 2000 years ago that made an impact on the world. That impact is seen especially at this time of the year. Even with all the commercialism of Christmas, there is more love, joy, peace, and giving at this time of the year. You may deny Jesus is the Son of God, but you cannot deny that one named Jesus lived and had a great impact on the world. As Christians, we celebrate Jesus as the Savior of the world and Son of God. If we can help you learn more about Jesus, please contact us.

Dorman Diller, minister

Merry Christmas



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.

Please join us

Pagosa Springs Church of Christ

277 Lewis Street • 264-2552
www.pagosaspringscoc.com

In Search of the Lord's Way, KWUF Radio, Sunday 8:00 a.m.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

for the issue of

Thursday, December 28

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 22

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Tuesday, December 26
Too Late to Classify 3 p.m., Tuesday, December 26

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 21

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

and for the issue of

Thursday, January 4

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 29

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Tuesday, January 2
Too Late to Classify 3 p.m., Tuesday, January 2

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 28

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


The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100 • www.PagosaSUN.com

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Yoga: Laugh and Let Go. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center. This class explores the ancient technique of chi self-massage followed by a lighter yoga asana practice. Call 264-4152 for more information.

Sunday, Dec. 31

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.

Tuesday, Jan. 2

Veterans for Veterans. 9 a.m., Dorothy's Restaurant.

Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.

Adult ESL Classes. 5-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. English as a second language class. Free child care is provided. Contact ACEC-manager@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Kids Kare VBS. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Ave. This is a program for kids ages 3-5. The program includes Bible time, crafts and game time. This is a service to the entire community; all little kids are welcome. Parents are welcome to come and visit with their little ones. For more information, contact Frank and Connie Porter at (303) 901-5290 or email at CE-Flittlekids@gmail.com.

Flow Yoga Class. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Please bring a mat and a towel. For

more information, call Roz at (281) 435-0563.

Jelly Beans and Squiggly Things After-School Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, room 9. 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.

The Spouses/Family of Veterans Group. 5:30-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Contact Dr. Sharon Carter at 398-0883 or Charlotte at 731-1025 for further information.

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. 4

Adult ESL Classes. 5-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. English as a second language class. Free child care is provided. Contact ACEC-manager@gmail.com for more information.

Friday, Jan. 5

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., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. 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.

Adult ESL Classes. 5-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. English as a second language class. Free child care is provided. Contact ACECmanager@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, Jan. 6

DUST2 Fat Bike Race. 9 a.m., Cloman Park. There will be 16 km, 8 km and kid km races. Entry is \$20 adults and \$10 for racers under 18. A fun fat-tire bike race on groomed snow trails. Great fun for all ages. Registration and check in 8:15-8:45 a.m. Arrive early enough to sign in, gear up and warm up. Call 507-7886 for more information.

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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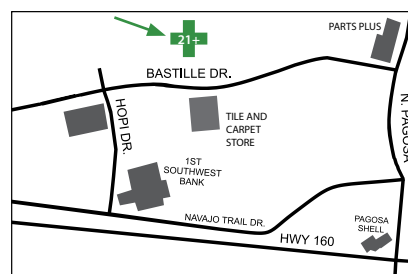
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Local woman co-authors poignant memoir about her mentally ill sister

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Local author Elaine Taylor and her sister Julie (both are pen names) have written a book titled “Seasons of Insanity” about living with their older sister Jane (also not her real name), who is mentally ill. It is a poignant, powerful and painful family story with no happy ending.

It is not an easy book to read — or, no doubt, to write. But it is a well-crafted story that will be deeply touching to many readers as you follow two girls going from childhood to adulthood trying to navigate the difficult and complex situation that Jane puts them in — especially after their mother dies and they are forced to take on more responsibility for their sick sister.

While it is natural to be sympathetic to Jane, one of her doctors called her “a great manipulator.” Even when Elaine and Julie were babies, Jane was cruel and abusive to them, physically and mentally. Her mother (a hoarder like Jane) enabled her nasty habits by saying Jane was just “different.” Jane’s behavior was so unpleasant that, over time, she was banned from virtually all the church, community, senior center and other groups she joined.

Leaving personalities aside, though, it is clear that the mental health system failed Jane and her whole family, offering little support or guidance from experienced professionals. And readers are likely to marvel at Elaine’s and Julie’s loyalty, generosity and kindness in keeping in touch with Jane across so many years and miles in the face of her ingratitude.

As Elaine wrote in the book,

Library News

self-preservation becomes a goal as this untenable situation brings “cruel discord to your life.” Julie put it this way: “When she [Jane] is stabilized, she is still weird. She needs our support, and we will be there for her as much as possible, but not to our detriment.”

Elaine said she and her sister decided to write the book and donate a copy to the Sisson Library with the thought that it might help others cope with mental illness in their families: “We want them to know that you can’t fix the situation and you can’t feel guilty. You just have to go with it and do your best. Many families can’t put up with it. That’s why we have so many mentally ill people among the homeless.”

Elaine hopes the story of her family brings some comfort to others facing similar issues.

Library closures

Your library will be closed on Christmas and New Year’s days.

All-ages Christmas fun today

We hope you will join us for a free event to create candy and chocolate holiday treats today, Thursday, Dec. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. Put your creative talents to the test and indulge your sweet tooth. Using candy and chocolate, we will be making holiday goodies everyone will enjoy.

All-ages gaming tomorrow

Join us tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 22, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for a free all-ages gaming session where you can enjoy video gaming on Wii and Xbox 360 Kinect with your friends

■ See Library on next page



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Library

■ continued from previous page and family.

Teen gaming

Free teen gaming happens on Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for teens in the seventh through 12th grades. Enjoy Xbox 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks.

Teen role-playing

The free role-playing game for seventh- through 12th-graders takes place next Wednesday, Dec. 27, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Use your imagination to go on adventures and battle monsters. You can join this group any time.

Reading with therapy dogs

Next Thursday, Dec. 28, from 10 to 11 a.m., youngsters from kindergarten to fifth grade are invited to share their favorite books with Hondo, a therapy dog who loves listening to stories, at a Paws to Read session. This is a great way for beginning readers to build confidence.

Adult education

Our PALS program — Pagosa Adult Learning Services — takes place three days a week. Note there will be no sessions Dec. 21, 26 or 28.

Tech Time

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

Kids storytime

Every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for free great stories, fun songs and plenty of reasons to get up and move. This is an excellent way for kids of all ages to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers.

Baby storytime

Please note that baby storytime is canceled this Saturday, Dec. 23.

Toddler storytime

Please note that toddler storytime is canceled this Saturday, Dec. 23.

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.

Nonfiction

"The Blue and Gray Almanac" by Albert Nofi tells the story of the Civil War through essays, anecdotes and facts. "Schwinn: The Best Present Ever" by Don Rauf is a celebration of America's favorite bicycle. "Strange But True, Colorado" by John Hafnor, illustrated by Dale Crawford, tells weird tales of the Wild West. "Year in Sports 2018" is a Scholastic guide to the next year in sports. "Trials of the Earth" by Mary Mann Hamilton is the true story of a pioneer woman on the Mississippi. "Scars of Independence" by Holger Hooek explores the violence of the American Revolution. "Rogue Heroes" by Ben Macintyre documents the history of Britain's Special Air Service. "Step-by-step Knifemaking" by David Boyce guides you through each stage in the design and fabrication of a knife.

Large print

"Promise Me, Dad" by Joe Biden is a memoir by the former vice president. "Enchantress of Numbers" by Jennifer Chiaverini is a novel about the daughter of Lord Byron. "Righteous" by Joe Ide is an

IQ mystery.

DVDs

"The Medici" tells of the Italian family who were patrons to da Vinci, Michelangelo, Botticelli, Galileo and more. "Jack London's Call of the Wild" features eight episodes from the TV series. "Freedom Riders" is a documentary about these courageous civil rights activists. "The Wild Pony" follows a young boy's relationship with a pony. "I am Not Your Negro" is an examination of race in America inspired by James Baldwin. "Eight Days a Week" explores the rise and success of the Beatles. "Dickensian" interacts famous Dickens' characters in the same world. "Holiday Greatest Classic Films" includes "Christmas in Connecticut" and "The Shop Around the Corner."

Programmed Nooks

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

Downloadable e-books

Current New York Times best-seller downloadable e-books are

■ See Library on next page



Seasons Greetings

As we celebrate this holy season, let's treat one another with kindness, love and understanding. We hope you'll join us in the true spirit of the season with prayers of peace and goodwill toward all mankind.

Our best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.



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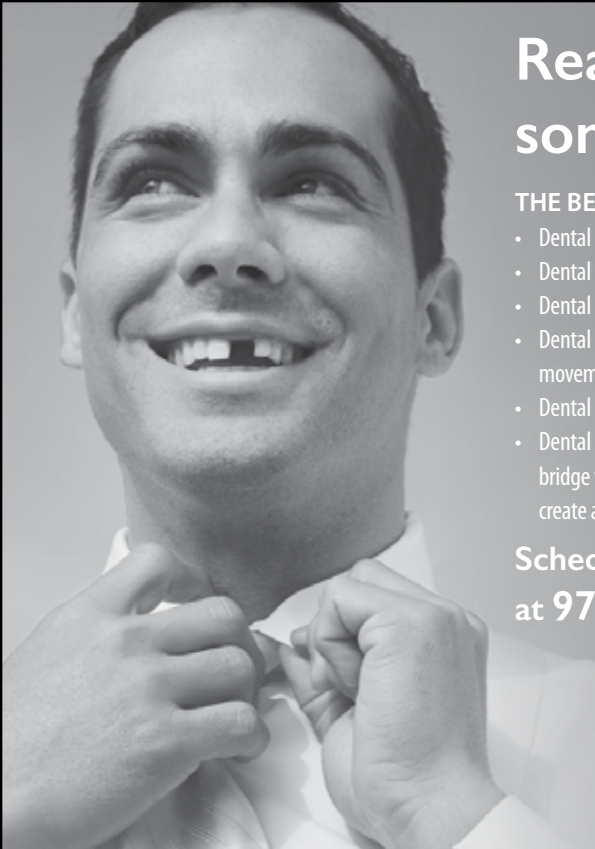
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Humane Society thrift store issues reminder to not donate electronics

By Mike Stoll
Special to The PREVIEW

It's the time of year when people often replace or upgrade a variety of electronic devices. Please keep in mind that the electronic waste disposal ban that was enacted a couple years ago makes it illegal to dispose of most electronic devices, including computers and TVs, in our local landfill.

Because there is very little demand for old tube TVs and outdated computers and monitors, if those unsellable electronic items are dropped off at a thrift store, even as well-meaning donations, the store ultimately has to pay to properly recycle them. As an example, the cost to the Humane Society thrift store for recycling two dozen old, unsellable TVs this past fall was in excess of \$800.

The Humane Society thrift store generates sales revenue that is absolutely essential to keeping our animal shelter open and operating to capacity. Without the many

generous donations of gently used and new items our store receives, we would not be able to adequately take care of the homeless and abandoned dogs and cats in our community, so we sincerely hope it doesn't seem like we're "biting the hand that feeds us" when we ask that people refrain from donating old electronic devices.

Several local trash disposal companies offer an electronic waste recycling service, as does the City of Durango Recycling Center, and more information on electronic waste and the landfill disposal ban can be found at www.Colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste. For additional information or for questions regarding donations to the Humane Society thrift store, please call Bonnie Milburn, store manager, at 264-6424.

From all of us at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, including the shelter cats and dogs, we wish everyone in our community a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Library

■ continued from previous page 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 for our donors

For books and materials this week, we thank Diane Bower and

our anonymous donors. For their generous monetary donations, we are grateful to Sandy Kobrock and Mark Mueller.

Quotable quote

"Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray in where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." — John Muir (1838-1914), Scottish-American naturalist, author and environmental philosopher.

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 <http://pagosa.colibraries.org/>.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Not so hot
- 5 Showy display
- 10 Letter opener?
- 14 Grand
- 15 Herman's Hermits frontman
- 16 Prime for picking
- 17 Arboreal abode
- 18 Walkathon, for one
- 20 Bushbuck or bongo
- 22 Shemar Moore series
- 23 Be unsteady
- 24 Love letter opening
- 27 Drop the ball
- 28 Keen way to be aware
- 31 Here-there link
- 32 Set back?
- 33 Diner handout
- 34 Suffix with "black or "silver"
- 37 Melville setting
- 38 Clothing size
- 39 Don Ho's " _____ Bubbles"
- 40 Hunter's feast
- 42 Be in a cast
- 43 Childhood illness
- 44 Mischief maker
- 47 Clothing
- 49 _____ equinox
- 51 Alternative to a fence
- 52 "Song of Norway", e.g.
- 54 Showy bloom
- 57 Loads
- 58 Crown of the head
- 59 Dole out
- 60 News piece
- 61 Elderly
- 62 Skeptical
- 63 Musical finale

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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			51				52	53						
54	55					56					57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

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- 2 Bartender's gadget
- 3 One with a habit
- 4 Wedding band, maybe
- 5 Uphold, as the law
- 6 _____ d'etat
- 7 One and only
- 8 Come-go link
- 9 Without wasted words
- 10 Frock wearer
- 11 Eavesdropper
- 12 Jungle dweller
- 13 Pricing word
- 19 Kind of game
- 21 Percolate
- 24 Throw off the tracks
- 25 Record number?
- 26 Quiz answer
- 29 Oust
- 30 Adolescent years
- 32 Hog haven
- 33 One to walk like, in a Four Seasons song
- 34 Vegas headliner
- 35 Flexible mineral
- 36 Like pillow talk
- 38 Short-straw drawer
- 40 Like certain shark fins
- 41 Thermostat figure
- 43 Vegas lake
- 44 Altogether
- 45 Unkempt, in a way
- 46 Blood bank supply
- 48 Scooter's cousin
- 50 Dig discovery
- 52 Gawk at
- 53 Below par
- 54 Chic getaway
- 55 Henpeck
- 56 Hearty brew

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

G	R	I	P		R	O	T	O	R		A	C	H	E	
R	O	B	E		E	P	O	C	H		T	R	O	W	
I	D	E	A		W	I	N	T	E	R	T	I	M	E	
T	E	A	C	H	I	N	G		T	E	E	T	E	R	
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R	I	L	E		I	D	E	A	L		I	N	T	O	
D	O	O	R		D	O	W	N	Y		P	E	E	L	

DOWN

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Pioneer times on the East Fork: Old Joe Mann and Jacob Lane

As we continue with the history of the San Juan East Fork, I'll run a few excerpts about Joe Mann taken from newspapers and county records of that time.

• Mann purchased one-fifth interest in extension of the Little Annie Lode, known as the Golden Queen. — March 30, 1874, in the



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

Rio Grande County Courthouse, Book B, Pages 215-216.

Motter's note: The Golden Queen was a mine at Summitville.

• "From Joe Mann of Pagosa Springs we learn that members of the Indian Commission will meet in Pagosa Springs today to hold a treaty with Ignacio and his tribe ..." — San Juan Prospector, February 1878.

Motter's note: The Prospector In Del Norte was one of the earliest newspapers in the San Juans.

• "... to sell, grant, bargain, and convey all my right, title, and interest ... in the Highland Mary Lode" — June 10, 1878 in the Rio Grande County Courthouse, Book 5, Page 247).

Motter's note: The Highland Mary was one of the most productive gold mines at Summitville.

• "Joe Mann, from the Pagosa Springs Country, was in town this week after supplies. He has been appointed forage agent for the troops stationed near the Springs." (San Juan Prospector, July 28, 1878).



Photo courtesy John M. Motter

We have shown a photo of the Chapson family in their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. The photo this week shows the same family in their "let's go outside and do some work clothes." They lived for some years around the turn of the 20th century on the west fork of the San Juan River.

• "... Forage Agent, Joe Mann was in Del Norte Thursday, after supplies ... Considerable travel is going to Pagosa Springs by way of the South Fork Pass ... Asa Pangborn and Capt. Rogers have located ranches on the north fork (Motter-should be West Fork) of the San Juan River and are delighted with the Country ... Joe Mann has built stables for the government at the Springs and will keep accommodations for the officers and the traveling public. He intends cutting four or five hundred tons of hay the present month ..." (San Juan Prospector, Aug. 10, 1878).

■ See Past on next page

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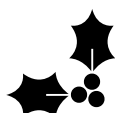
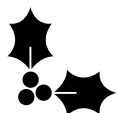
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Thanks for making 2017 so incredible!



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Past

■ continued from previous page

Motter's note: When I wrote about Joe Mann a few weeks ago I referred to him as an enigma. These items from the Del Norte Paper prove it. 1) I suspect infantry troops, not Joe Mann, built the stables, 2) He never delivered any hay, he never supplied housing for officers or travelers in Pagosa Springs.

• "... an appropriation of \$15,000 has been made towards building a wagon road from the end of the D.&R.G. (Alamosa) to Pagosa Springs ... It has not yet been definitely decided in regard to the route whether by the way of Alamosa and across the San Juan River or up the Rio Grande and across the Divide by South Fork ... " — San Juan Prospector, Aug. 17, 1878.

• "The people of Pagosa Springs want the Del Norte, Summit and Pagosa mail route reinstated ... I will guarantee to carry it from Summit to Pagosa Springs twice a week and not miss a trip...I make a trip now to the Summit once a week for my own mail ... " — Joe Mann, San Juan Prospector, Jan. 3, 1880.

• "Joe Mann was down from his ranch last week. He reports that seven families have recently located on the East Fork of the San Juan. Mr. Mann's new neighbors are anxious to have the territory occupied by them cut off from Rio Grande County and attached to Archuleta County. They are also clamoring for a post office and a mail route between Pagosa Springs and Summitville. These requests should be granted but it would be necessary first to construct a

wagon road between the points named ..." — Pagosa Springs News, Jan. 29, 1891.

A few miles east of Joe Mann's cabin on the East Fork is Lane Creek, which runs from the north into the East Fork river. A pile of

A pile of logs in the shape of a cabin and several outbuildings, the scraps of a car, farming equipment and other debris adjoin the Lane cabin.


logs in the shape of a cabin and several outbuildings, the scraps of a car, farming equipment and other

debris adjoin the Lane cabin. The remains of an elaborate irrigation system show that water from Lane Creek was used to grow a garden. Across the road from the cabin site, old-timers in town told me I'd find a substantial patch of rhubarb. They said they used to go to the East Fork during the summer to pick wild strawberries, raspberries and chokecherries, and as much of the rhubarb as they could carry.

The settler responsible for the homesite on Lane Creek was Jacob Lane. An item describing the life and death of Jacob Lane appeared in the Times-Observor, an early Pagosa Springs newspaper, in October of 1907: "Last week we noticed the fact that Jacob Lane had been taken to Woodruff Hospital at Pueblo to be placed under expert medical care on account of his mind giving away. He had been thus afflicted only about three weeks and was at the hospital about a day when a telegram was received here Sunday stating that Mr. Lane passed away about 10 o'clock Saturday night, the immediate cause of death being pneumonia. F.A. Byrne left Monday morning for Pueblo to bring the body back, arriving here Wednesday evening and the funeral was held yesterday afternoon under the direction of the local G.A.R. post from the Methodist Church, Dr. DeMotte officiating. The G.A.R. and W.R.C. attended the body.



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Buying the ‘too friendly’ cow

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

When the economy started going down in 2008, my wife, Donna, thought we ought to consider getting a milk cow. We called around and found a Jersey dairy and asked if they might sell us one.

“I’m sure we could find something,” Dallin, the owner, said.

Donna and I drove to the dairy, pulling our horse trailer behind our van. When we got there, Dallin said he had three cows from which we could choose. I knew that a dairy farm never sells its best cows, so I asked what was wrong with them.

Dallin pointed at the first one. “This cow is a little bit wild.”

I decided that one was out. If I ever had to be gone and my children needed to milk the cow, I wanted her to be gentle.

Dallin pointed at the second cow. “This cow only has three good teats.”

I considered this cow for a moment. I was going to be milking by hand, but eventually hoped to get a milker. Keeping a milker on a cow with three teats was hard.

We went to the pasture to look at the last cow. She was a solid looking cow, with good form, and I knew she was probably a decent milker. I figured she must have a bad disposition.

“This cow is . . .” Dallin paused and thought a minute before he continued. “I’m not quite sure how to describe her.”

“Is she mean?” I asked.

“Quite the contrary,” he replied. “She’s too friendly. The problem is

my children raised her as a pet, and she feels she’s part of the family. She’s bossy and tells the other cows what to do. I think that’s because she feels that as a family member, she’s superior to them. She also likes to be petted, and I mean she likes it a lot.”

It was at this point that the cow saw us, and she headed quickly in our direction. She came up and pushed her head right into my stomach quite forcefully.

“She’s asking you to pet her,” Dallin said.

I thought, “She isn’t asking, she’s telling.”

“She might work well as a single cow,” Dallin said. “With no other cows to boss around, she should get along OK.”

She did seem to be the best cow of the three, so I decided she would be the one. As we walked back to the yard where the horse trailer was parked, the cow followed us, staying right next to me so I could pet her. I had to watch my feet so she wouldn’t step on them.

“Will she load OK into our horse trailer?” I asked.

Dallin shrugged. “Never tried. But my guess is, knowing her, if you were to go in first, taking some grain with you and petting her, you could coax her right in. Do you have a front door on the trailer you can go out?”

“Yes,” I replied. “It’s a small one, but I think I can squeeze through it.”

And that’s exactly what I did. I backed into the trailer, holding out the bucket and scratching the cow’s head. She followed me in, with her

head buried in the bucket eating the grain. Once I had her in, Dallin shut the back door, and I climbed out the front one.

“Just don’t forget to scratch her ears when you turn her out of the barn,” Dallin said. “She doesn’t like it if you forget.”

I said I would remember, paid him the money, and we were on our way.

For a while, I remembered what Dallin said, but one day I forgot. I milked her and turned her out of the stall, then started spreading straw in the barn. The cow stood patiently for about 10 seconds, then she pushed her head into my back, shoving me against the wall. For about 10 minutes I tried to whack her to get her to let me go, but nothing worked. Finally, I remembered what Dallin said. I was able to reach one hand around enough to scratch behind one ear. She let me go and turned the other ear for me to scratch it. Once I had finished, she went off to her pasture.

And that’s when I realized why Dallin decided to sell a “too friendly” cow.

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NEW ALANON GROUP: Traditional AlAnon Group meets Mondays, 7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Dr. (325)669-9715.

A.A. PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP. 234 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), 7p.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. 264-2685 or Ellen C. (214)566-5921.

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CNA CLASS STARTING JANUARY 15. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Starting pay, \$12 an hour and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I. Archuleta County's Road and Bridge Department is accepting applications for an Equip Op I. For job description and to apply, visit online at www.archuletacounty.org, or email application to rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

MARDEL GALLEGOS CENTER is hiring a part-time (25 hours a week) Program Support Assistant. HS/GED and prior clerical experience required. Send resume to mandyc@tchs4c.org or apply in person at Mardel Gallegos Head Start, 475 S. 8th St.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for a **Part-time Infusion Nurse**. The Infusion RN is responsible for outpatient infusions services. Must be proficient in IV insertions for all age groups, PICC line and Port-a-Cath management, Phlebotomy, blood transfusions, performing nursing H&P/ assessment, communication with ordering physicians and staff, etc. Responsible for patient teaching such as injections and all aspects of IV infusion therapy for all ages and disease processes. PICC Line and ONCC certification preferred. BLS, PALS, and ACLS required. Resumes and applications must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT of a caring career with Visiting Angels. Now hiring professional caregivers in the Pagosa area. Benefits, incentives and paid training/ mileage (some weekends required). Work for the #1 home care agency and LOVE what you do! Apply at visitingangels.com/southwestcolorado or call (970)264-5991.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for a **Patient Account Representative**. The Rep will primarily be responsible for Medicare and Medicaid billing. The Rep follows up on assigned accounts after claim submission. Responsible for accurately and timely collection of claims billed to third-party payers as both primary, secondary, tertiary, etc. Required to maintain individual AR at the departmental goal as well as other departmental goals: Cash collections, AR days. Resumes and applications must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS WANTED. Must have own vehicle and smart phone. Pay DOE. Please email rjhsteam@gmail.com if you would like to schedule an interview.

HOUSEKEEPING- HOLIDAY BONUS OFFERED. Sunetha Property Management is hiring part-time housekeeper(s). We will train. Compensation based on experience and quality of work with mileage reimbursement. Submit application/resume to sunetha@pagosasprings.net, in person at 165 N. Pagosa Blvd., or call Sunetha Property Management, (970)422-7164.

HOLIDAY RV SOUTH in South Fork seeks: Parts Clerk/ Receptionist- Assists customers over phone/ in person with parts orders, answers phones, manages service schedule. Previous experience in retail customer service required. 35-50K/year DOE. Contact shaun@holidayrvsouth.com.

PART-TIME DRIVER. Flexible hours and days. Must have good driving record and be self motivated. Start at \$10/ hour with 1st review after 30 days. Please Stop in at: 135 Country Center Drive, Suite D.

LPN/ EMT/ CMA. FULL-TIME and PRN positions for Correctional Medical in Tierra Amarilla, NM. Housing and competitive wages offered. Please email your resume to LStoneCV@yahoo.com or call Lindy Stone at (575)588-7350.

SPRINGTIME IS HERE so spring into action and start a new career. Become a dental care delivery assistant or a front office assistant. Will train the right person. Be a part of a growing profession and make a difference. Please send your resume to denprac@yahoo.com.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE- Michael Smith Agency is looking to hire a full-time insurance producer. Experience is not required, however, you must obtain your Colorado Property and Casualty and Life insurance licenses within a reasonable time. Send resume to mike.smith@cfbmic.com.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for a Surgical Pre-admission Testing (PAT) RN. The PAT RN is responsible for the planning, coordination, screening and pre-procedure orientation for all of the patients undergoing a planned surgical/ procedural event. The PAT RN serves as the facilitator of communications within the multi-disciplinary team. The PAT RN will evaluate each patient to identify perioperative and intraoperative risks or problems, so that they may be avoided. In addition, the PAT RN will work directly with anesthesia providers and surgeons to determine necessary safety screening criteria and pre-op teaching standards. This role is required to perform the full pre-surgical history either over the phone or via a scheduled onsite PAT nurse appointment in conjunction with an anesthesia provider (as needed). The PAT RN helps to arrange medical consultations for patients, if necessary. All the pre-operative teaching and coordination of teaching with other departments in the hospital is managed by this position. Surgical prep instructions, including but not limited to, NPO requirements, medications to be taken on the morning of surgery, and anesthesia options will be covered routinely. The PAT RN will ensure that all ordered diagnostic tests and labs are completed by the patient in a timely manner. The PAT RN is a member of the Surgical Services team and will be expected to cross-train to other roles as assigned such as the PreOp/ PACU RN, Circulator RN or Infusion RN roles. Three to five years of previous experience in a relevant surgical RN role is a must. BLS, PALS, and ACLS required. Resumes and applications must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

HIRING EXPERIENCED AND LICENSED PLUMBERS, and plumber helpers. (970)946-7096, leave message.

DISABLED MALE DESIRES CAREGIVER for personal care, homemaking, health maintenance. 7:30a.m.-2p.m. Monday through Friday. Wages based on experience, \$11-\$15 per hour. Nonsmoker. (970)903-7585.

PART-TIME BUS DRIVERS. Archuleta County Mountain Express is accepting applications for a part-time bus driver. No CDL required; wage \$13.89/ hour. Submit applications to Archuleta County Human Resources, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, (970)264-8345 (fax), or www.archuletacounty.org. Applications accepted until position is filed. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

**Pagosa
Express Lube**

Lube Tech

\$13+ per hour

Friendly, neat appearance,
and must pass a drug test.

Apply in person at 1985 Eagle Drive
or call 970-946-8200
locally owned/operated

PARAPROFESSIONAL/ STUDENT AIDE: Part time (16 hours a week; 4 days a week, mornings), one on one work with a child with special needs in an Early Childhood School setting. Candidate will ideally have experience working with children with special needs in a school setting. High School/ GED required; basic skills and/or past paraprofessional experience preferred. Send resume to mandyc@tchs4c.org or apply in person at Mardel Gallegos Head Start, 475 S. 8th St., Pagosa Springs.

SHELL STATION HIRING PART- TIME cashier. Please apply at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

DENTAL HYGIENIST: Established, busy dental practice is seeking self motivated Dental Hygienist to join our dental family. We look for individuals who exhibit the qualities of a team player, is hard working, and is passionate about educating and building relationships with their patients. Come and be part of our great dental team! Email resume to leslee.fcd@gmail.com.

MOUNTAIN HOME SOUND AND SECURITY is looking for an office assistant. QuickBooks knowledge a plus. Pick up application Monday- Friday, 9a.m.-5p.m. 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B-3.

PAGOSA BROKERS IS NOW HIRING for an office assistant. The right candidate will be a dedicated, organized, outgoing individual with strong communication skills both written and oral. General knowledge of office equipment and computer programs a must, a fast learner is a plus. Flexible schedule and family work environment make this a great opportunity for the right person. Email your resume to Kerry@pagosabrokers.com.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Medical Assistant**. The MA assists the Provider in delivering high quality patient care. Accurately document all necessary information within the patient's chart. Perform in-house lab tests, EKGs, and assist with basic procedures. Administer and document medications and vaccinations appropriately. Follow up with all outstanding patient orders and referrals. This is a full-time position. Applications may be picked up at hospital registration and the human resources office or downloaded from www.pagosaprimedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

LIFECARE- PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME positions available for Personal Care Providers/ Homemakers. Working phone and reliable transportation required. Training provided to those seeking a rewarding position with our agency. Application/ information (970)516-1234, ext. 1. <http://www.lifecare-inc.com>.

HELP WANTED


WYNDHAM
Pagosa Springs Resort

We are currently seeking:

Guest Services

FT Guest Services Associate
FT PBX Operator
FT Assistant Manager

Maintenance

FT Tech I

Competitive Wages
Fantastic Benefits

Apply online
www.wvojobs.com

LIFECARE IS IMMEDIATELY LOOKING for LPNs, CNAs and caregivers. Email lifecare@ftitel.net. Website: lifecare-inc.com.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has openings for a Clinic RN. The Clinic RN assist the Provider in delivering high quality patient care. Accurately document all necessary information within the patient's chart. Perform in-house lab tests, EKGs, and assist with basic procedures. Administer and document medications and vaccinations appropriately. Follow up with all outstanding patient orders, referrals, and prior authorizations. Applicants must have CO RN licensure. Resumes and applications must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

PART-TIME DETENTION OFFICER. Archuleta County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a Part-Time Detention Officer. Starting wage is \$17.74 hourly. Visit www.archuletacounty.org for position description or submit application and resume to rsmith@archuletacounty.org. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

CONSTRUCTION/ REMODELING MANAGER. ALL facets of construction experience required. Excellent pay. Call (970)403-5119.

THE BACKYARD IS SEEKING qualified cooks to deliver quality food from diverse and dynamic menu. Apply in person Tuesday-Friday, 2-4p.m. at 2045 Eagle Drive.

MAINTENANCE PERSON NEEDED for Lakeview Estates Apartments. Must have experience and own tools. Apply in person, 857 N. Pagosa Blvd. or send resume to rhonda@tibbettsco.com.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT currently hiring Instructional Aide (full time, Middle School), Instructional Aide (part time, Elementary School), Bus Drivers, Cheer Coach (high school), and Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach (middle school). Please see our website at www.mypagosaschools.com.

MARDEL GALLEGOS CENTER is hiring a Teacher Aide; minimum of HS/ GED and willingness to obtain a Child Development Credential. We will assist in obtaining this credential, send resume to mandyc@tchs4c.org or apply in person at 475 S. 8th St.

HELP WANTED


Bank of Colorado
is now hiring
a part-time teller.

Responsibilities include developing customer relationships, receive and pay money, maintain accurate record keeping of deposits and withdrawals, negotiable instruments, other bank transactions and other duties as assigned. Prior cash handling and customer contact experience is a plus. Please apply on line at www.bankofcolorado.com and click on the career link.

LPN/ RN WANTED. NEW GRADS welcome. Full-time positions, 12 hour shifts with flexible schedules. Benefit packages and competitive wages. Apply in person at Pine Ridge Extended Care Center, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Connor at connern@peoplecarehs.com or (970)874-0136.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking the following positions: Maintenance and Transportation Administrative Assistant (full time, 185 day contract, begins 12/1/17); Transportation Coordinator for Food Service (full time, begins 12/1/17); High School Cheerleading Coach (stipend position, begins 12/1/17); Elementary Para-professional (part time with a 20 hour a week commitment, begins 1/2/2018); High School Boys' Wrestling Coach (stipend) and High School Girls' Soccer Coach (stipend). Please see our website at www.mypagosaschools.com or contact Laura Mijares at lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us.

PERSONALS

IT CAN STOP! Let us help. 24-hour domestic violence or sexual assault hotline. Confidential. 264-9075.

PETS

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES. READY January 10th. Only 2 males left. Shots, wormed. Black and white, \$600. (970)759-3455. In Cortez.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call 731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

EASY GIFT GIVING!

Buy 3 Massages
& get
10 Soaking Passes
For Free!!



YOU NEED TO TASTE IT to believe it! Grass-Roots Meats offers 100% grass fed and grass finished beef and lamb, Berkshire pork and free range organic chicken. Check out this month's special: www.grassrootsmeats.com. For more information, call Lois (970)582-0166.

3 GOLD COINS, CANADIAN 1 oz. maple leafs. \$20 over spot price. San Juan Trading Post, 264-1000. 635 San Juan (Hwy. 160).

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND HOMEOWNERS. Are you remodeling or tearing down? Call Durango Salvage, we buy and sell building materials. Tom, (970)749-2271, Mark, 749-8235.

TRIANGLE CUSTOM MILLING. All your custom milling and log needs. (970)398-0739, trianglecustommilling.com.

SELL YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or consign it- only 15% today. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. 731-PAWN (7296).

OTT'S MILL- SPECIALIZING IN hand peeled log siding and peeled logs. Rough sawn timbers and lumber. (970)533-7997.

JEWELRY! JEWELRY! JEWELRY! Large supply of Native American jewelry, sterling silver, turquoise, lapis, opal, etc. Hundreds of new bracelets, rings, necklaces, pendants. Also, gold and diamond jewelry. Your last minute gift headquarters. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (160). 264-1000.

20' LOGS FOR SALE. Great for firewood. \$40/ ton. Call (970)264-5000.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE, (970)398-1760.

CLEARANCE MATTRESS SALE. UP TO 50-80% off store prices. Sets starting at \$150. Call (970)335-8315.

LIKE NEW TREADMILL, Pro-Form XP550 "space saver." \$300 (was \$795 new). 264-5168.

NEED FIREWOOD? Pine mix \$185 per cord. Huge dump truck load of 2+ cords for \$375. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

FIREWOOD- SPLIT PINE, FIR, aspen mix, dry, seasoned. \$185 full cord, delivered. Charlie at 264-0913.

PROFESSIONAL, COMPETITION COMMERCIAL GRADE DOUBLE AXLE SMOKER for sale. Built in tables, running water, 2 propane cooktops, smoke chamber and grill. \$4,000. (318)347-6100.

LIVESTOCK

HORSE BOARDING- LUCKY A RANCH/ Jack Adams and Justin Adams. Outside pens with shelters; indoor stalls with day pens; indoor and outdoor arenas; round pen; close to national forest. Quality feed and care; reasonable prices. (970)946-5155; (970)946-3377; or leave message at (970)264-2960.

HORSE HAY, OAT HAY. 3x3x8 bales. Hay is green and tight. Call for more information. Delivery available, located in Del Norte. \$50 per bale. (970)420-5127.

HORSE BOARDING, NEW BARN, full care on 5 acres with round pen and forest access. 2 miles from town, easy access, hay included. Owner on premises, clean and safe facility, oversized paddocks, daily turnout/ pasture time, \$350 per month. (970)903-0329.

PAGOSASUN.COM

FOR SALE

POOL TABLES- GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT. Used, in good condition. Call (970)731-3005.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$175 a cord, split and delivered. (970)317-3120.

SKIDSTEER 2014 CATERPILLAR 226 B3. Excellent condition, no leaks, runs great, new tires. Everything works, \$26,500. 264-0269, (520)241-1198.

20 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR with top mount freezer. Runs good, \$125. 731-0715.

FIREWOOD, SPLIT PINE, \$170; outside core area \$25 extra. (970)731-2010.

HOT WATER SOLAR STORAGE tanks. 120 gallons each, stainless steel, foam insulated. \$1,000 for pair. Retail \$2,700 each. Used, but great shape. 946-3989.

2 RV BATTERIES, \$75. 5th wheel trailer hitch, \$75. 1 large pet carrier, \$10, OBO. (970)946-9273.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2006 TRITON XT SNOWMOBILE trailer. 10 ft. two place with spare tire, aluminum, \$1,100. (970)731-8886.

AUTOS

1999 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT. 4.0 L, manual, 102,000, new tires, asking \$7,000 OBO. Call Eli at 946-0268.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

2012 NISSAN PRO 4 XTERRA. Like new, original owner! Heated leather seats, WeatherTec mats, 4-wheel drive. Additional Blizzak winter tires and wheel set. Great for 2nd homeowner, student, 2nd car. \$18,700. (970)903-7252,

1999 CHEVY GEO METRO. 197,000 miles, new tires and battery, \$700 OBO. 264-1372.

2005 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED. 2 door, LWB, 4.0 L, inline 6 cylinder, automatic transmission. 90,000 miles, \$10,000. (970)946-0574 (James).

WWW.SALSMOTORCORRAL.COM. Visit us online to view current inventory and pricing. (970)259-8170.

LIKE NEW AWD. Looking for that perfect Colorado vehicle? Come test drive our 2014 Ford Escape SE AWD Eco. Clean carfax, like new condition. Only 53,269 miles. Reduced-\$15,700 at the San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)264-7678.

1999 PONTIAC SUNFIRE. High miles, rebuilt engine runs great, 30 MPG. \$1,400 OBO. Text or call (970)749-4000.

1993 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE limited. Runs good, needs TLC, \$1,000. Call or text (970)946-2632.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

BEST VALUE IN PAGOSA. Excellent condition 1/1, 2/2 apartment homes. Convenient location, walk to uptown grocery store. 946-9187.

RV SPACE FOR RENT, Arboles, Colorado, 2 miles from Navajo Reservoir. Covered 16x20' deck, utilities included. Quiet setting with private drive to lot. Pet OK. \$475/ month. (970)946-6647, Skip.

LONG TERM RENTALS available. Call Sunetha, (970)731-4344 or sunetha.com.

HOME FOR RENT. Spacious, bright, 2 bedroom/ 2 bath, totally remodeled. New to rental market. Steps from Lake Hatcher and forest. \$1,250 plus utilities. (970)946-2422, whiteningpagosa@yahoo.com.

SHARE A COMFORTABLE 3 bedroom home: 1 bedroom for rent. No smoking, no pets, \$525 a month, includes utilities. 264-0826.

DOWNTOWN, LEWIS STREET. Spacious, bright, 2 large bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story. Fully furnished. \$1,400 per month, water and sewer included. (970)819-2381.

EXECUTIVE HOUSE FOR RENT on Lake Pagosa. 2,500 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2-3/4 bath, semi furnished. References required. \$1,600/ month. (970)769-9632.

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR SALE



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REALTY & RENTALS

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS



Cottage in Aspen Springs \$950. 2 Bed/1 Bath, furnished, use of 1 grow dome. Pet friendly, now available.



2 Bed/2 Bath house uptown. \$1250 Fireplace, pet friendly. Available immediately.

NextHome For more rentals go to:
www.NextHomeRMR.com
(970) 507-8655

HOMES for RENT

ROOM FOR RENT. Private room and bath in nice home between Lake Pagosa and golf course. \$575 includes all. (970)507-1652.

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage in good location. \$1,325 per month plus utilities, water and trash paid, \$1,325 deposit. No smoking or pets. House will be ready to move in January 15th. First month will be pro-rated, last month and deposit due at move in. Call (970) 398-1988 for more information.

DOWNTOWN STUDIO UNIT, 8TH St. Granite counter tops and patio. All utilities included. \$800/ month. (318)347-6100.

3 BEDROOM, 2-1/2 BATH TOWNHOME. January 3- June 30. Sleeps 8. Gas fireplace, very nicely furnished, large garage. Utilities included, \$1,800/ month. Call Ginny 731-2262.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

Affordable Rent Clean Apartments
Close to schools & bus lines.
Call for information

We are now accepting applications for 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments.

Archuleta Housing Corporation
264-2195



ROOMMATE WANTED, SEEKING PROFESSIONAL to share my recently remodeled clean quiet home with large deck, private bedroom and bath. Includes garage parking and utilities. 2 miles from City Market on paved road. \$650 per month. Call (970)903-0329.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE: 1 condo, 10 houses. Starting at \$750. NextHomeRMR (970)507-8655 www.NextHomeRMR.com.

TPRENTALS.COM FOR LONG TERM rental needs. (970)731-8599.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Choose experience when selling your property!

Jim Smith Realty
Serving Pagosa Springs for

30 Years!
Homes • Condos
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Call Jim Smith today
970-264-3200 or go to
www.ListPagosa.com

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Free Market Analysis

577 E. GOLF. 2 BEDROOM 1.5 bath condo. Wood stove, patio. Water included. No pets. \$900 a month. Call Ginni, 731-2216.

ROOM FOR RENT. INCLUDES washer, dryer, private bathroom, shower. Fully furnished, kitchen privileges. \$550, first and last, includes utilities. (970)946-2540.

HOUSES: 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2-car garage, \$1,550/ month. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-car garage, \$1,500/ month. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1-car garage, \$1,600/ month. (970)731-4344, ext. 2 or (970)422-7162.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

Great Office & Location
825 sq. ft., like-new office space. Three private offices with small reception area, large open room. Plenty of parking. \$850 per month.

Michael C. Branch
970-769-2036

Shop space in town
360 sq. ft. shop with electricity included. 9 ft. x 7 ft overhead door. \$180 per month.
Also, 10 ft. x 15 ft. unit with 15 ft. ceiling. \$75 per month.

Call Michael C. Branch
970-769-2036

STORAGE SPECIALS, DISCOUNTED RATES by the day, week or month. All sizes and we will beat anyone's price in town. Lets Store It. 731-0007.

STUNNING OFFICE VIEWS in this Greenbriar Plaza complex on North Pagosa Blvd. Perfect condition. 3 offices and reception area with no stairs and plenty of paved parking. 1,000 sq. ft. for \$139,000. Call Harold Kelley at Jim Smith Realty (970)264-3200 or cell 946-2118.

HIGH COUNTRY MINI STORAGE. Most sizes available. Paved, lighted, security. Behind The Outfitter. Call 264-9142.

OFFICE SPACE ON CORNERSTONE near Sears. 1,100 sq. ft., 4 offices, break room, waiting room, bathroom, utilities paid. (928)863-3818.

CONDOS

PAGOSA LAKES FURNISHED 2 bedroom 1.5 bath with 1 car garage, \$145,000. JB Properties. (970)946-3369.

HOUSES FOR SALE

SELLING OR BUYING? I am INDEPENDENT, I work for YOU! 15 years in Pagosa. Peggy Andrews, Independent Real Estate Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA SPRINGS, 3 bedroom 2 bath, great views, convenient location, \$299,000. JB Properties. (970)946-3369.

LOOKING FOR A FIXER? That's my specialty. Call me today! Sharon Crump with EXIT Realty Advantage Pagosa. (970)398-0215.

PROPERTY

6.3 ACRES, 582 MEADOWS. 100% useable. \$129,900. Beautiful mountain views. Dining, shopping and hospital nearby. (214)729-8724.

2 EACH, 3 ACRE LOTS with great views. 50 Buck Dr. in Loma Linda. Asking price, \$42,125. 330 Dandelion, Holiday Acres, \$49,000. Both allow horses and both are at a great price. Call Shellie Hogue, EXIT Realty Advantage Pagosa. (970)759-8109.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY FOR SALE by owner. 2 lots, 205 Sam Houston Trail. Full utilities. \$19,900. (505)414-1604.

Medical alert monitoring systems available for seniors

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

Medical Alert monitoring systems are available for seniors. The Pagosa Springs Senior Center can help you get set up with a system and assist with the monthly service charges, or, if you already have a system in place, we can help supplement the monthly service fees.

Health and wellness

The Senior Center has a pilot program expanding 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.

The next health and wellness date has not yet been announced. Stay tuned.

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.

Clinical assessment will be provided by Tabitha Zappone, FNP-C.

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

San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging: Holiday season tips

By Kay Kaylor

As the long-term care ombudsman for Archuleta County, I advocate for residents at Pine Ridge and BeeHive Homes. Federal and state laws protect residents to promote quality of care. However, the holiday season can be a difficult time for residents and their family and friends. All residents, and particularly those living with dementia, might experience periods of stress, depression, confusion and sadness over their loss of independence.

The Colorado Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association offers "Help for the Holidays," as does the national website, alz.org, and following are some of their ideas.

If relatives from out of town

Senior News

plan to visit residents, family or friends could encourage shorter visits of smaller groups to avoid overwhelming residents.

A visitor might periodically check how the resident is feeling and then decide when to leave or to change an activity. As always, a visitor should anticipate the resident might forget recent events or conversations or even those further in the past. The resident will feel better if a visitor avoids saying the first words that often come to mind: "Don't you remember?" Family and friends could bring photos to facilitate the resident's memory and to encourage reminiscing. It is important to keep to a routine and the lighting bright. A visitor might play soothing and meaningful music.

Gift ideas include a short trip to a special event or other desired outing; music CDs (residents first might need a player and headphones); and tactile comfort aids such as a fuzzy blanket or skin lotion.

The Alzheimer's Association has a 24-hour helpline, (800) 272-3900, and these advocates are open to any type of question.

For further information, you may call me at 403-2164 or send an email to ombudsman2@sjbaaa.org.

Memberships

Senior Discount Club memberships are offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

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

The guest fee for those 59 and under is \$10 and children 10 years and under can eat for \$5 each. Ac-

cess to the salad bar is only \$6 for those under 60.

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

Thursday, Dec. 21 — Shredded-beef gyro, Mediterranean beets, eggplant gratin and salad bar.

Friday, Dec. 22 — Biscuits with pork sausage gravy, home-style potatoes, broccoli quiche and salad bar.

Monday, Dec. 25 — Closed for

Christmas Day.

Tuesday, Dec. 26 — Closed for Christmas.

Wednesday, Dec. 27 — Chicken cordon bleu, linguine with marinara sauce, yellow squash casserole, roasted asparagus with walnuts and salad bar.

Thursday, Dec. 28 — Southwest pork posole, whole-wheat tortilla, Mexican beets 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.

NEW YEAR'S EVE Bayou Bash

RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT SKY UTE CASINO RESORT. JOIN US FOR A NEW YEAR'S EVE BAYOU BASH!

December 31, 2017
Dinner 6PM-8PM | Dance 9PM-12:30AM

The ultimate New Year's Eve event, a Cajun Buffet Dinner and Dance hosted by Swamp People's Troy Landry and music by Creedence Clearwater tribute band Fortunato Son.

VIP Hotel Package | \$499
Dinner and Dance Package | \$100 per person
Dance only | \$25 per person

Purchase tickets online at skyutecasino.com, by calling 888.842.4180, at the Sky Ute Casino-Gift Shop or at the door.

FORTUNATE SON

TROY LANDRY

Sky Ute Casino
RESORT

SKYUTECASINO.COM | 888.842.4180 | IGNACIO, COLORADO



from The Pagosa Springs SUN staff