



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Medical center opts out of End-of-Life Choices Act

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

In a narrow 4-3 vote Tuesday evening, the Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD) Board of Directors opted out of providing services under the End-of-Life Options Act at Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) at this point.

Colorado voters approved the medical-aid-in-dying proposition in November 2016 by a 2-to-1 margin, and Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the Colorado End-of-Life Options Act into law on Dec. 16, 2016.

Following that, it was up to hospitals to determine if they would offer services under the new act or not.

By the end of January, approximately one-third of Colorado hospitals had opted out.

Many of those facilities are run by faith-based operators Centura Health (which operates Mercy Regional Medical Center) and SCL Health.

HealthOne has also opted out. Under the act, hospitals have three basic options.

■ See Medical A8

Town postpones approval of overlook deck changes

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on Feb. 16, the Pagosa Springs Town Council discussed the idea of making improvements to the deck that overlooks the San Juan River in the downtown area.

"During routine maintenance in 2016, the Parks staff noticed that the Highway 160 Overlook deck was deteriorating due to the lack of drainage at the hot springs 'cone,'" reads agenda documentation used at the meeting. "In order to address

the deck deterioration, staff have been partnering with the Tourism Board to remedy the situation and explore alternatives for expanding the Overlook deck. Staff went out to bid for a redevelopment plan for the site and Reynolds Ash and Associates was awarded the contract (\$5,000) to conduct soil testing and initial design work."

The documentation goes on to explain that Reynolds Ash and Associates (RAA) returned to the tourism board with three different designs,

■ See Overlook A8

Issues with new PAWSD water line come to surface

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

In 2012, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID).

The agreement provided for the combination of two major infrastructure construction projects into one. Each of the infrastructure components to be constructed was expected to provide a benefit to one of the districts.

PSSGID and its customers in the Town of Pagosa Springs were to

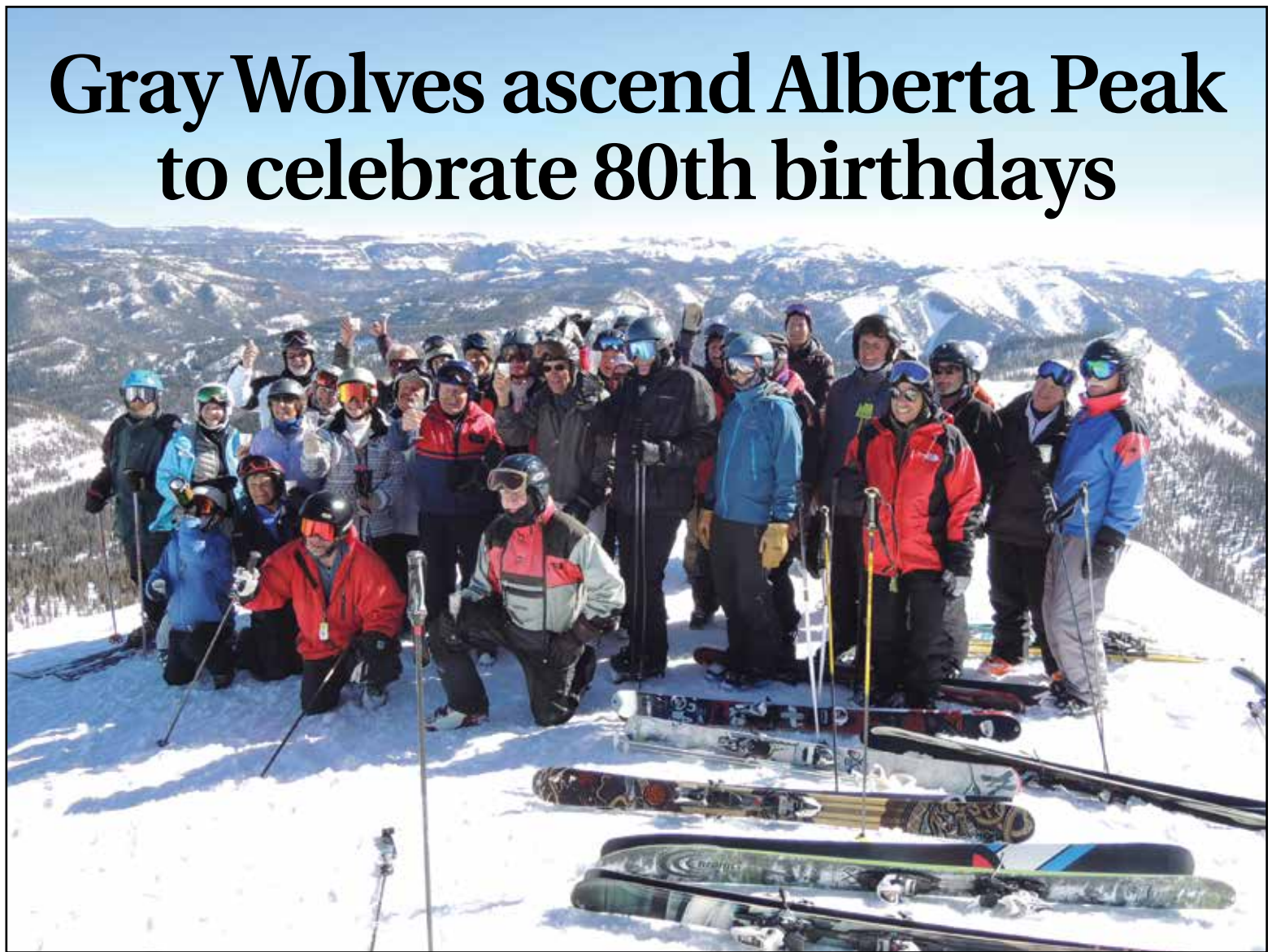
benefit from the construction and eventual operation of a new sewer pipeline, to transport sewage uphill from the town to a treatment plant operated by PAWSD west of town in the Vista subdivision.

After construction of the pipeline, treatment in accordance with the IGA of the town's sewage by PAWSD was then expected to solve issues PSSGID had been experiencing with environmental violations stemming from the deficiencies of its obsolete sewage treatment lagoons located on the banks of the San Juan River.

PAWSD was to benefit from con-

■ See PAWSD A8

Gray Wolves ascend Alberta Peak to celebrate 80th birthdays



Forty-four members of the Gray Wolves Ski Club ascend Alberta Peak and ski down to celebrate those club members turned 80 during the last year. This year, five members turned 80 and attempted the climb on Feb. 21. The octogenarians participating were Eve Wells (the first woman to attempt the feat), Klaus Neubert, Bruce Trenk, Arthur Hurley and John Wade.

By Simon Fuger
Special to The SUN

In an annual tradition, 44 members of the Gray Wolves Ski Club ascended Alberta Peak on Feb. 21 and skied down to celebrate those club members who had turned 80 in the last year and wished to hike to the top of Alberta Peak at Wolf Creek Ski Area.

This year, five members had turned 80 and wanted to attempt the climb. The octogenarians participating were Eve Wells (the first woman to attempt the feat), Klaus Neubert, Bruce Trenk, Arthur Hurley and John Wade.

Also participating was Del Peckum, at 84, the oldest man on the peak, who had made his successful ascent four years ago. Peckum assisted many of the younger participants with the final push to the summit.

To mark the occasion, celebratory drinks were enjoyed

■ See Octogenarians A8



Adobe fire cleanup delay explained

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The ruins of the Adobe building still sit in a pile of rubble off of Lewis Street — more than four months after a fire destroyed the building and displaced 14 different businesses.

"The Adobe fire has impacted our entire community emotionally and financially; it makes us all sick to drive by and see the rubble," begins a press release by Scott McGarry, president of the Adobe Association. "The Adobe building is owned by a condo association comprised of 14 different small business owners who lost everything in the fire, who have had to relocate, and many who are continuing to pay the taxes and mortgage on their burned Adobe

unit as well as paying rent on their relocated office space."

The press release goes on to state that the Adobe Association apologizes to the Pagosa Springs community for the delay with cleaning up the site, but that "efforts to move forward in the cleanup have been thwarted by roadblocks."

The press release cites the insurance company that insures the building as the primary delay.

"Our insurance company promised to provide the scope proposal estimates before Thanksgiving 2016, and we just received the proposal on February 9, 2017," reads the press release. "Also our insurance company has been in charge of ob-

■ See Cleanup A8

Photo courtesy
Rebecca Thompson
Pagosa Springs' middle school Destination Imagination team, I Can't Pronounce Their Name, placed in two events at Saturday's regional competition, earning their way to the state competition in both. I Can't Pronounce Their Name is David Morehouse, Ruth Ann Morehouse, Nika Hinger, posing with coaches Jessie and Kristen Morehouse in the front row.



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Charting the right course

In 1988, Albert Shanker, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, proposed a new type of publicly funded school — charter schools. The schools would be under a charter from the government with fewer rules and restrictions than traditional public schools.

These charter schools would be publicly funded and independently managed and would allow teachers to experiment with different approaches to educating students.

Last week, the contract between Archuleta School District (ASD) and Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Charter School was signed, adding new educational opportunities to our community.

While Archuleta County already offers public schooling, two faith-based school options, as well as home school and a program that offers a mix of home school and public school through the Pagosa Family School and online learning through multiple sources, a small group of community members wanted another option in public elementary education.

In December 2014, the group formed to begin the process to bring the first charter school to our community.

We believe that adding a charter school to the mix of school options is a good idea that, if done right, could enhance Archuleta County's education system.

In the past two decades, the number of charter schools has increased to over 6,600 nationwide, with 214 of those schools in Colorado.

There are many examples of successful charter schools that embody the vision of a diverse learning environment that encourages innovation; yet, there are other examples of charter schools that have failed both academically and financially through mismanagement and for other reasons.

From 2001 to 2015, over 2,000 charter schools closed their doors, including 25 in Colorado.

It's imperative that the charter school board and community members be vigilant concerning the operations of the new school. Charter schools have a set period of time to try their fresh approaches and are only renewed if they succeed.

We encourage the public to get involved by attending the charter school's next board meeting on March 12, at 4 p.m. The meeting will be held at 431 Talisman Drive.

According to the PPOS bylaws, "Upon signing the Charter Contract, and so long as the corporation is operating as a charter public school the corporation shall be subject to Colorado Open Meetings Law (C.R.S. Section 24-6-401 et seq.). Accordingly, all meetings shall be open to the public ..."

The PPOS website states, "Visitors are invited to sit in, with most agenda items open for public discussion. If you are interested in bringing your expertise to our endeavors by joining the board, please attend one of our meetings!"

We applaud both ASD and PPOS for working together to find common ground in providing alternative forms of education in Archuleta County.

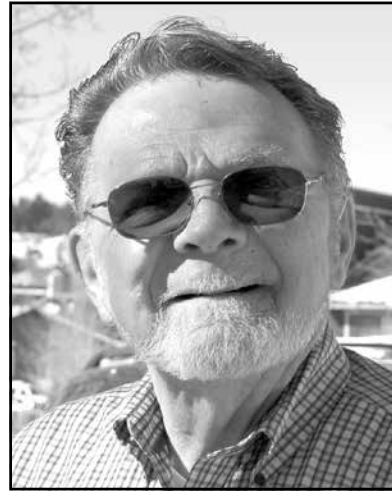
Terri Lynn Oldham House

WHADDYA THINK?

What do you plan on doing with your tax refund?



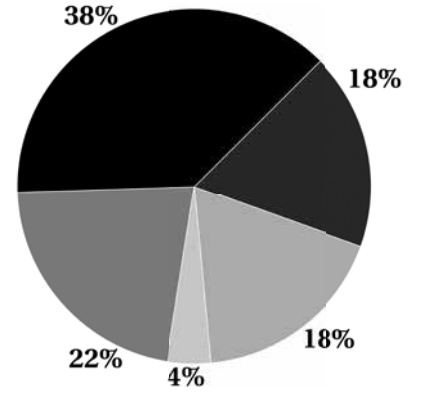
Jill Phillips
"Buy a new dress for my high school reunion."



Ronald Arthur Melius
"I don't think I'm getting one. I'm retired."



Heidi Martinez
"Paying for summer day care."



Poll results (163 Votes)
Pay off debt. — 18 percent
Splurge on a purchase or vacation. — 4 percent
Put the money in savings. — 22 percent
I do not receive a tax refund. — 38 percent
Other. — 18 percent

This week online: Do you agree with the decision to not offer medical-aid-in-dying services at Pagosa Springs Medical Center?
Vote at www.pagosasun.com

LOOKING BACK



From the March 19, 1970, Pagosa Springs SUN.

NEW FLAGS — The student council of the local junior high school this year purchased a United States flag and a Colorado flag for the junior high building. They were presented to Junior High Principal Ray McGee at a special flag raising ceremony Monday of this week. Left to right are, Casey Lynch and Tino Martinez, who accepted the flags from Mr. McGee and raised them, Mr. McGee, and Patty Lynch, who made the presentation on behalf of the junior high student council.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of February 25, 1927

The Women's Civic Club requests that patrons of the public library, who are indebted for fines, kindly remit as soon as possible, as the money is greatly needed. Though the individual amounts are quite small, the aggregate will make a neat sum.

Mrs. E.J. Paxman, formerly of Chromo, arrived from Durango on Monday and is again housekeeper at the home of Dr. Mary Winter Fisher.

J.A. Latta was up from Juanita the first of the week on business at the county seat.

Jack Keane is a business visitor in town today from his upper Piedra ranch.

R. Swanemyr of Allison is transacting business at the county seat.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of March 6, 1942

The Town Dads believe that the fire siren has become rusty for lack of operation, and as a result have ordered the siren sounded each day at 12:00 o'clock noon until further notice. The new order comes as a result of the siren's failure to operate on Thursday afternoon on last week, when an alarm was turned in from the J.W. Youngblood residence in the west part of town. Fortunately the blaze in the roof, which is believed to have been caused by a spark from the chimney, was extinguished with a small amount of damage.

Congrats to Kenneth Day, who celebrated his Silver Anniversary with the Hersch Mercantile company here Tuesday. Mr. Day began his duties with the store on March 3, 1917.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of March 2, 1967

Many ski areas in Colorado are hurting a little for snow. Not so with Wolf Creek Pass. The snow there is more than adequate and in first class shape. Skiers report excellent skiing at Wolf Creek. The crowds there are certainly larger than in any other year and attest to the popularity of the fine snow conditions.

A former SUN employee, Carlos Madrid, is now in the army and his unit will be leaving for Vietnam very soon. He is spending several days of his leave visiting with relatives and friends. Carlos was one of the more valued employees that the SUN has had and we are always glad to see him show up around town. If he isn't careful we generally get a day or two of work out of him.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of March 5, 1992

It appeared as if a task force composed of lawmakers, state administrators, school officials and business representatives could not reach a consensus last Friday concerning proposed solutions to Colorado's overwhelming school finance problem — a problem involving need for more than \$430 million over the next two years. Task force chairman Rep. Tim Foster (R-Grand Junction) said the committee could not reach agreement and announced the group's mission was at an end. Aware of his Archuleta County constituents' concern with school financing, Sen. Sam Cassidy had other ideas. Cassidy was certain the Task Force could reach agreement given more time, and he set out to make his point and the 12-member Task Force will meet again this morning (Mar. 5).

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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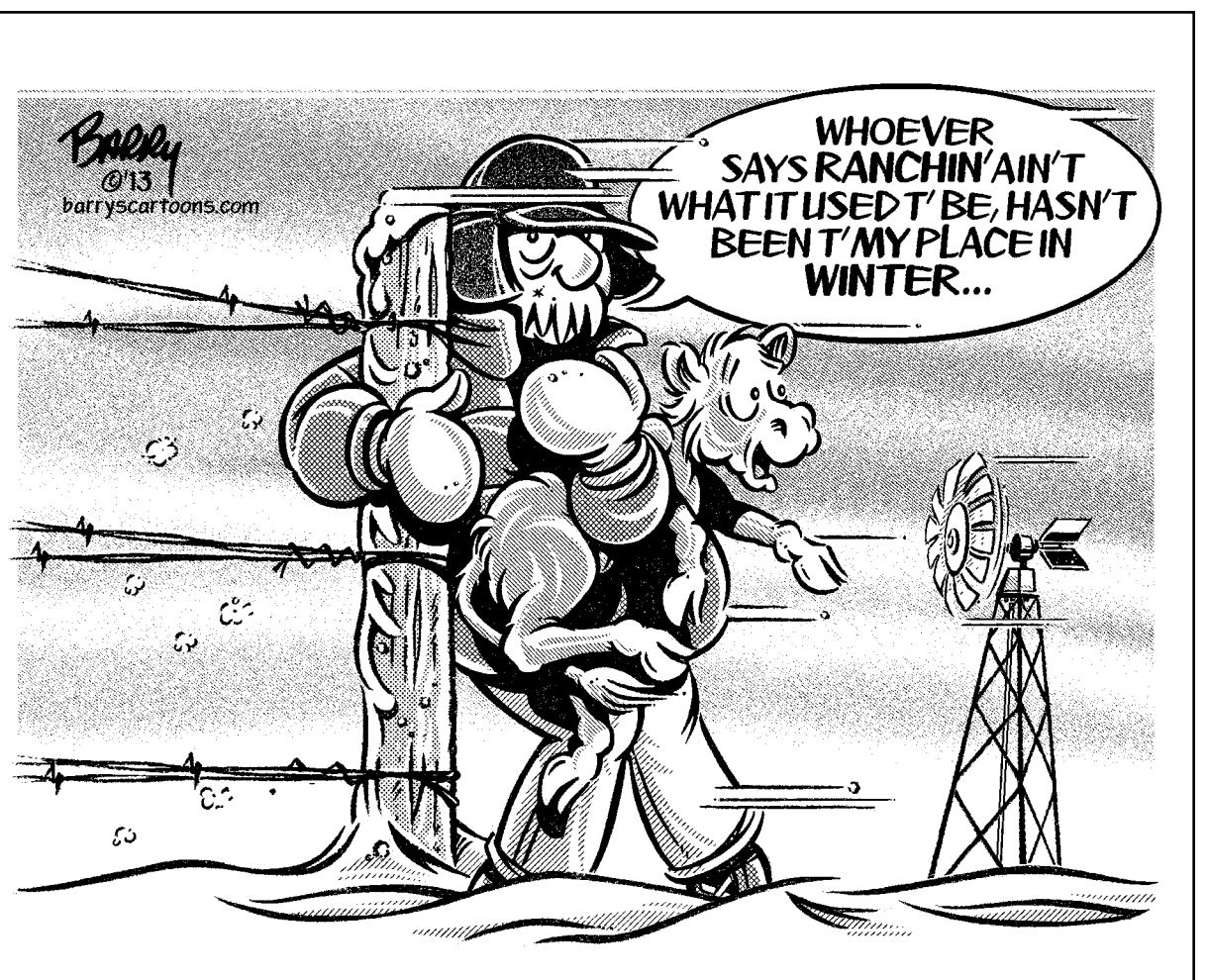
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			Type	Depth	Moisture
2/22	48	30	-	-	-
2/23	39	12	S	.5"	.03"
2/24	28	9	S	T	T
2/25	31	2	S	T	T
2/26	35	10	-	-	-
2/27	36	23	S	1.2"	.05"
2/28	32	23	S	9.7"	.66"

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Letters

Greater good

Dear Editor:
Joe Scarborough, the co-host of "Morning Joe," tweeted: "Conservatives, feel free to speak up for the Constitution anytime the mood strikes ... it is time."

Maybe Joe sees that Donald, like his fellow authoritarian leaders, all follow a pattern of attacking the press to control it. Popular support for the media dwindles and the "leader" starts instituting restrictions. It's an old strategy.

The late Hugo Chávez (Venezuela) first mastered Twitter as a way of labeling and bypassing the media as "fake news" and providing his supporters with "alternative facts." Interesting double twist on Donald's support group ... the op-

pressed always adopt the trappings of the oppressor. What's really odd is how quickly the Republican Party scarfed Donald's pick and chose non-Republican improvisational moves, dumping their "sacred" tenets of capitalism. The result of their abdication the Economist has downgraded the U.S. to a "flawed" democracy ... anyone for Norway (No. 1)?

But suppose the Republicans have more foresight than one would give them credit maybe, just maybe, they now think that Darwinian capitalism is dead. There are very obvious strengths/weaknesses to capitalism, but its fatal flaw isn't that at its heart it is a soulless motivator without empathy or sympathy; but rather its success is that it's pervasively human. Mankind, by evolutionary nature, imbues the seven sins, specifically greed and gluttony. Socialism/communism had to fail as an economic system because of the survival mechanism in our lizard brains. You can dress up a pig but it's still a pig. So can we assume the Republicans know something no one else does?

Nationally, we just elected a majority of Republicans in the cities, states and D.C. So, did we "know" that for the "new" Republicans, power comes before country, humanity, the planet or even (dare I say it) capitalism? In Republican eyes, power is everything and through it the ability to place the society on a survivalist economic forum. Which doesn't just buyout the rich but truly reverses the rule of law and civility; and they actually think that's in our better interests or is "good" as sharing is "bad."

I think one can only conclude that they've unalterably mixed tenets of religion with ideology with the belief the end justifies the means. Thus they've morphed politics into a religious calling where you get the theater of the absurd expressed with their stare-you-in-the-face, clear-eyed "honest" belief and sincerity...aka, "Alice in Wonderland ..." off with her head "... guns are good ... no more immigrants."

The best example of this para-

dox are the Koch Brothers' enormous wealth built on minimal regulation of fossil fuel and "John Birch" insanity; and yet Koch charity always has a price tag ... you must reflect their beliefs ... and that's bribery, not charity. Maybe the Kochs should listen to the Pope: "Christians who exploit people, lead a double life and get involved in 'dirty business,' scandalize the church, in fact, it might be better just to be an atheist."

So, we really have to ask ... are the Republicans at fault or are we responsible as we're more than vaguely aware we are rearranging the chairs on the Titanic's deck; and when we wake up ... landfall ... Mars for the very, very few. Maybe that's the final greater good?

Dave Blake

Trump trumpet

Dear Editor:
The word "huge" brings me to express our family's "red state of mind view," tired of the liberal last eight years.

Trump shall become the trumpet. With Jesus, multitudes of Christians put their faith and the word into action. They prayed and believed in masses across our nation. "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, ... I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land." 2Chr 7:14 (words vice president Pence put his hand on and quoted much).

There are some of us who love the Lord God so much; love our families, children, grandchildren and America so much and are so thankful to have been born here. This was a gift and we have been so willing to share it. But, just maybe, we have not spoken out enough.

Despite the "free press ridicule" and Blake and Zimmerman locally — with the "nuts and gluttons," etc., comments. We are winners in all respects. Ridicule toward our Jesus Christ faith can have an eternal personal effect.

The "thumping" — that's the living word of God sharper than a two-edged sword. "Tongues" —

■ See Letters A4

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:

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All letters must:

be 500 words or less

be signed by the author, unless emailed

include the author's phone number and address

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Letters

Continued from A3
 well that's a gift of the Holy Spirit — "going down to the river, that's being baptized. (Like my son and grandson were in the San Juan River last year.)

I really hope other Christians will speak out (and maybe you have. I confess that I'm not a habitual SUN letter reader.) Jesus' name was spoken more boldly in President Trump's inauguration than I can ever remember in a government affair like this. It's a trend now.

Our God does things His way; he answers prayer his way. There are some of us who believe President Donald Trump is much like "a modern day Paul," who scripted most of the new Testament word by God's grace.

Back then, God chose Paul, even though much of the loud voices were "No, not him." He wasn't typical. Sound familiar? God's mercy, President Donald Trump was elected to help America.

So, there's good reason you liberals and unbelievers don't get it. And, the physical, quite evident, is already in process, things that really matter to the people.

President Trump and Vice President Pence are already marching forward and onward. They stand for life; with Israel dramatically; huge protection plans; upward economy — that's \$2.9 trillion increase in the stock market; jobs; clarifying our laws and on and on.

Our first lady, Melania very boldly prayed "The Lord's Prayer" in a recent televised rally with thousands in attendance and millions viewing, just prior to introducing her husband. Our God's power, voiced in the White House — it's time.

You must know that many Jesus Christ followers are united and strong with our president and vice president; we are Phil. 4:13 champions. Prayer will continue to change things — for the good of the people — God, guts, guns is strong and loud in us — that's the USA.
 Jan Carley

Potholes, roads

Dear Editor:
 On behalf of my wife and I and some of the neighbors I've asked, we're wondering if we should petition the county that Hersch Avenue's name be changed to Hersch Trail.

With all the freezing and thawing this winter, potholes are commonplace on gravel and paved surfaces due to the hydraulic action of tires hitting the puddles and the potholes enlarging a little bit each time a car splashes into them.

Where Hersch Avenue is concerned however (nearly 2 miles long), in the 14 years I've lived there, there are in many locations no established culverts, ditches or a crown in the middle of the road to promote drainage, nor has there been any gravel spread.

This lack of attention and supervision results in very deep muddy

ruts in those places both summer and winter. In the winter, the gravel is scraped into the ditches never to return to the road surface, then water and the mag chloride is sprayed resulting in mud and ruts for days afterwards.

I'm asking the county road and bridge under the supervision of our county commissioners to either fix Hersch or pave it.

The maintainer drivers are doing the best job they can do, but Hersch Avenue needs some engineering oversight which isn't happening.

Surely if Eight Mile Mesa can be graveled, then surely, Hersch could have some gravel and reshaping attention once or twice every 15 years or so.

Hersch Avenue or Hersch Trail?
 Gary and Rose Cheadle

Court rulings

Dear Editor:
 The insanity of the circuit court rulings coming out recently bends the mind of anyone who has the remotest understanding of law.

I have to ask, what is the liberal position on — you can't murder someone? What would it be on — you can't steal someone's property? How about — you can't rape someone?

Calling any court "liberal" or "conservative" (are there any anymore?) is idiocy. This isn't a choice based on emotions or bias, or liberal agendas. This is the bottom-line rule of law and the courts cannot rule against that. Trump was right and supported by standing laws to stop the refugee influx. So what is so hard for people to understand about that?

The courts don't make law. They don't have authority to overrule Congress or standing laws simply because they don't like them.

Remember that the three branches of government are co-equal. The judicial branch does not have more authority than the executive or legislative branches.

Either of the later can override the judicial acts if they are illegal or unconstitutional. They both have the authority to judge whether something is illegal or unconstitutional, the same as the judicial branch.

Why is the constitutional limits to government power so hard for many in America to get? Lawlessness is out of control, in our courts and in many of the American public. The judges who are acting like gods but ignoring the laws and clear instructions of the Constitution hurt us all. Are we going to continue to trust these treasonous judges to make sound judgments on all the other cases they hear? No. They need to be removed for bad or illegal behavior and replaced. No pension, and charges of treason and insurrection should be lodged against them. It is time people are held accountable for their lawlessness, like the crybaby lawless rioters, and if government won't do it, the people will.
 Jeff Maehr

Wings to fly

Dear Editor:
 It has been my privilege over the years to work with some pretty amazing young people through my position as vocal coach at the high school and as musical director for Curtains Up Pagosa.

Currently, I am working with young actors at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) who are preparing for their upcoming production of "Mary Poppins." One of the truly gratifying things is to see these young people graduate, go to college and actually become teachers themselves.

One such person is Becca Stephens Postma. After graduating from University of Colorado Boulder and serving at Abraham Lincoln High School as an English and theater teacher, Becca agreed to return to PSHS to direct this year's production of "Mary Poppins." And what a powerhouse she is. She is organized, fun, full of energy and talent, and is doing a fantastic job.

Becca is a product of our fine arts programs in our public schools. We can be very proud of the influences she has received from teachers such as Lisa Hartley, Dan and Venita Burch, and Dale Johnson. As a community it is our job to support our current students and graduates in the arts in whatever ways we can.

Our young PSHS thespians are currently working to raise money to rent an important piece of equipment for their upcoming production. This equipment allows our Mary Poppins and a few others to actually fly. Such equipment was last used in their production of "Peter Pan" back in 2007.

It is obviously important that the equipment be high quality and safe. As such, it is expensive. Much of the money has been raised, but more is needed.

Please go to the PSHS Music Department page on Facebook and make a donation on the Go Fund Me page.

Or you can send a check to the PSHS music department and note that it is for flying equipment.

Your support for these young people is critical to their success. And, trust me, they will remember the people who gave them wings to fly.
 Sally Neel

Tipton

Dear Editor:
 If we ever had any doubt that our Rep. Scott Tipton is in the pocket of the petroleum industry, to the detriment of his constituents, his vote against the BLM's methane rule should dispel that doubt.

On Feb. 4, Congress used the Congressional Review Act to roll back the BLM rule requiring oil and gas companies to identify and repair equipment that may be leaking methane into the atmosphere. Because of this rule, up to 180,000 tons of escaping methane would have been captured every year, thus reducing the amount of

this toxic waste released into the atmosphere.

Why should we be concerned about this short-sighted vote? Because in 2014, NASA discovered a methane cloud the size of Delaware hovering over the San Juan Basin. This hot spot includes portions of Montezuma and La Plata counties in Tipton's district and is the worst methane hot spot ever seen in the U.S. The CRA vote reversed years of BLM staff time, 300,000 public comments and tribal consultations.

Methane is responsible for about a quarter of the global warming and will trap 80 times more heat in the atmosphere over the next two decades than the same amount of carbon dioxide. The hot spot releases an average of 590,000 tons of methane emissions into the atmosphere yearly from 2003 to 2009. That's a staggering amount — 590,000 tons of methane emissions is equal to almost 15 million tons of carbon dioxide, or the climate equivalent of adding 3.1 million cars to the road every year. It is important to note that this rule only applied to wells leased on BLM and tribal land, not private land.

Even Mr. Tipton's hometown newspaper, the Cortez Journal, urged him not to vote to scrap the rule. But, once again, politics trumped the well-being of his constituents.

While we are addressing global warming, I must respond to the letter from Dave Richardson in the last issue of THE SUN. Mr. Richardson disputes the existence of global warming. He has adopted the play-book from Exxon-Mobil, lock, stock and barrel, a strategy that has been compared to the organized denial of the hazards of tobacco smoking by tobacco companies. He begins his letter by implying that because some major celebrities have endorsed the cause of global warming it is somehow not legitimate. Well, celebrities often lend their names to causes of all sorts. Having the endorsement of a celebrity adds name recognition to a cause. Let's not forget Scott Bai's and Ted Nugent's support for Trump.

Mr. Richardson then goes on to question scientific support for global warming. Sorry Mr. Richardson, 97 percent of climate scientists agree that global warming is real and humans contribute to the warming. Yes, some scientists disagree about global warming. However, if you search the list of these dissenters, most are not climate scientists. They are physicists, geographers, geologists, botanists and others, but very few are climatologists.

So, Mr. Richardson, I'll take my facts from those who really know climate.

John Porco

Roads: sink holes

Dear Editor:
 While winter presents its challenges to the county's road system,
 See Letters A5

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Letters

Continued from A4

the condition of the lower unpaved section of Buttress Road is becoming a minefield.

While the county has chosen not to pave the highly commercially traveled road, I would think they would apply those savings just once in awhile to sending a road grader to re-level and admonish the every growing (in depth and numbers) potholes, soon to be labeled sink holes.

The worst section is where the unpaved section starts to over 500 yards beyond it. The last few weeks of warmer temperatures provided that missed opportunity. If the county can't bring themselves to maintain the road, then they can at least construct warning signs to unsuspecting travelers of severe and deep potholes and change the name of the road sign to "Butt-Unrest" Road.

The waste haulers use Buttress to reach Cascade as their cut

through to Trujillo Road, on their way to the dump; and so we are all paying the price of ruining our vehicle suspensions from this lack of attention to road maintenance. Can we put something in the budget to maintain these roads?

Leaving on a positive note, traffic speed has significantly decreased to 5-10 mph on lower Buttress, well below the posted speed of 30 mph.

Jim Quigley

Wealth

Dear Editor:

Money, is it good or is it evil? Depends on how we use it and how we allow it to control our lives.

Goodness through money is everywhere — many "needs" can only be met with money. Some are blessed with more than they need and from those good folks, many important needs are met here in our own "village," around our country and even around the

world. However, a few who have excess amounts are very unhappy folks, they can't sleep at night for wondering what the stock market will do tomorrow, etc. I feel so sorry for them.

As always, I turn to the "Good Book" to help me understand and I love the book of Ecclesiastes, speaking to what is meaningful and what is meaningless.

In verses 19-20, it is stated: "When God gives any man wealth and possessions and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work — this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart."

So, wealth is meaningful if one's daily focus is on doing God's work, for that is what brings "gladness of heart." Commitment to goodness, that's it in a nutshell.

Know you are loved.

Patty Tillerson

Voice of reason

Dear Editor:

Regarding: Michael Whiting's letter.

I absolutely agree with Mr. Whiting that the latest alternative location proposal for the new justice center must be fully considered.

The Hot Springs Boulevard site is a horrible location for a justice center.

Why put such a busy court and jail complex in a site that is so close to our tourist attractions including Reservoir Hill music festivals, the Community Center, and our public schools just to mention a few?

The traffic from the jail and courts employees as well as the traffic from police business all should be taken out of our core downtown.

The money needed for A/D lanes on U.S. 84 would still need to be spent to make Hot Springs Boulevard road and traffic flow improvements so either location requires many road improvements.

U.S. 84 already has the Archuleta County Fairgrounds, the Archuleta County Road and Bridge complex, and a new justice/jail complex would be a perfect fit to this area. There would be adequate room for employee and community parking; something that the "HSB" site could never accommodate.

I strongly encourage Mr. Whiting to continue being the voice of reason and resolve to keep the new justice center site away from the tourist and community core of downtown.

Mary Jo Valentine

Obituary

David Neil Willson

David Neil Willson, of Pagosa Springs, passed away Sunday morning, Feb. 26, at Mercy Medical in Durango. He was born July 19, 1943, to Neil and Marjorie Willson of Palmyra, Wis. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Matthew Lutheran church in Palmyra. He graduated from Palmyra High in 1961. He was married to Sandra Adams on June 24, 1961. He learned his work ethic on the family farm. He worked at Northwest Telephone Company and as a police officer for the vil-



lages of Palmyra and Eagle. He was an avid trap shooter and took numerous awards along with his trapshooting teammates Donnie Smith, Richard Sadenwasser, Jack Mills and Russ Wickler. He also loved pheasant and deer hunting. He was a trail guide on his horse, Flame, through the Kettle Moraine. He was involved in an auto accident in March of 1975 that changed his life. In 1984, he moved to Pagosa Springs. He fell in love with the area during an FFA field trip. He loved the mountains and all they had to offer. He would take family and friends for drives around the "loop." He lived life through his children and grandchildren and hosted many an elk hunting camp.

Dave is survived by his children: Lance and his children Garrett, Logan, Gracie and Shaylan; Dan and his children, Jennifer, Cody

and Jessica; Valerie (Tink) (partner Anita Crisman); his brothers, Robert (Cheryl) and Scott; and sister Bonnie; sister-in-law Pat West (late Lyle West); nieces and nephews; and wonderful friends left behind in Colorado: Kermit Littleton, Manny and Lori Medina, just to name a few. He is preceded in death by his parents, Neil and Marjorie Willson, and his brother, Mike.

Visitation will be held on Friday, March 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, March 4, from 10 until the 11 a.m. funeral service, all at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 313 Main St. Palmyra, Wis. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Palmyra.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.

There is an online guestbook at www.haaselockwoodfh.com.

Obituaries

Local obituaries are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

PO Box 9
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
e-mail: editor@pagosasun.com

fax: (970) 264-2103

Deadline is 1 p.m. Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Cards of Thanks

De Vore

We would like to thank all who called, sent flowers and cards after the passing of our mom, grandma and GGMA. Your love and caring ways were very comforting and will always be remembered.

Marla and Laure and the entire family of Violet De Vore

Maddux family

Our sincere thanks to all our neighbors, friends and family who provided the love and support needed during the difficult time of the passing of our beloved Trent Maddux.

To David Hamilton, thank you for giving the eulogy and sharing what a wonderful young man

Trent was. To the firemen from Los Pinos, Pagosa Fire, Upper Pine River Fire and Upper San Juan EMS — thank you for being there to support our family and leading the procession. To Trent's many friends, thank you for serving as pall bearers and showing your support by following in the procession over Wolf Creek Pass with your snowmobiles and motorcycles as a final tribute to Trent's "last ride." To Jeff Laydon, Angela's Flowers, the Pagosa Springs High School and staff, and the Pagosa LDS bishopric, you are held in our hearts. Without you, the memorial service wouldn't have had the meaning it did. To the many family and friends who all made the trek to Alamosa for the burial, your

kindness and love will always be remembered. We are truly blessed to be part of this community. While our hearts were broken, you have helped in the healing process. Thank you, everyone, for the cards, letters, phone calls, flowers and the amazing send-off for this young man.

The Maddux and Valdez families

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February 15 Peel-and-Eat Steamed Shrimp <i>all you can eat</i> \$20	February 22 Crawfish <i>all you can eat</i> \$25
March 1 Snow Crab Legs <i>all you can eat</i> \$25	March 8 Wings Buffalo, Hot or BBQ <i>all you can eat</i> \$18

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Goals & Accomplishments

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

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

Answers are printed as received and are not edited.

Mike Church, Chairman and President



What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2016?

1. Significant debt reduction amounting to thousands of dollars in savings per customer.
2. Solid Water Leak reduction from over 40% to below 20% in some months.
3. Renegotiation with the Town of Pagosa Springs a bulk sewer treatment agreement that does not force PAWSD customers to subsidize the Towns sewer treatment costs anymore.

What are your three top goals for 2017?

Plan ahead for the Towns long term growth so PAWSD customers do not get caught subsidizing all the facility costs. It may be that with the current very low growth nothing really needs to change in the short or mid term. PAWSD should have a plan available if and when growth picks up. This could include another potential Reservoir for downtown as well as integrating a 12" water line as a loop and water treatment plant expansion. These are all is fairly long term needs that should be triggered by real growth and not statistical guessing of growth that leads to over-spending of public funds.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

Form a committee to study these issues with the District Engineer and formulate a plan. Then approve the plan so PAWSD has a long term clear direction. This was brought to light by recent planning gaps down town. We want to stay ahead of those problems.

Justin Ramsey, District Manager



What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2016?

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District's (PAWSD) three biggest accomplishments for 2016 were 1) Significant reduction in water loss. PAWSD's water loss has decreased by 52% from this time last year. This was accomplished by dedicated staff that focused on areas prone to leaks, and found and repaired multiple leaks that likely had been seeping for years. 2) PAWSD was able to work with the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) to develop and begin implementation of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to receive and treat wastewater generated from the Town of Pagosa Springs. The final IGA is fair to both PAWSD and PSSGID customers, and sets a framework of cooperation between PAWSD and PSSGID to ensure proper treatment of the Town's wastewater at a reasonable rate. 3) PAWSD had record water sales for 2016. Both the Hatcher and Snowball water treatment plants were producing water at maximum capacity during several of our busy tourist months, which also happen to be our highest irrigation periods. PAWSD was able to meet the demands of

our residents, businesses, and tourists by providing record amounts of drinking and irrigation water, while meeting all compliance regulations. The high demand of instantaneous water use during the firefighting efforts of the Adobe fire caused a temporary shortage of water in regions of downtown. The Adobe Fire was likely the largest community fire in PAWSD 45 years of existence. PAWSD was able to provide the fire district with adequate water and pressure to assure the safety of fire fighters and to contain the fire to the Adobe complex.

What are your three top goals for 2017?

The three top goals for 2017 are 1) Build on the progress made in 2016 water loss reduction. 2) Continue to work through technical issues with the San Juan Water Treatment Plant to allow PAWSD to economically use the 3500 acre feet of reservoir water. 3) Meet new compliance requirements for the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant with the least amount of expense that may result from treating the Town of Pagosa Springs wastewater.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

PAWSD's action plans to meet the goals listed above include: 1) Recent successes in limiting water loss have been reactive to this point, we find a leak and repair it. Our water system covers over 75 square miles and consists of more than 290 miles of water mains installed over the last 45 years. To ensure continued success in water loss mitigation, PAWSD will need to develop a more proactive approach in the coming year that will include a systematic and comprehensive infrastructure replacement program. 2) PAWSD's in house staff will continue working with technical consultants to correct issues with the San Juan Water Treatment Plant upgrades so the plant can be brought online and provide high quality water at a cost effective production rate. 3) PAWSD will work closely with state regulators to make minor modifications to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant to ensure compliance and enhanced discharge monitoring.

Archuleta County Treasurer's Office

Betty Diller, County Treasurer



What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2016?

1. The re-creation of our receipting software user group was my biggest accomplishment in 2016. I was given leadership of the group and set about to make it into a working partner with our software provider. Treasurers now submit enhancement requests, minor adjustment requests, and bug reports to the group. After hearing the rationale behind requests, we vote on them to provide direction to the company. In October, we submitted our top 10 list of enhancement requests, validated seven minor adjustments, and reported one bug. As a result of our submissions, the company has already included four enhancement requests and several minor adjustments into our system. Through this new emphasis on collaboration, the Colorado county treasurers are helping to develop the software to meet the needs of all counties. As I guide the team effort, my motto is "How can we make this happen?"
2. Last year, I was able to make great progress on compiling Colorado Revised Statutes for the county treasurer. It was rewarding and fatiguing! Some other treasurers embarked on such a project last year but it fizzled out. As my compilation nears completion, I understand why others found it so challenging. Our statutes are spread out over many, many titles and articles. It is a daunting task but extremely worthwhile. I look forward to finishing it and moving on to something else.
3. Participating in the wage study was valuable to our office and the whole county organization. Work-

ing to get all employees to be paid market rates took a lot of effort from all elected officials and department heads. Although I am not satisfied with raising them up to only 96% of the lowest level of the range, it is a significant start. We now have excellent data to guide us as we work to keep employee wages from getting so far behind again.

What are your three top goals for 2017?

1. Get that bill passed! Last year's effort to make a minor addition to state law regarding treasurer deeds ended up "on the floor of the butcher shop being made into sausage." It was very disheartening to find such a small, simple bill being used by one political party to punish the other political party. Although I was disheartened, I have begun the process again.
2. A summit in May for our software user group is a very important goal. Because the company has already incorporated many of our requests into the software, we submit and vote on the next lists. We are also going to spend time brainstorming on the development of an investor portal so that tax lien investors can become self-sufficient in areas where technology can meet their needs. This will save us time because we will not need to answer as many questions. It will save us money because we will not need to send out endorsement letters to the investors.
3. County treasurers as a group need to analyze which statutes are archaic and need to be revised or discarded. Additionally, there are statutes that were not written well at the time they were passed the first

time. We need to plan for attempts to adjust our fee schedule. Many of our fees have not been changed in decades. For instance, the fee for processing a treasurer deed application has not been changed since 1975 although the responsibilities of the treasurer in this action have increased. The fee schedule was designed to fund the cost of the assessor and treasurer offices. That does not happen in most, if not all, counties. I plan to be a moving influence in getting some of these issues cleaned up.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

1. I am trying to be a little more politically astute in getting my bill passed this year. We are off to a great start by securing sponsors who are politically aligned with the parties in control of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Colorado County Treasurers' Association is working closely with me to provide support and partnership to make this a successful effort.
2. Volunteers from counties throughout the state will help me develop the summit into a great event. The Steering Committee has been formed and the plan for elections is almost ready. By working closely with the company, we are choosing topics and tasks that will keep the group energized and bring about needed changes.
3. At our June conference, I will host a forum for ideas on what our priorities are and how we can manage for success. We need to work together so that we will have solidarity on what we see as needed and how we can accomplish change.

LEGISLATURE

Combating the opioid epidemic: progress and next steps

The Colorado Hospital Association recently reported that in 2015, 268 newborns in Colorado had opioid withdrawal symptoms after birth.

Opioid withdrawal in newborns is known as neonatal abstinence syndrome and it is the result of a mother's opioid use during pregnancy.

The state of Colorado has been hit particularly hard by the opioid abuse epidemic that is sweeping our nation — the Third Congressional District especially. This is why we held roundtable meetings in communities across the Third District last year, to hear from the people who are on the front lines of this fight about how the federal government can better support their efforts.

In August, I toured Parkview Hospital in Pueblo and visited the unit that treats babies who are

born addicted to opioids and other drugs. The suffering that newborns going through drug withdrawals experience is truly heartbreaking.

Fighting this particular part of the opioid epidemic begins with dedicating resources to help vulnerable women and expecting mothers. The bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which was signed into law in July, includes measures to help improve opioid addiction treatment for pregnant women and prevent neonatal abstinence syndrome.



Rep. Tipton's Report

The CARA reauthorized the Residential Treatment Program for Prenatal and Postpartum Women and authorized the director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) to prioritize federal grant awards for organizations and programs that serve rural areas. The law also authorized the CSAT to develop a pilot program for making competitive grants available to state drug abuse agencies that will allow them to address gaps in treatment services for women. Additionally, the bill directs the comptroller general to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome that focuses on prevalence and the best practices for treatment.

I believe that the best practices in addressing some of the most complex issues facing our nation are developed when states and communities are given the oppor-

tunity to innovate and implement programs that are tailored to their specific needs. In conversations with health care providers, law enforcement officials, education professionals and recovering addicts, I have learned a lot about what works in our communities — investments in drug abuse prevention programs, outpatient community clinics and greater coordination between health care, education and law enforcement professionals at multiple levels.

I plan to continue these conversations and bring the feedback I receive to Washington as we work together to combat the opioid epidemic.

I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas and experiences with me. Feel free to give my Washington, D.C., office a call at (202) 225-4761, or write to me through my website: www.tipton.house.gov.

Pagosans hold town hall meeting without Tipton

By Terry Pickett
Special to The SUN

Pagosa Springs participated in national trend last weekend. A grassroots group, working under the banner of IndivisiblePagosa, organized a town-hall-style meeting here in Pagosa Springs, even though its congressional representative could not attend.

Although Rep. Scott Tipton was unavailable, 81 constituents gathered at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse to express their views and concerns. The participants were mostly Pagosans, but some traveled from Ar-

boles, Chromo, Bayfield, Hesperus and Durango to participate.

The climate was respectful and caring — anyone who wanted to convey a question or a point of view to our members of Congress had adequate opportunity to do so. Those who spoke at the event emphasized that they were not paid agitators, as some in Congress have asserted, but rather constituents who wanted their views heard by their elected representatives.

These folks had a lot on their mind.

To quote Tipton, "We don't have people that are shy about sharing their opinion. I do want to hear

those thoughts."

Here are some examples: be an advocate for freedom of the press, which is a key component of an informed democracy; safeguard the provisions for women's health care; preserve our public lands; welcome and value immigrants to this country; do nothing to the Affordable Care Act unless you can demonstrate you will improve it; stop disabling DOL provisions for retirement planning, including the fiduciary rule; ensure that we are protected from methane emissions and pollution of our rivers and streams; adequately fund education and use best available research

on learning, do not cutback Medicaid funding or make it a block grant to the states; investigate Russian tampering with the 2016 election; and preserve our public lands for all citizens.

A transcript will be sent to the congressman and to Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, plus a full recording of the proceedings will be posted on social media. If you are interested in either or both, drop an email to IndivisiblePagosa@gmail.com.

Keep an eye out for the next town hall meeting, with or without our congressional representatives.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Tuesday, March 7

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

Archuleta School District Board of Education visit to Ignacio School District. 9 a.m.

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.

Archuleta School District Board of Education public input meeting on 2017-2018 budget. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School library, 309 Lewis St.

Wednesday, March 8

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) regular board meeting. 5:30

p.m., Borde Rio, 356 E. Pagosa St.

Thursday, March 9

Town of Pagosa Springs comprehensive plan update public input meeting regarding parks and recreation. 5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Sunday, March 12

Pagosa Peak Open School board meeting. 4 p.m., 431 Talisman Drive.

Tuesday, March 14

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners and Pagosa Springs Town Council joint work session. 8 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Archuleta School District Board of Education visit to the Middle School. 8 a.m.

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

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

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

Archuleta School District Board of Education regular meeting. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School library, 309 Lewis St.

Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting. 6:30 p.m., Station No. 1 training room, 191 North Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, March 15

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

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

County clerk adjusts March hours for training

By June Madrid
Special to The SUN

The Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder's office hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for the month of March 2017. The office will be doing training.

The clerk apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Photo courtesy J.D. Kurz

Jerry Archuleta from the Natural Resources Conservation Service teaches the Pagosa Springs High School global science class how to determine the snow water equivalence (SWE) at the Upper San Juan SNOTEL Site on Wolf Creek Pass. On Feb. 22, there was 35 inches of water locked up in the 95-inch snowpack. Typically, the SWE peaks around 32 inches of water around April 15, meaning there should be plenty of water to fill our downstream reservoirs.

County projects payments in lieu of taxes from U.S., Southern Ute Indian Tribe

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

Archuleta County collects real estate tax currently based on a total assessed value within the county of approximately \$300 million in privately held real estate.

The county projects receipt of revenue in 2017 based on real estate taxes of \$5.4 million. That amount is about a third of the total tax collected, since revenue from real estate taxes is also received by Archuleta School District and multiple other districts operating in the county.

The land generating that revenue, however, is a relatively small part of the total land area within the county. But, local government entities have no legal ability to impose tax on the extensive land held by the federal government and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) within the county's borders.

That legal shortcoming is addressed by payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), which have been provided in recent years by both the U.S. and the SUIT as a matter of comity.

County Attorney Todd Starr said

that the payments by the tribe are made pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement negotiated several years ago.

The federal payments are pursuant to legislation, he said.

In both cases, the payments are legally voluntary, Starr said, however, they have been made consistently in recent years, although the amount received from the federal government has trended downward.

In 2017, the county budget projects receipt of revenue from the two sovereign entities based on lands within the county in a total amount of \$777,000.

That projected amount is more than \$400,000 less than the amount received in 2016 of nearly \$1.2 million, according to discussion in the county's 2017 budget book. The budget book is accessible on the county's website, www.archuleta-county.org/88/Finance.

The reduced projection is attributable to uncertainty in the amount likely to be received from the federal government.

The budget book explains that although the federal PILT payment

is calculated pursuant to an established formula based on factors including total acreage and county population, it has usually been less than fully funded by congressional appropriations.

During the years 2008-2016, however, the formula was required to be fully funded as a result of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, adopted by Congress to help with recovery from the then-recently begun national financial crisis.

The 2008 act was initially applicable only into 2012, but the requirement fully to fund PILT payments was extended into 2016 by subsequent enactments. But, there has been no similar enactment applicable to 2017.

The county's 2017 projection for federal PILT revenue, therefore, is based on the assumption that the amount ultimately received in this year will fall back to its earlier level prior to the 2008 legislation.

Former County Administrator Greg Schulte, now Pagosa Springs town manager, told The SUN Wednesday that the original increase in 2008 in federal PILT funding came

at the time he assumed the administrator position. That occurred against the background of the then-fully emerging crisis in the Archuleta County budget resulting from earlier failures properly to match expenditures with revenues.

Schulte recalled that the legislative initiative to increase the PILT funding originated with then Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar concurrently with the bailout of the financial industry being considered by the Congress at the time to respond to the severe national recession.

Salazar's initiative had widespread appeal in much of the western U.S., Schulte noted, due to extensive federal landholdings in the region.

The unanticipated PILT revenue "really saved us, in my judgment," Schulte said, referring to the effort to keep the county out of bankruptcy due to its budget problems, which were separate from and locally compounded the effects of the national recession.

"When we were on the ledge, counting our pennies, a couple of hundred thousand dollars was a big deal" to Archuleta County, he recalled.

jim@pagosahun.com

Seeds selling Ka\$h for Kid\$ raffle tickets

By Allyson Jones
Special to The SUN

Calling everyone who could use an extra \$10,000. Get ready, get set and call for your winning raffle ticket. Seeds of Learning is sponsoring a Ka\$h for Kid\$ raffle between March and May.

Board members will be selling only 300 tickets. Each ticket price is \$100; but, one-third of the money collected will go to one lucky win-

ner. If all the raffle tickets are sold, \$10,000 could be yours. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held on May 20 at 7 p.m. at Seeds of Learning, 575 S. 7th Street. The winner does not need to be present to win.

The remaining two-thirds of the proceeds will be used to support the preschool education of Pagosa's at-risk children. It will be used to support the award-winning programs used at Seeds to prepare

children socially, emotionally and educationally to succeed as adults.

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Education



Photo courtesy Rebecca Thompson

The Cool Kids, Pagosa Springs' youngest Destination Imagination team, is: Braylon Landry, Jessica Parker, Isabelle Radcliff, coach Addie Thompson, Raylynn Seright and Noah Bellina.



Photo courtesy Rebecca Thompson

Burt, a secondary-level Destination Imagination team, is: coach Becky Thompson, Maya Nasralla, Sydney Mitchell and Celia Taylor. Not pictured is Grace Thompson.



Photo courtesy Rebecca Thompson

Wolf Pack, one of Pagosa Springs' elementary-level Destination Imagination teams, is, from left to right Peyton (PJ) Bedtke, Jayden Seright, Case Mattson, Vander Quinn and Noah Short. Not pictured is coach Kathryn DeAngelo.



Photo courtesy Rebecca Thompson

The DI Leaders, one of Pagosa Springs' middle school-level Destination Imagination teams, is: in front, Chase Ward, Levi Hinger and Elektra Ulloa; middle, Donovan Galabota and Kaylee Allison; and, in back, coaches Cindi Galabota and Kristi Smith.

Three Pagosa DI teams headed to state

By Rebecca Thompson
Special to The SUN

At the regional Destination Imagination (DI) competition in Durango Saturday, three teams from Pagosa Springs qualified to go on to compete in Denver at the state level.

Pagosa sent five teams to the event in Durango, one of which competed in two different challenges.

DI is a creative problem solving competition. One of those teams was the Cool Kids, who competed at the Rising Stars level. This level is for kindergarten to second-grade students and is a noncompetitive event to expose kids to what DI is like.

The Cool Kids team did a great job in their performance and their instant challenge. Their skit of how a simple machine can save the day was set underwater with sharks and endangered species.

Pagosa's team from the elementary school was the Wolf Pack. This was another first-year

team who took on the engineering challenge. This challenge required the team to build a structure out of balsa wood that met size restrictions and held as much weight as possible. This structure was incorporated into a skit that presented a solution to the global problem of deforestation of the rain forest. Though the team did great, finishing with a third-place medal, it was not able to advance to the state level.

From Pagosa's middle school, we had the DI Leaders who chose the scientific challenge, where they had to create a story about a secret mission. In this challenge, they had two secret messages to be decoded and a gadget that appeared to be an everyday item. Throw in a disguised character and the stealing of the "monapizza" and you have an exciting mystery. The DI leaders qualified for state by placing third in their event.

Our second middle school team went by the moniker I Can't Pronounce Their Name. This team also took on the scientific challenge,

but incorporated music and batik scarfs with a variation of the solitary code from Neal Stephenson's book. They had a gadget that was engineered and coded on an Arduino computer to be a knock box. They placed second and will also move on to state.

This same team decided to challenge themselves even more and took on the engineering challenge, as well. They built a structure that held 445 pounds and incorporated the same skit to solve the world problem of the missing vaccine for cholera. This also qualified them for state with a first-place finish.

The last team from Pagosa was our secondary-level team, Burt. This team chose the fine arts challenge, which required the disappearing of a color and the impact that would have on a life. This story had to have a colorful character and a vanishing act. With their first-place finish, they also received a special award called the Renaissance Award for their backdrop projection and will be moving on to state competition.

Fifth-grade students experience 'Science on Snow' day

By Keith Bruno
Special to The SUN

On Friday, Feb. 17, Pagosa Springs fifth-grade students spent the day outside on what was deemed a "Science on Snow" day.

Fifth-grade science teacher Chris Couch and Audubon Rockies Southwest Colorado Community Naturalist Keith Bruno created a day that opened the students' eyes to the diversity and importance of different natural resource field sciences.

The day was built around the cornerstone piece of contributing to the citizen science effort known

as the Great Backyard Bird Count. Between the dates of Feb. 17-20, people across the globe contribute to this effort, effectively creating a "snapshot" of bird populations worldwide. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology interprets all of the data received via the online birding database, eBird, and thus follows population trends, migratory shifts, etc.

Additionally, students rotated through four other stations. At one station, students joined local dendrochronologist Herb Grover, learning to identify and age trees up on Reservoir Hill.

At another station, with Bruno,

students dug snow pits, evaluating different snow crystal types/sizes and calculating snow water equivalent values (essentially, how much water can you expect from a given snowpack). Elsewhere, students constructed snow sculptures that highlighted winter adaptations that allow critters to survive Rocky Mountain winters. Pat Jackson, from St. Francis Wildlife Sanctuary in Arboles, joined the Science on Snow day with her peregrine falcon, Dooley. She talked about the importance of bird conservation and the students were enthralled with the presence of a bird capable of the fastest speeds in the animal

kingdom.

All in all, the day was a great success. Joined by local volunteer birders Dottie George, Dianne Lee, Cedar McGrath, Byron Greco and Rosalind Sanford, the students positively identified 25 different bird species along 2 miles of the Riverwalk downtown.

Citizen science efforts such as these not only serve as a great means of pulling communities together to pay a little more attention to the natural world around them, but also contribute a valuable and critical means to understanding the ways in which our world is changing.

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Town awards second round of bids

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 23, the Pagosa Springs Town Council awarded bids for replacing the roof at the Yamaguchi Park pavilion and conducting a town shop needs assessment.

"This is part two of our invitations to bid for a multitude of projects that are coming through and are in the budget," explained Town Manager Greg Schulte. "The ones in this series were the Yamaguchi Park pavilion roof, the Yamaguchi Park baseball field ... a town shop needs assessment and the River Center fishing dock."

Schulte went on to explain that the town only received one bid for each project, and that three of the

four bids came in over budget. "We are recommending that you approve all except one, and that's the park baseball field," Schulte said. "We are recommending that you reject that bid, and direct us to rebid that, to hopefully bring that within the project budget."

For the Yamaguchi Park pavilion roof, the town budgeted \$10,000, with G2 Contractors bidding \$13,845, meaning the project would cost an additional \$3,845.

For the Yamaguchi Park baseball field, the town budgeted \$25,000, with G2 Contractors bidding \$53,500, which would make the project cost an additional \$28,500.

The town budgeted \$25,000 for the town shop needs assessment, with Reynolds Ash and Associates

offering to do the project for that amount.

The town budgeted \$12,000 to replace the fishing dock behind the River Center, with G2 Contractors bidding \$44,953, causing the project to come in \$32,953 over budget.

Schulte explained that the town had saved roughly \$50,000 the last time it awarded bids, and he suggested using the saved money to cover the remaining cost of the dock project.

Council member David Schanzenbaker asked Schulte why he suggested awarding the bid for the fishing dock when it came in almost four times over budget, with Schulte explaining that the original amount that was budgeted had been miscalculated.

Council member John Egan said, "I would move to authorize the mayor to award contracts to the respective low bids presented in this report per staff recommendations, with the exception of the ... Yamaguchi Park baseball field and ask that that be rebid."

Mayor Don Volger seconded the motion, but the majority of the attending council voted against the motion.

"I move to authorize the mayor to award contracts to the low bid for the town shops needs assessment and the Yamaguchi Park pavilion roof," said Schanzenbaker, with council member Nicole DeMarco seconding the motion.

The motion proceeded to pass unanimously.
marshall@pagosahun.com

PFPD responds to three separate rollovers

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) responded to three different rollovers last week, with one concerning a propane truck.

The first of the rollovers occurred on the morning of Feb. 20.

According to PFPD Interim Deputy Chief Karn Macht, the rollover occurred when a semi truck—hauling beer—rolled onto its passenger side after trying to navigate the hairpin curve near the overlook.

Macht said that PFPD units were dispatched at 7:01 a.m., with the first unit arriving at 7:23 a.m.

Macht explained that the driver was initially complaining of injuries and was transported to Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) by PSMC EMS, but added that he later found out the driver had been

released soon after with no injuries. He added that there was a small amount of oil and beer that had dripped onto the road, which the PFPD used floor dry to soak up.

A battalion vehicle, a rescue vehicle and an engine were dispatched, with three volunteers and Macht responding to the call.

Macht explained that he used a vehicle to block off the overlook lane, and PFPD units assisted with traffic control until a tow truck could arrive.

The scene was cleared at 8:47 a.m.

That evening, a propane truck rolled over near mile marker 5 on County Road 359 (Coyote Park Road).

Macht explained that units were dispatched at 5:31 p.m., and, because the truck was hauling propane, the PFPD had to treat the

accident like a hazardous material scenario, although the truck never leaked any propane.

The PFPD dispatched a battalion vehicle with Macht, an engine with two volunteers and a maintenance vehicle with a hazardous material technician, with the first unit arriving at 5:52 p.m.

Macht explained that the truck, for some unknown reason, drove too far onto the shoulder of the road and, because of how soft the shoulder was, the truck rolled onto its passenger side.

Macht explained that a "recon team" with a propane monitor was sent into the area wearing breathing apparatus.

Although there were no injuries or leaking fluids, units had to stay on scene as a tow truck began to pull the truck back onto its wheels to occasionally inspect the truck for

any tears or leaks. Macht added that the scene was cleared at 7:58 p.m.

On Feb. 22, units were dispatched at 5:54 a.m. to respond to a vehicle that had rolled over near mile marker 8 on U.S. 84.

According to Macht, the vehicle was headed southbound when it hit a patch of black ice, causing it to slide off the road and roll.

The first unit arrived at 6:27 a.m., with Macht adding that there were no injuries, leaking fluids or lane blockage, though the PFPD still conducted traffic control.

He added that, once a tow truck arrived and pulled the truck back onto its wheels, the vehicle was actually able to start and was driven to an alternate location.

Macht said the scene was cleared at 7:59 a.m.
marshall@pagosahun.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
Feb. 20 — Theft, County Road 119.
Feb. 20 — Information only, Ute Drive.

Feb. 21 — Found property, San Juan Street.

Feb. 21 — Warrant arrest, Park Avenue.

Feb. 22 — Fraud by check-other method, Colo. 172.

Feb. 22 — Violation of bail bond condition-felony, San Juan Street.

Feb. 23 — Criminal mischief, domestic violence, U.S. 160.

Feb. 24 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

Feb. 24 — Warrant arrest, Bill's Place.

Feb. 24 — Criminal mischief, East Log Hill Road.

Feb. 25 — Animals running at large, unlawful ownership of vicious dog, County Road 542.

Feb. 26 — Information only, Beucler Lane.

Feb. 27 — Illegal discharge of a firearm, escape-felony, violation of restraining order, prohibited use of weapons, possession of weapons by previous offenders, Meadow Lark.

Feb. 27 — Animals/nuisance, Mid-iron Avenue.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Feb. 14 — Second-degree assault, Town Park.

Feb. 16 — Animal/running at large, Great West Avenue.

Feb. 16 — Violation of restraining order, Pagosa Street.

Feb. 17 — Harassment/violation of restraining order, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 17 — Crimes against at-risk juvenile/neglect, South 8th Street.

Feb. 18 — Third-degree assault, San Juan Street.

Feb. 20 — Theft, Eagle Drive.

Feb. 20 — Animal/running at large, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 20 — Traffic/insurance/registration, U.S. 160.

Feb. 24 — Fraud, Majestic Drive.

Feb. 24 — Careless driving, U.S. 160.

Feb. 25 — Criminal mischief, South 9th Street.

Feb. 25 — Theft, San Juan Street.

Feb. 27 — Animal/running at large, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 27 — Information only, Country Center Drive.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge William Anderson

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Feb. 22 — Raphael R. Herrera, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$134.50.

Feb. 23 — Andrea M. Phillips, fail to yield right of way/pedestrian, fines and costs — \$85.50.

Feb. 23 — Branden C. Rosa,

speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$258.50.

Feb. 23 — Elizabeth Macdonald, tires-unsafe, fines and costs — \$113.50.

Feb. 23 — Stanley J. Ditmars, headlamps-failure to display, tires-unsafe, tail lamp violation, fines and costs — \$157.50.

Feb. 23 — Jose Luis Hernandez-Dominguez, driving while ability impaired, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$769.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

No report.

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BASKETBALL



SUN photo/Terri House

Pagosa's Keaton Laverty puts up a shot against a Centauri defender Saturday at the district tournament in Bayfield. The Pirates defeated the Falcons 62-41 with the help of eight points from Laverty to take third at districts and earn the No. 29 seed in the state playoffs.

Pirates heading into state action as No. 29 team

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

After earning the 29th seed for the 3A state playoffs, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team is headed to the Front Range for first-round action.

As the No. 29 seed, the Pirates, who are 10-12 on the season, are set to face the undefeated No. 4 Resurrection Christian Cougars tomorrow at 7 p.m. on the Cougars' home court in Loveland.

"We are excited about advancing to the final thirty two," coach Randy Sorenson wrote in an email to The SUN. "The kids are playing their best basketball of the year and all you can ask for is a chance."

But, the Pirates know they have a tough battle ahead of them.

"Resurrection Christian is a very good basketball team and they are playoff tested," Sorenson wrote. "They are undefeated and they can score the basketball."

The Cougars average 86.7 points per game, versus Pagosa's 47.5. Resurrection Christian's leading scorer, Tanner Ervin, holds an average of 27 points per game, versus Isaiah Griego's average of 15.5 points per game.

"They pressure you constantly and they try to speed up the game. Our defense will have to be great and we must take care of the basketball to have a chance," Sorenson wrote.

The Pirates and Cougars have had only one mutual opponent this season, Coal Ridge, with the Pirates losing to the Titans 51-40 in mid-December, and the Cougars defeating the Titans 76-73 on Jan. 7.

The winner of the Pagosa-Resurrection Christian game will play the winner of No. 13 Faith Christian and No. 20 The Academy, who play in Loveland at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

That Sweet 16 game is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 4. Faith Christian holds a 14-8 record, while The Academy holds a 17-5 record.

In part, the Pirates earned their No. 29 seed after coming in third

in the Intermountain League (IML) district tournament last weekend, behind Bayfield and Alamosa.

Other IML teams with bids to the state tournament include No. 5 Bayfield (hosting this week), No. 12 Alamosa (who will play in Bayfield), and No. 31 Montezuma-Cortez (traveling to Manitou Springs).

Alamosa

Pagosa first faced off against the Alamosa Mean Moose at last week's district tournament held in Bayfield.

And, for the Pirates, things started well. By the end of the first quarter, Pagosa had jumped out to a 17-11 lead and, by halftime, led 28-19.

Alamosa, however, started picking away at Pagosa's lead in the second half, outscoring the Pirates 13-6 in the third to cut their deficit to two, 34-32. The Pirates' six points all came from the free-throw line.

"That is the time in the game that really hurt us," Sorenson noted.

Then, in the fourth, the Mean Moose were again able to outscore the Pirates, taking the lead in the game's final minutes.

When the final buzzer sounded, Alamosa held a one-point lead, 50-49, sending them to the district championship and the Pirates to the third-place game.

"The Alamosa game was a heart breaker. We were able to get an early lead and we maintained the lead until late in the fourth quarter," Sorenson wrote. "Alamosa made a couple more plays than we

did and they pulled the game out."

Sorenson was also complimentary of the Mean Moose, who spent much of the season as a top-10 team.

"They are a good and experienced team. (Ryan) Brubacher scored seventeen of Alamosa's nineteen points in the first half and (Noah) Romero scored seventeen in the second half. They are two really good basketball players and they both played great," he wrote. "Our defense was solid but give those kids credit they made tough and contested shots."

Griego led the Pirates' scoring efforts in the game with 13 points, followed by Ty Kimsey with 12 (including three 3-pointers), Jesus Pacheco with nine (including a 3-pointer), Keaton Laverty with seven (including a 3-pointer), Ethan Brown with five and Cade Cowan with three in the form of a 3-pointer.

Twelve of Pagosa's points came in 18 attempts from the free-throw line.

Griego also led the Pirates in rebounding, pulling down 14 of the Pirates' 29.

Pagosa turned the ball over 14 times in the game and stole the ball four times.

"Our kids played probably their best game of the year and we are really proud of them!" Sorenson wrote.

Centauri

Following Friday's loss to Alamosa, the Pirates battled the Centauri Falcons for third place at the

district tournament.

That game, too, started in favor of the Pirates, with Pagosa holding a 14-9 lead at the end of the first quarter and, after outscoring the Falcons 21-12 in the second quarter, a 35-21 lead at halftime.

The Pirates continued to build on the lead in the third, outscoring Centauri 14-8 to increase their lead to 49-29 going into the game's final period.

After again outscoring the Falcons in the fourth, 13-12, Pagosa

■ See Pirates A13

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BASKETBALL



SUN photo/
Terri House
Centauri's Ember Canty attempts to shut down Pagosa's Morgan Lewis in Saturday's district championship game in Bayfield. Centauri claimed the win in the game, earning the No. 2 seed in the state playoffs, while the Lady Pirates earned the No. 11 seed.

No. 11 Lady Pirates set to face No. 22 St. Mary's in first round of state playoffs

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

After falling to the Centauri Falcons in the district championship Saturday, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates are entering the 3A state basketball tournament as the No. 11 seed.

The No. 11 seeding means the Lady Pirates will travel to Craig to begin state tournament action, with their portion of the bracket hosted by No. 6 Moffat County High School.

There, the Lady Pirates will take on No. 22 St. Mary's Academy.

St. Mary's, coach Wes Lewis explained, is an all-girls school from the Denver area (Englewood) with good guards and a 6-foot-2 post player.

The Wildcats are 16-6 on the season and average 44 points per game, compared to Pagosa's 45.6.

Adrea Gentry leads the Wildcats' scoring with 7.2 points per game each. Pagosa's Morgan Lewis averages 20.2 points per game.

Caroline Jeffords leads the Wildcats with 10.5 rebounds per game, while Morgan Lewis averages 10 rebounds per game to lead the Lady Pirates.

"We'll have to play and do things right to be successful," the coach said.

The Lady Pirates and Wildcats will face off at 5 p.m. tomorrow evening in Craig.

Following that game, Moffat County (18-4) will take on No. 27 Bennet (15-7) at 6:30 p.m.

The winners of those two games will face off in the Sweet 16 round Saturday at 1 p.m. in an attempt to advance to the following week's Great 8 and subsequent Final 4 and championship games.

In part, the Lady Pirates earned their No. 11 seed after placing second at the Intermountain League (IML) district tournament in Bayfield, where the Pirates finished second behind Centauri.

As the district champion, Centauri is entering state action as the No. 2 seed and will host action this weekend.

Monte Vista also earned a bid to the state tournament and is the No. 17 seed and will travel to Sterling, home of the state's No. 1-seeded team.

Alamosa

The Lady Pirates first faced off against the Alamosa Mean Moose at the district tournament in Bayfield on Thursday.

Pagosa jumped to an early lead in the game, holding a 17-8 lead by the end of the first quarter and 29-14 lead at halftime.

The Mean Moose, however, picked away at Pagosa's lead over the course of the second half, outscoring the Pirates 9-7 in the third quarter and 21-12 in the fourth.

The Pirates held on, however, and ended the game with a 48-44 win.

Wes Lewis noted the team played well in spurts and was good early, but was careless with the ball at the end of the second.

The Pirates didn't get a lot done

in the third, he said, but neither did Alamosa, and the Pirates maintained the lead.

Part of the Pirates' fourth-quarter trouble, he said, was not taking care of the ball, while another factor was fouling the Mean Moose, allowing them to score from the free-throw line without the clock running.

The Pirates led by 15 with two minutes to go, the coach noted, but between giving up 3-pointers and fouling, that lead dissipated.

Regardless, the four-point victory was enough to send the Lady Pirates to the district championship game on Saturday, where they faced rival Centauri.

Morgan Lewis logged 28 points against Alamosa including one

3-pointer; Alondra Hernandez tallied nine; Devin Wilson logged four; Hailey Griego, Megan Farrah and Ada Peshlakai each added two; and Zoee Strohecker recorded one point.

Fifteen of Pagosa's points came from the charity stripe out of 25 attempts.

The team rebounded the ball 26 times in the game, led by nine from Morgan Lewis.

The Lady Pirates turned the ball over 18 times in the game and stole the ball six times.

Centauri

The Lady Pirates then faced off against the Falcons for the third time this season and again fell short

■ See Ladies A14

Pirates

■ Continued from A12
ended the game with a final score of 62-41.

"The kids came out Saturday and played well against Centauri. That is hard to do after such a tough loss and expending so much energy," the coach commented. "The kids deserve a lot of credit for that!"

Two Pirates logged double digits in the scoring column for the game: Griego scored 19 points on the night (including a 3-pointer) and Brown followed with 16 points (including two 3-pointers).

Pacheco followed with nine points, Laverty and Cowan each

logged eight (each with a 3-pointer), and Kimsey put up two points.

Of the Pirates' 62 points, 21 came from the free-throw line in 29 attempts.

The team tallied 20 rebounds in the game, led by eight from Griego.

Pagosa turned the ball over nine times in the game, and stole the ball nine times.

"It was another really good team win with lots of kids playing and contributing," Sorenson wrote. "It was a win that we definitely needed if we were going to advance to the playoffs."

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Continued from previous page

specifications.

H. Electric Service will be provided to an Association-owned meter. Installation, ownership, and maintenance of the service wire from the meter to the load location are the responsibility of the Applicant.

I. The National Electrical Safety Code specifies certain requirements for the general safety of the public. Should any person or party cause the facilities of the Association to be in violation of these requirements, the Association will cause all activity to cease in relation to these violations until remedial action can be taken. The cost of the remedial action will be presented to the person or party responsible for payment, and payment must be made before the activity may resume.

J. Single phase primary extensions will be installed underground in those areas where, at the sole discretion of the Association, an overhead line will be subject to increased maintenance costs due to environmental events, tree trimming, raptor protection and other types of maintenance over the years. No overhead single phase primary extension will be installed in an area served by an established underground system unless:

a. Mandated by local codes, ordinances, and/or covenants.
b. At the sole discretion of the Association, prudent engineering and approved RUS underground design standards cannot be maintained to ensure public safety.

K. Three phase primary extensions may be installed either underground or overhead as mandated by local codes, ordinances and/or covenants.

L. If the Association must purchase or condemn right-of-way, it will do so at the expense of the Applicant. Actual expenses associated with the purchase or condemnation of right-of-way, such as, surveying, special archeological or environmental studies and permitting, as well as the estimated expenses for the construction of roads and reclamation of land will be advanced prior to releasing the Work Order for construction; all such costs will be nonrefundable.

M. The Association will release the Work Order for construction after receipt of the following:

a. Payments required from the Applicant in accordance with the classification of the Line Extension.
b. An executed written contract for the service, as may be required, and in accordance with the classification of the Line Extension.
c. All other necessary permits, easements and required documents pertinent to the Line Extension.

N. The Association will order material for the Line Extension only after funds required for the Line Extension Classification have been paid by the Applicant, or after a deposit for the estimated cost of materials is made.

a. In the event a deposit for materials has been collected from the Applicant and the Line Extension request is terminated by the Applicant prior to installation of the materials, and provided the materials can be returned, the Association will refund the deposit less any costs incurred by the Association as a result of the requisition, including but not limited to, any restocking fees.

III. EXTENSION TO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Association will extend Development Service to platted subdivisions and/or developments upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will enter into a written Developer's Agreement with the Association for Electric Service to all lots or units of the development. If the local planning authority allows for platting of the development and infrastructure improvement to be accomplished in "phases", the Association may, at its sole discretion, allow for installation of the electrical infrastructure in "phases".

B. The Association will require 100% of the estimated cost of construction as Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

C. As a provision of the Developer's Agreement, all or a portion of the Advance Payment for the extension of Electric Service to a subdivision or development may be refunded to the Applicant.

D. Refunds are conditioned upon design and installation.
E. If the final design and installation includes all electric facilities up to the point of metering, refunds will be calculated as a "per lot" or "per unit" rebate. The amount of the rebate will be derived by dividing the amount of Advance Payment that is eligible for refund by the number of lots or units to be served by the Line Extension, and is capped by the amount that is established in "Exhibit A". The maximum refundable amount will not exceed the capped amount as established in "Exhibit A" times the number of lots or units which include metering points.

F. "Per lot" or "per unit" Construction Rebates will be initiated upon receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy and permanent connection of a qualifying service within the development, provided the date of permanent connection occurs during the original contract period as established in the Developer's Agreement.

G. In areas where Certificates of Occupancy are not issued, the Association will initiate Construction Rebates when notified of the completion and permanent connection of a qualifying permanent residence within the development, provided the date of permanent connection occurs during the original contract period as established in the Developer's Agreement.

H. No rebates will be made after expiration of the original contract period as established in the Developer's Agreement, and any remaining balance of the Advance Payment will revert permanently to the Association.

I. Only one rebate will be made per original lot or unit. Rebates will not be issued for lots/units created by subsequent resubdivision.

J. If the final design and installation does not include metering points, the Advance Payment will be non-refundable and ineligible for Construction Rebates or Credits.

K. If, as long as no accounts have been connected to the Line Extension, thus, allowing for removal of the Line Extension, the request for Electric Service is withdrawn by the Applicant before expiration of the Developer's Agreement, severance charges may be assessed by the Association, and any un-refunded portion of the Advance Payment will be retained to defray the cost of removal of the Line Extension. Value of salvageable material may be allowed as credit to the cost of removal.

IV. DISTRIBUTIVE GENERATION SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION

The Association will extend infrastructure for connection from a "Distributive Generation System" upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will receive a written estimate of the Cost of Construction for the Line Extension.

B. The Association will require 100% of the estimated Cost of Construction as non-refundable Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

C. Line Extensions connecting the Distributive Generation System to Association infrastructure are not eligible for Construction Credits or Rebates.

V. EXTENSION TO INDETERMINATE COMMERCIAL SERVICES (OF LESS THAN 10 MEGAWATTS IN CAPACITY)

The Association will extend Indeterminate Commercial Service to the

Applicant where the required Electric Service is of less than ten (10) megawatts in capacity upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will enter into a written Indeterminate Commercial Agreement with the Association for Electric Service at the applicable rate schedule.

B. The Association will require 100% of the estimated cost of construction as Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

C. The Association, at its sole discretion, may provide for a refund of the Advance Payment. "Exhibit B – Guidelines for Refunds of Indeterminate Service Classifications" describes the Association's method in determining whether or not a refund will be provided.

D. If it is determined by the Association that a refund of the Advance Payment will not be made, in addition to the Advance Payment, the Applicant will be assessed a fee to cover the cost of future retirement of the Line Extension.

E. If a refund of the Advance Payment is going to be made, it will be calculated at the end of the agreement's anniversary month. The refund will be one-tenth (1/10) of the revenue received by the Association as derived from the electric service under the agreement. However, the refund will not be greater than one-tenth (1/10) of the original Advance Payment. No refunds will be made after ten (10) years, and any remaining Advance Payment will revert permanently to the Association to defray any installation or removal costs. Refunds will not be made on that portion of the costs associated with expenses outlined in Section II. L. (right-of-way acquisition and permitting costs).

F. In cases where the Advance Payment is an amount which would not be within the best interests of the Association to administer refund tracking over the 10 year term of the Indeterminate Commercial Agreement, the Association, at its sole discretion, may refund the Advance Payment, or any remaining portion thereof, prior to expiration of the Indeterminate Commercial Agreement.

G. If, at the Applicant's request, the Electric Service is terminated before expiration of the Indeterminate Commercial Agreement, severance charges may be assessed by the Association, and any un-refunded portion of the Advance Payment will be retained to defray the cost of removal of the Line Extension. Value of salvageable material may be allowed as credit to the cost of removal.

VI. EXTENSION TO INDETERMINATE COMMERCIAL SERVICES (OF 10 MEGAWATTS OR GREATER CAPACITY)

The Association will extend Indeterminate Commercial Service to the Applicant where the required Electric Service is of ten (10) megawatts or greater capacity upon the following terms and conditions:

A. Applicant will enter into a written contract with the Association for Electric Service at the applicable rate schedule.

B. The Association will require an Advance Payment from the Applicant. The amount and schedule of Advance Payment will be determined through "project-specific" negotiation between the Applicant and the Association.

C. The Association, at its sole discretion, may provide for refund of the Advance Payment. If it is determined by the Association that a refund will be made, the amount and terms for such refund will be defined in a separate contract to be executed between the Applicant and the Association.

D. When the Work Order is closed, a final reconciliation of all costs of construction will be performed. In the event that the Advance Payment exceeds the final cost accounting, the Association will refund the difference. In the event that the costs of construction exceed the amount of the Advance Payment, the Association will invoice the Applicant for the difference.

E. If, at the Applicant's request, the Electric Service is terminated before expiration of the negotiated contract, severance charges may be assessed by the Association, and any un-refunded portion of the Advance Payment will be retained to defray the cost of removal of the Line Extension. Value of salvageable material may be allowed as a credit to the cost of removal.

VII. EXTENSION TO INDETERMINATE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

The Association will extend "Indeterminate Residential Service" to the Applicant upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will receive a written estimate of the Cost of Construction for the Line Extension which, upon signing by the Applicant, will serve as agreement for Electric Service at the applicable rate schedule. The Association will require 100% of the estimated Cost of Construction as non-refundable Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

VIII. EXTENSION TO PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Association will extend Permanent Residential Service to the Applicant upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will receive a written estimate of the Cost of Construction for the Line Extension which, upon signing by the Applicant, will serve as agreement for Electric Service at the applicable rate schedule.

B. The Association will require 100% of the estimated Cost of Construction less any applicable Construction Credit, as described in "Exhibit A", as Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

C. If the Applicant purchases and installs an Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating system, the estimated Cost of Construction and subsequent Advance Payment will include only the cost to install a 200 Amp service. The difference in cost between the 200 Amp service and a comparable service of sufficient capacity to serve the increased electrical demand of the ETS installation will be funded by the Association.

IX. RELOCATION AND CONVERSION OF FACILITIES

The Association will review any need for relocation of existing facilities, voltage/phase changes and/or the conversion of any existing facilities from overhead to underground or vice-versa upon the following terms and conditions:

A. If modification is at the Applicant's request or is required as a result of activities of the Applicant, as outlined in Section II. - I., the Applicant will receive a written estimate of the Cost of Construction.

B. Relocations and/or conversions are not eligible for Construction Credits or Rebates.

C. The Association will require 100% of the estimated Cost of Construction as non-refundable Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

X. REMOVAL OF FACILITIES

The Association will review any request for removal of existing facilities.

A. The Association will require 100% of the estimated cost of removal as non-refundable Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for removal.

B. Removal of Facilities are not eligible for Construction Credits or Rebates.

XI. RENTAL LIGHTS – (Area Lighting – Private Owner Applications)

The Association will extend service to the Applicant for a rental light(s) intended to light an area other than public roadways, pedestrian walk-

ways and other commercial applications upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will enter into a written Rental Light Agreement with the Association for rental light(s) at the applicable rate schedule.

B. The Association will require 100% of the estimated Cost of Construction (less the cost of material and labor for the pole, light arm and light fixture) as non-refundable Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

XII. RENTAL LIGHTS – (Road/Pedestrian Way Lighting & Commercial Applications)

The Association will extend service to the Applicant for a rental light(s) or lighting circuit intended to light areas such as public roadways, pedestrian walkways and other commercial applications upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will enter into a written Rental Light Agreement with the Association for rental light(s) at the applicable rate schedule.

B. The Applicant will submit a lighting plan that meets local regulatory requirements to the Association.

C. The Association will require 100% of the estimated Cost of Construction (including the cost of material and labor for the pole, light arm and light fixture) as non-refundable Advance Payment

XIII. SERVICE UPGRADE

The Association will upgrade an existing Residential or Commercial Electric Service upon the following terms and conditions:

A. Upgrade to the Electric Service is limited to a transformer, secondary conductor and metering equipment that would normally be supplied by the Association.

B. Modification of primary voltage lines serving the transformer will not be included and will be considered "Relocation and Conversion of Facilities" as described in Section IX.

C. Requests for voltage/phase changes are not considered service upgrade and will be considered "Relocation and Conversion of Facilities" as described in Section IX.

D. The Electric Service to be upgraded must have been continuously connected, also, registering consistent usage (for purposes other than construction) for not less than 12 months previous to the request.

E. The Applicant must provide supporting documentation with the request for Service Upgrade that demonstrates sufficient increased electrical demand from additional load to justify service upgrade.

F. If the Applicant purchases and installs an Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating system, the Association will waive the requirement outlined in D. above.

G. Service upgrade to a qualifying existing "Permanent Residential Service" will be funded by the Association.

H. If, at the Applicant's request, the existing service to a qualifying "Indeterminate Commercial Service", is upgraded before expiration of the original Indeterminate Commercial Agreement, a new Indeterminate Commercial Agreement will be executed to include the remaining refundable amount of the original deposit plus the estimated cost to upgrade the service.

I. The Association will require 100% of the estimated cost of upgrade as Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

J. Refund of the Advance Payment plus the remainder of the refundable amount of the original deposit will be as outlined in Section V.

XIV. EXTENSION TO SUBSTATION AND/OR TRANSMISSION SERVICES

The Association will extend Substation and/or Transmission Service where, due to location and/or electrical demand, as determined by the Association, it is warranted:

A. The Applicant will enter into a written Substation/Transmission Service Agreement with the Association.

B. The Association will require an Advance Payment from the Applicant. The amount and schedule of Advance Payment will be determined through "project-specific" negotiation between the Applicant and the Association.

C. The Association, at its sole discretion, may provide for refund of the Advance Payment. If it is determined by the Association that a refund will be made, the amount and terms for such refund will be defined in a separate contract to be executed between the Applicant and the Association.

D. When the Work Order is closed, a final reconciliation of all costs of construction will be performed. In the event that the Advance Payment exceeds the final cost accounting, the Association will refund the difference. In the event that the costs of construction exceed the amount of the Advance Payment, the Association will invoice the Applicant for the difference.

E. If, at the Applicant's request, the Electric Service is terminated before expiration of the Substation/ Transmission Service Agreement, severance charges may be assessed by the Association, and any un-refunded portion of the Advance Payment will be retained to defray the cost of removal of the Line Extension. Value of salvageable material, as determined by the Association may be allowed as a credit to the cost of removal.

XV. EXTENSION TO TEMPORARY SERVICES

The Association will extend Temporary Service to the Applicant upon the following terms and conditions:

A. The Applicant will receive a written estimate of the Cost of Construction for the Line Extension which, upon signing by the Applicant, will serve as agreement for Electric Service at the applicable rate schedule.

B. Extensions to Temporary Services are not eligible for Construction Credits or Rebates.

C. The Association will require 100% of the estimated cost of installation and removal (less the value of salvageable material) as non-refundable Advance Payment prior to releasing the Work Order for construction.

Copies of the proposed Line Extension Policy and exact language of the proposed changes are available for review on the Cooperative's website at www.lpea.coop or at the below described business offices:

Durango Main Office Pagosa Springs District Office
25 Stewart St. (Bodo Park) 603 S. 8th St.
Durango, CO 81303 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Consumers who have questions concerning any of the proposed changes may call La Plata Electric Association at (970)247-5786. Anyone who desires to contest the proposed changes shall file a written complaint with La Plata Electric Association, PO Box 2750, Durango, CO 81302 at least fourteen (14) days before the proposed effective date.

The Cooperative may hold a hearing to determine what changes will be authorized. The changes ultimately authorized may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different from those Rates, Rules and Regulations proposed or currently in effect. Anyone who desires to receive notification of hearing, if any, shall make a written request therefore to the Cooperative, at the above address, at least fourteen (14) days before the proposed effective date.
Michael Dreyspring
Chief Executive Officer

Continued on next page

Exhibit A - Construction Credit/Rebate Calculation Example

CONSTRUCTION CREDIT is based upon the following formula: Revenue less the Sum of the Cost of Purchased Power, Customer Expenses, Administrative and General Expenses, and Return divided by the Plant Factor. The Return is defined as the minimum required to meet RUS Operating TIER requirements. The Plant Factor is defined as being a fixed charge rate that includes the O&M, Depreciation, Taxes and Interest as a percent of Plant. The above formula will be computed using Residential data from the most recent Cost of Service Study.

Data obtained from the 2006 Cost of Service Study
Total number of residential customers: 35,623

	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL	ANNUAL COST PER CUSTOMER
1. Residential Revenue:	\$25,387,151	\$713
2. Residential Cost of Purchased Power:	\$13,883,378	\$390
3. Residential Customer Expenses:	\$2,522,315	\$71
4. Residential Administrative and General:	\$1,621,327	\$46
5. Residential Return:	\$253,380	\$7
6. Total (Sum 2 to 5)	\$18,134,400	\$514
7. Difference (1-6)	\$7,106,751	\$199
PLANT FACTOR		
8. Residential Operation and Maintenance:	4.5%	4.5%
9. Residential Depreciation:	2.9%	2.9%
10. Residential Interest:	6.0%	6.0%
11. Total (Sum 8 to 10)	13.3%	13.3%
12. CONSTRUCTION CREDIT (item 7 divided by item 11)	\$53,434,218	\$1,500

Exhibit C – Engineering Fee Schedule

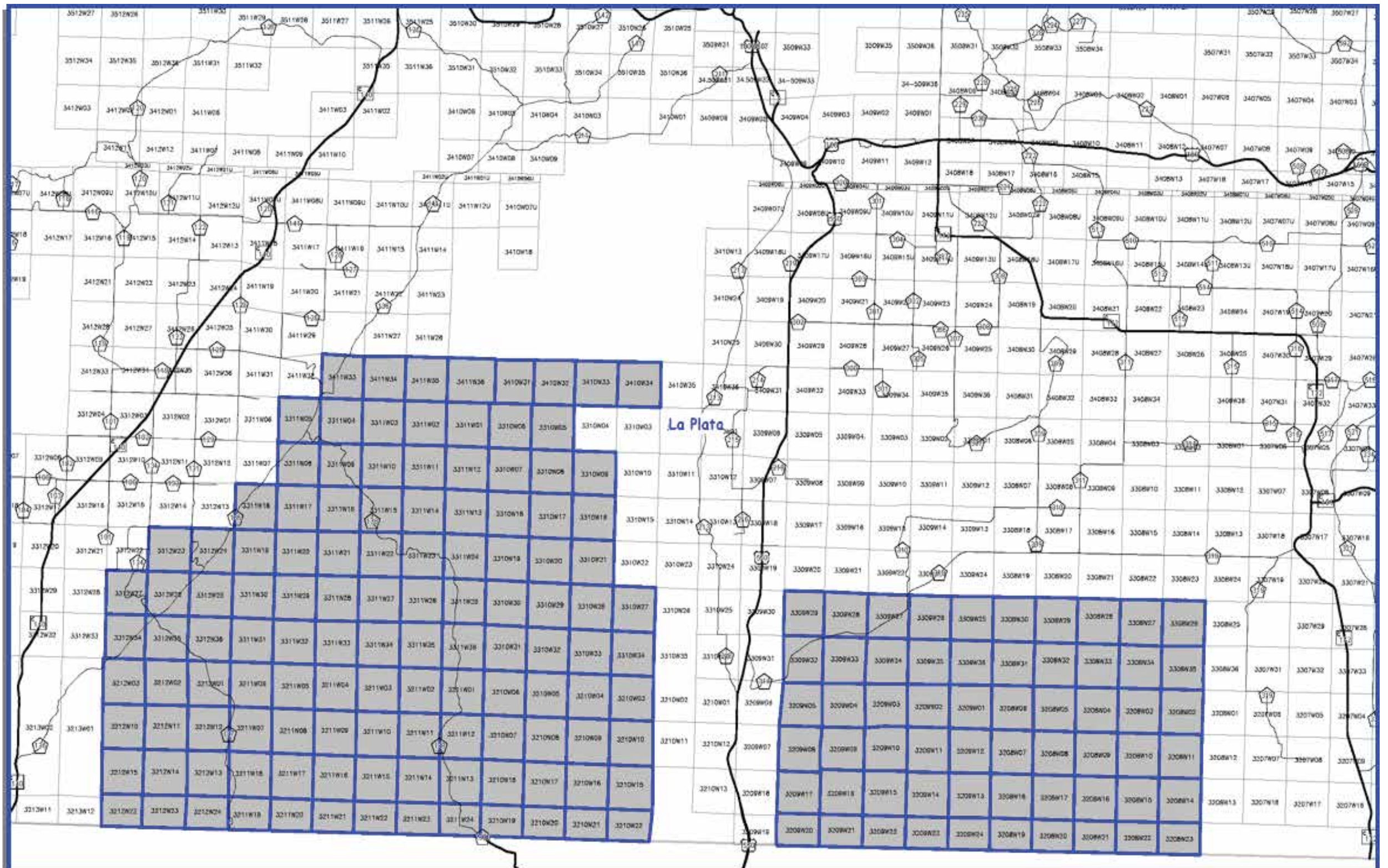
Residential	
Permanent Residential Service	Minimum of \$300 per Application*
Indeterminate Residential Service	
Rental Light (Private Owner)	
Commercial	
Indeterminate Commercial Service < 10 Megawatts	Minimum of \$500 per Application*
Rental Lights (Commercial Applications)	
Temporary Service	
Mineral Extraction or Transportation	
Minimum of \$2500 per application*	
Development Service	
Minimum of \$500 per lot up to \$5000*	
Modification of Existing Facilities	
Relocation	Minimum of \$500 per Application*
Conversion	
Service Upgrade	
Indeterminate Commercial Service ≥ 10 Megawatts	
Minimum of \$5000 per Application*	
Substation and/or Transmission Service	
Minimum of \$5000 per Application*	
Applicant Installed Infrastructure	
Inspection Fee	Minimum of \$500 per Application*
Re-inspection Fee	Minimum of \$500 per re-inspection*

* Additional fees, as warranted, may be collected until the Work Order has been released for construction.

Exhibit B – Guidelines for Refunding of Indeterminate Service Classifications

As a guideline, the following Townships, Ranges and Sections are areas where a refund will not typically be made for Indeterminate Commercial Service classifications. To receive a refund in these areas, the Applicant must provide evidence to the Association, that the Line Extension is intended for long term commercial use. Upon being provided with evidence of a long term use of the Line Extension, the Association will determine whether or not a refund will be made available. The Association intends to only provide refunds to Indeterminate Commercial Services when the service and its electrical infrastructure are expected to be used by the Applicant or other members of the Association beyond 30 years.

32.09w.20	32.09w.17	32.09w.08	32.09w.05	33.09w.32	33.09w.29	
32.09w.21	32.09w.16	32.09w.09	32.09w.04	33.09w.33	33.09w.28	
32.09w.22	32.09w.15	32.09w.10	32.09w.03	33.09w.34	33.09w.27	
32.09w.23	32.09w.14	32.09w.11	32.09w.02	33.09w.35	33.09w.26	
32.09w.24	32.09w.13	32.09w.12	32.09w.01	33.09w.36	33.09w.25	
32.08w.19	32.08w.18	32.08w.07	32.08w.06	33.08w.31	33.08w.30	
32.08w.20	32.08w.17	32.08w.08	32.08w.05	33.08w.32	33.08w.29	
32.08w.21	32.08w.16	32.08w.09	32.09w.04	33.08w.33	33.08w.28	
32.08w.22	32.08w.15	32.08w.10	32.09w.03	33.08w.34	33.08w.27	
32.08w.23	32.08w.14	32.08w.11	32.09w.02	33.08w.35	33.08w.26	
32.12w.22	32.12w.15	32.12w.10	32.12w.03	33.12w.34	33.12w.27	
32.12w.23	32.12w.14	32.12w.11	32.12w.02	33.12w.35	33.12w.26	33.12w.23
32.12w.24	32.12w.13	32.12w.12	32.12w.01	33.12w.36	33.12w.25	33.12w.24
32.11w.19	32.11w.18	32.11w.07	32.11w.06	33.11w.31	33.11w.30	33.11w.19
32.11w.20	32.11w.17	32.11w.08	32.11w.05	33.11w.32	33.11w.29	33.11w.20
32.11w.21	32.11w.16	32.11w.09	32.11w.04	33.11w.33	33.11w.28	33.11w.21
32.11w.22	32.11w.15	32.11w.10	32.11w.03	33.11w.34	33.11w.27	33.11w.22
32.11w.23	32.11w.14	32.11w.11	32.11w.02	33.11w.35	33.11w.26	33.11w.23
32.11w.24	32.11w.13	32.11w.12	32.11w.01	33.11w.36	33.11w.25	33.11w.24
32.10w.19	32.10w.18	32.10w.07	32.10w.06	33.10w.31	33.10w.30	33.10w.19
32.10w.20	32.10w.17	32.10w.08	32.10w.05	33.10w.32	33.10w.29	33.10w.20
32.10w.21	32.10w.16	32.10w.09	32.10w.04	33.10w.33	33.10w.28	33.10w.21
32.10w.22	32.10w.15	32.10w.10	32.10w.03	33.10w.34	33.10w.27	
33.11w.18						
33.11w.17	33.11w.08	33.11w.05				
33.11w.16	33.11w.09	33.11w.04	33.11w.33			
33.11w.15	33.11w.10	33.11w.03	33.11w.34			
33.11w.14	33.11w.11	33.11w.02	33.11w.35			
33.11w.13	33.11w.12	33.11w.01	33.11w.36			
33.10w.18	33.10w.07	33.10w.06	33.10w.31			
33.10w.17	33.10w.08	33.10w.05	33.10w.32			
33.10w.16	33.10w.09		33.10w.33			
			33.10w.34			



December: Year-to-date sales tax 9 percent ahead of 2015

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

Sales tax collections in Archuleta County in 2016 finished out the year ahead of revenues collected in 2015.

The total sales tax collection in December for Archuleta County was \$858,244.46, according to a report issued on Feb. 17 by Archuleta County Finance Director Larry Walton.

The town and county each received \$429,122.23.

"The year to date (January through December) 2016 sales tax is \$761,941 (9%) ahead of the same period in 2015," reads Walton's report. "This is higher than the rate of growth anticipated by the County budget for this period of time."

The report lists the following categories as being up for the same 12-month period in 2015.

Revenue generated by retail trade went up 12.6 percent, or \$536,499.

Accommodations and food service increased 6.3 percent, up \$94,971.

Wholesale trade increased 19.7 percent, up \$64,531.

Manufacturing increased 9.1 percent, up \$35,809.

The "other services" category went up 12.5 percent, or \$17,710.

Utilities increased 2.1 percent, or \$13,864.

Real estate/rental increased 6.6 percent, up \$16,295.

Arts and entertainment increased 7.9 percent, or \$6,459.

The following categories were down over the same period in 2015.

Miscellaneous decreased 8.7 percent, by \$9,569.

Administrative and support was down 44.5 percent, or \$9,569.

Information decreased one percent, or \$3,281.

Mining was down 7.1 percent, or \$8,312.

The construction and professional and scientific categories were relatively unchanged from 2015.

In a month-to-month comparison, breaking the sales tax report down by sector, revenue generated by retail trade went from \$423,967 in December of 2015 to \$465,730 in December of 2016, for an increase of \$41,763.

Revenue generated by accom-

modations and food service went from \$113,545 in December of 2015 to \$135,054 in December 2016, for an increase of \$21,509.

Arts, entertainment and recreation, a sector of the local economy that is greatly influenced by tourism, went from \$12,465 in December of 2015 to \$13,111 in December 2016, for an increase of \$646.

The real estate industry garnered \$43,960, increasing \$5,770, while the construction industry contributed \$15,669, an increase of \$893, compared to December 2015.

Wholesale trade brought in \$23,225, an increase of \$221; manufacturing brought in \$32,568, a decrease of \$99; and mining brought in \$4,015, a decrease of \$2,821 compared to December of last year.

The information industry garnered \$26,523, an increase of \$1,240 from December of 2015.

Professional, scientific and technical services contributed \$4,002, an increase of \$1,592.

Administrative, support, waste management and remediation services generated \$1,198, a decrease of \$1,329 compared to last year.

marshall@pagosasun.com

Card of Thanks

Fix-It-Free Day

Due to the snow storm, we had a lower-than-average turnout for the 15th annual Computer Fix-It-Free Day last month. Held on Jan. 21, the annual Computer Fix-It-Free Day was still a success, demonstrating what a wonderful, supportive community we live in: four local technicians worked on six computers and smartphones for individuals with limited income. We also donated some refurbished computers to the Humane Society Thrift Store.

This has truly become a community event. Thanks to Raymond Rent-A-Nerd for providing paid advertising and directing the entire event.

Thank you to Linda Stuckwisch and Heidi Martinez with The Train-

ing Advantage for eligibility and scheduling; Mike Stoll with the Humane Society for computer parts, donuts and hot coffee; Brad VanWormer with Subway for sandwiches to feed our hungry technicians; and Laurie Gutierrez with the Ross Aragon Community Center for the room.

A very special thank you to the technicians who selflessly gave their time and expertise: Jarrett Chaney, Kurt Raymond, Frank Simbeck and Josh Smolenski.

Thanks again for all those who make this event possible.

GGP

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership was recently awarded a \$3,000 Impact Grant from the Community Foundation serving

Southwest Colorado. The GGP will use the grant funds to produce six Lifelong Learning workshops in 2017, including the fifth Colorado Environmental Film Festival Caravan.

The GGP appreciates the Community Foundation for all they do for nonprofit organizations in southwest Colorado. In 2016, we participated in their 19th Hole Concert Series and the Balantine Family Fund opportunity that the Community Foundation administers. We look forward to working with them well into the future.

Thank you to the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado.

Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, Sally High

PFPD won't try for mill levy increase in 2017

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors hinted at the idea of not attempting to get a mill levy increase in 2017 during its regular meeting on Feb. 14.

The topic was brought up by director Dave Blake, who said, "Should we be doing some preliminary timeline planning for, however problematic it might be, for a mill levy?"

PFPD Chief Randy Larson replied, "Yes and no. I think we've already got that in the process by working on our strategic plan. We

need that strategic plan so that we can go to the voters and say, 'This is what we're doing, this is what it costs us, this is where we need to try to be in three to five years, and this is what it's going to take for us to get there.'"

Continued Larson, "To me, without that, we're shooting ourselves in the foot. We really need that plan we have to have all of our ducks in a row, and have to be absolutely certain with what we need and how we need to go about it ... the timing's just not right."

Larson later added that he would allow for a staffing study,

which would be able to provide evidence to the voters about what the PFPD actually needs to operate as a fire district.

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