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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 108 — NO. 52, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Candidate forum tonight

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Archuleta County voters will have an opportunity tonight to meet the six candidates for two positions on the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners and hear their views in a candidate forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters (LWV).

The forum is the first of two the LWV will hold leading up to the November elections.

The county commissioner candidate forum will be held tonight, Sept. 22, at the Extension Building on U.S. 84 beginning at 6 p.m.

A ballot issue forum is planned for Oct. 13 at the same time and

■ See Forum A8

Chacon death most likely due to gunshot head wound

By **Marshall Dunham**
Staff Writer



Chacon

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) has released a statement indicating Andrew Chacon, whose remains were found off of Mill Creek Road in August, likely died of a gunshot wound to the head.

The remains were discovered by U.S. Forest Service personnel.

"The most likely cause of death to Andrew Chacon was a gunshot wound to the head, but until the rest of his remains are found, we can't answer that with 100 percent certainty," said ACSO Undersheriff

■ See Chacon A8



Photo courtesy Beth Tollefsen

Lady Jester, piloted by Robert Lupton, of Albuquerque, N.M., is reflected during Sunday morning's ascension in the Pagosa Lakes area. Sunday was the second of the Colorfest balloon ascensions to occur in the skies over Pagosa Springs, with the first taking place down

New justice center to be on Hot Springs Boulevard

By **Marshall Dunham**
Staff Writer

On Monday, Sept. 19, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted that the county's new justice center will be located on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The county had two separate options when it came to locating the new justice center, with one being the Parelli building, and the other being a parcel the county owns that is located on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The Parelli building, which the BoCC now refers to as "the uptown location," is located in the Aspen Village shopping complex, near

Walmart.

The Hot Springs Boulevard location is a parcel located on the east side of Hot Springs Boulevard, across the street from Town Hall and the Ross Aragon Community Center.

This parcel was sold to the county with a deed restriction that doesn't allow a jail on the property, and the county would have to pay to lift that restriction.

"During this process, we hired the best consultants that we could find in the matter, and we've produced excellent data for us over and over again," began BoCC Chairman Michael Whiting. "We've

■ See County A8

Dispute over legal fees looms in town suit

By **Jim Garrett**
Staff Writer

The Town of Pagosa Springs is disputing the reasonableness of local attorney Matt Roane's fees in a suit that resulted in the finding that the town violated the Colorado Open Meetings (Sunshine) Law a year ago.

A brief filed on Sept. 19 in Archuleta County District Court on behalf of the town by Denver attorney Steven J. Dawes contends that although Roane's charges per hour are reasonable, he devoted more time to the suit than needed. Roane's total legal fees are reported as \$34,400 in a petition he presented to the Court on Aug. 30.

Roane represented local resident Bill Hudson in the suit. Hudson contended that the town illegally permitted representatives of Springs Partners LLC, a "contract adversary," to participate in an executive session on Sept. 17, 2015.

The town contended that the session was convened under a part of the Sunshine Law exempting planning and preparation for negotiations from the broad mandate for public meetings. But the suit resulted in a finding by Judge Gregory G. Lyman last month that the town violated the law by inviting attendance of the Partners and conducting actual negotiations in the private session.

Lyman ordered the town on Aug. 8 to release for public inspection a tape recording made of the private session. The town complied with the order on Aug. 19, after the Town Council decided not to appeal the ruling at its meeting a day earlier.

The improper negotiations last year concerned possible amendment of an agreement reached in 2012 between the town and the Partners relating to a proposed downtown real estate develop-

■ See Legal A8



SUN photo/Marshall Dunham

Color came in multiple forms during Colorfest last weekend, from the balloons in the skies to the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program's annual Color Run. Participants were splashed with color at several stations along the course, then took advantage of the remaining color to create a "color bomb" at the finish line.

Man charged with illegal marijuana grow

By **Marshall Dunham**
Staff Writer

On Sept. 10, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) arrested an individual for growing marijuana plants in the greenbelt behind his house.

According to ACSO Undersheriff Tonya Hamilton, the ACSO received a tip of a man growing marijuana plants on the greenbelt between Mashie Court and Handicap Avenue.

Hamilton explained that the tip came from an employee of the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners As-

sociation in early September, and that a case was opened Sept. 9.

The property is currently owned by Wyndham Hotels and Resorts.

The ACSO investigated the area, found the grow site, and set up surveillance to watch it.

Hamilton explained that surveillance captured the man walking between his house and the grow site, and that the grow site contained items such as an extension cord, a 55-gallon drum, and pumps used to water the plants.

Hamilton said that the grow area

■ See Marijuana A8

Index

Opinion A2
Letters A3
Business A6
County's unemployment rate decreases to 3.1 percent
Outdoors A11
DUST2 bringing Tony Boone to Public Lands Day Celebration

Sports A13
Pirates show up big in Durango, host Saturday
Public Notices B1-B8
PREVIEW
Live Performers 2
Crossword 16
SUDOKU 24
Classifieds 29



Opinion

EDITORIAL

Frustrations

Horrendous traffic problems caused by the Colorado Department of Transportation's not-so-perfectly timed restriping, resurfacing and traffic light work along with the suffocating smoke from controlled burns have been a little more than frustrating lately. For those attempting to access the elementary school and high school, the town's road and sidewalk projects have added to that frustration.

Hopefully, putting up with a little inconvenience will smooth out traffic issues for our community and safety issues for children walking to school.

The smoke was pretty unbearable, but for those of us who endured months of smoke from the West Fork Complex wildfires, we hope the work done to mitigate devastating wildfires through controlled burns will prove to be successful in the future.

Thankfully, last weekend's Colorfest activities lifted spirits throughout the community and some of the frustrations were eased for a short time. We applaud the work of the Chamber of Commerce staff for orchestrating such a delightful weekend of events. The restaurants, hot air balloon pilots, brewers, bands and numerous volunteers pulled together to demonstrate why we love living in Pagosa Springs. Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program's Color Run under Colorado skies filled with hot air balloons had great attendance and added to the weekend's enjoyment.

Unfortunately, the frustrations returned Monday with continued traffic snarls. The commissioner's decision regarding the location of a future justice center for the sheriff's office, detention, courts and probation on Monday afternoon added to some people's frustrations.

We applaud the commission on moving forward and making a tough decision. The commissioners didn't make a \$28 million decision. They picked a location — the same location that the citizens on the county's courthouse site recommendation committee had decided on in May of 2015.

On June 4, 2015, SUN staff writer Randi Pierce reported, "More than a dozen citizens met at the Archuleta County administration building twice in May to discuss the best location(s) for new county facilities and, in the end, decided that the county's property on Hot Springs Boulevard would be the best location.

"That site, however, is plagued by deed restrictions that prevent justice and sheriff functions from being located on the site, with the exception of the district attorney and victim advocates.

"Because of that deed restriction, the citizen advisory committee suggested ways of working with or around the deed restrictions, and further directed County Administrator Bentley Henderson and County Attorney Todd Starr that the other sites were not acceptable to the group."

We've spent far too long going around in circles to find ourselves back where we started in making a decision on a location for the county facilities.

We agree with Commissioner Michael Whiting, we can't afford either option. But doing nothing is not an option, either.

Voting for nothing, after the county has invested so much time into numerous meetings and money on extensive research, isn't being conservative; it is being wasteful.

It's time for the commissioners to pull together to come up with a plan for an affordable justice center.

We suggest they bring together a task force to include those citizens who were on the team who helped to lead the way out of the county's financial meltdown not so many years ago. Include the county's very able staff and task them with coming up with some creative solutions to build an affordable justice center including the courts, jail and sheriff's office.

The sooner we build a jail, the safer it will be for everyone concerned so that we can stop the risky business of having county staff transporting inmates.

It's time to deal with the frustrations.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

WHADDYA THINK?

Do you support Amendment 69, or ColoradoCare, the state proposal to enact universal health care?



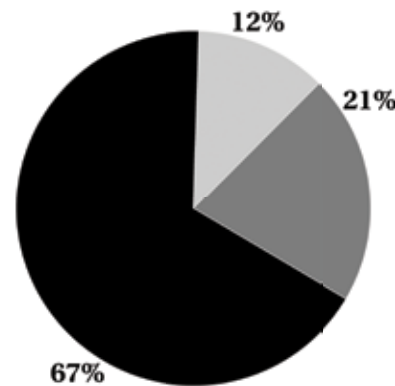
Eddie Ring
"No. I think it is a good premise, but the devil is in the details. Health care for all is good, but at what cost?"



Susan Lawrence
"That's a hard question. We need health care, but I'd rather see the money spent on education."



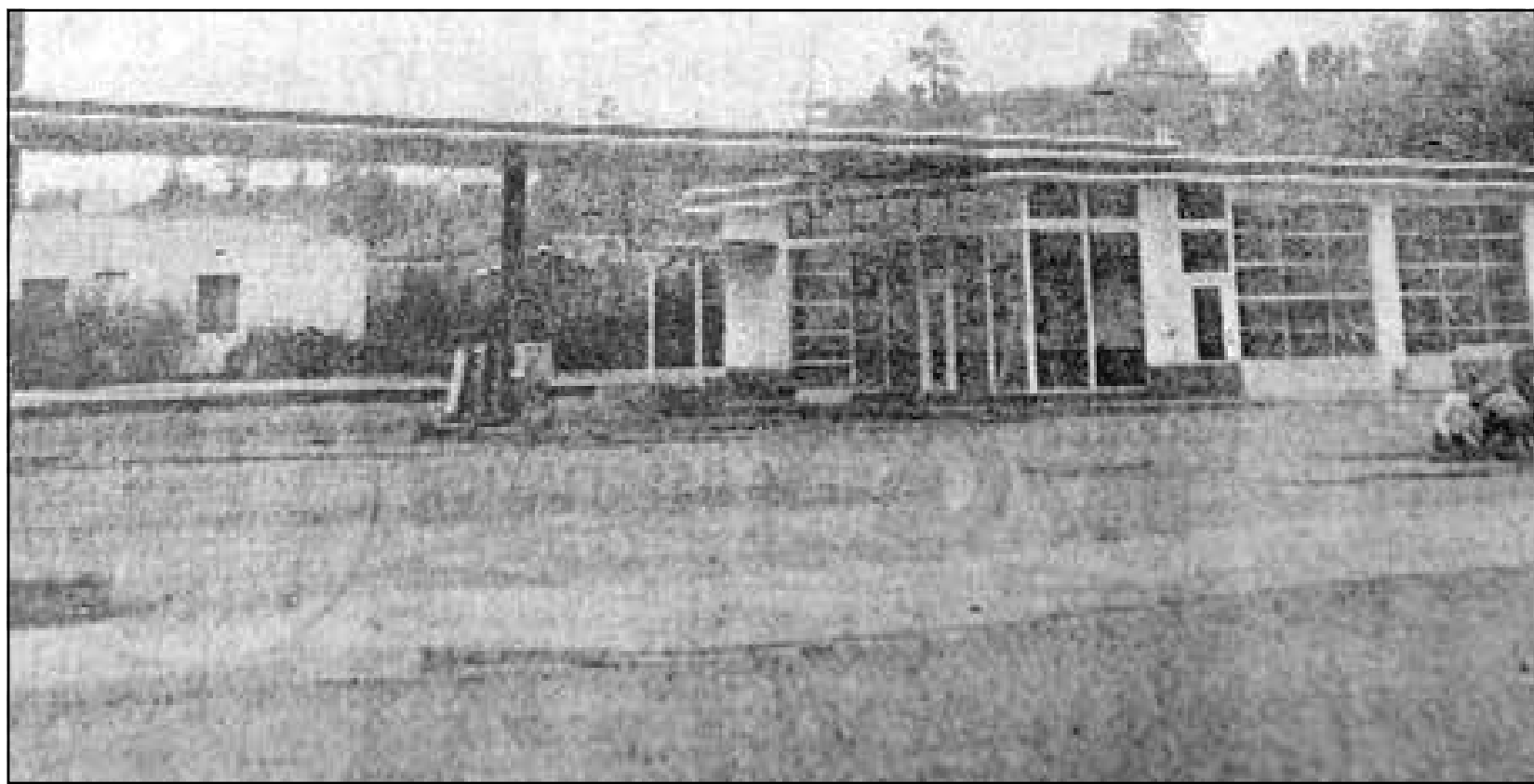
James Jackson
"Yes, I do. I think it would be beneficial for the state to get equal health care for everybody."



Poll results (231 Votes)
Yes — 21 percent
No — 67 percent
Unsure — 12 percent

This week online: Should there be stronger enforcement of animal control laws?
Vote at www.pagosasun.com

LOOKING BACK



From the Sept. 5, 1967, Pagosa Springs SUN. NEW STATION — The new Chevron Service Station in the east edge of Pagosa is nearing completion and will soon be ready for occupancy. The station is located at First and Pagosa Streets opposite the town water plant.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of September 24, 1926
Just before we went to press this afternoon, Amaranthe Martinez sustained what may prove to be fatal injuries when the truck he was driving went over the steep slate bank, just east of the depot, the truck and man being hurled into the river. His companion jumped at the top of the hill, thereby escaping injury. The two men were coming down the old Putnam hill road and driving a Ford truck. The brakes were faulty and they were unable to make the turn in the road near the Frank Matthews residence, hence Martinez headed the truck toward the hill in the hopes that the grade would stop the truck. However, the truck had too much momentum and started over the top of the hill to the river, far below.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of September 26, 1941
Tickets for the new Ski Course went on sale Saturday, and from all reports, sales are exceeding expectations, and with the continued co-operation of every one, the long dreamed of Pagosa Springs Ski-Tow will be a reality.
Dunagan Motor Company is showing the new 1942 model Chevrolet this week. The car on display arrived Thursday and is a black 5-passenger coupe.
Snow fell on the Yellow Jacket divide Monday.
Mrs. George Shahan and Mrs. Irwin Crowley gave a birthday party Sunday afternoon at the Shahan home, in celebration of Bobby Shahan's fifth anniversary, Joe Shahan's 3d anniversary, and Russell Crowley's 4th. Fourteen children were gathered to enjoy the games and the refreshments served.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of September 22, 1966
A new Pontiac station wagon is now in service as the Mounted Ranger ambulance. The new vehicle replaces a second hand Chevrolet that saw many miles of service. The rangers are accepting donations to pay for the new vehicle. The local troop operates the ambulance as a community service and it is maintained and operated without a subsidy from any other organization. The members of the Troop donate their time for manning the ambulance and do not receive any pay. The ambulance service has been very important to everyone here and it has been used many times in cases of emergencies and routine hospital cases. Forty ambulance trips have been made up until September 1st in 1966.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of September 26, 1991
School District 50 Joint officials will hold the first of a quarterly series of accountability meetings tonight, and will offer a five-session series of classes dealing with public school restructuring, beginning on October 2. The school accountability program is designed to include persons of all parts of the community in a process seeking to improve all facets of the education experience in the district. Interested parents, teachers, district staff and members of the general public are urged to attend the meeting. "We will have a meeting like this four times a year," said superintendent Terry Alley. "If a person is interested in learning about the latest in teaching methods and trends, then this is a good place to learn."

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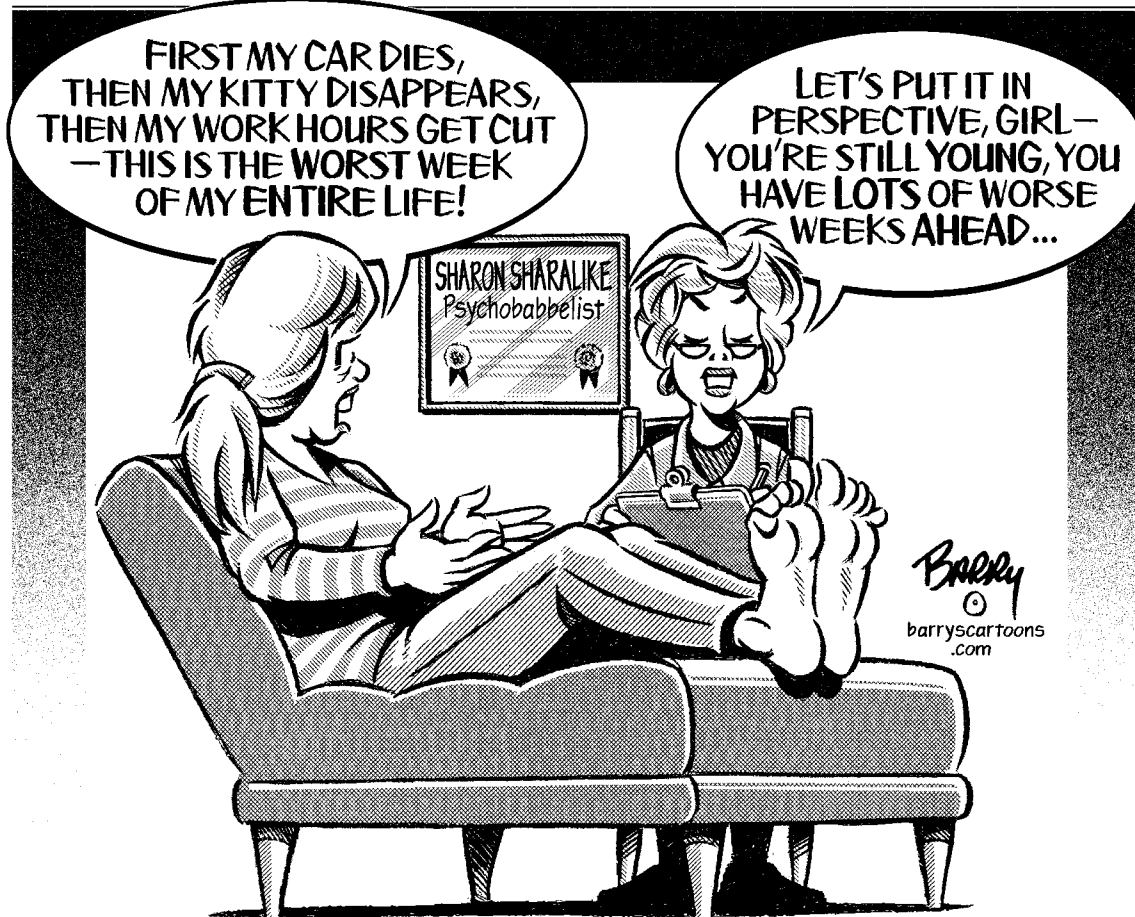
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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
9/14	66	47	R	-	.02"
9/15	69	38	R	-	.05"
9/16	70	31	-	-	-
9/17	72	35	-	-	-
9/18	77	33	-	-	-
9/19	81	37	-	-	-
9/20	74	41	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs
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Letters

Random change

Dear Editor:
Years ago, I had the opportunity, some would have said burden, to travel repeatedly through a crumbling Russian empire called the Soviet Union. It is hard to describe the devastation, depression and waste of generational life that I found. Literally I found a gray pallid world where there was no saving the older generations, by that, I mean over roughly 25 years of age. My emphatic conclusion was the importance of the role America was playing resisting this evil.

I'm convinced Trump is a destructive force for all the opportunities and "good" America's cold warriors achieved. Yes, I know, war after war, lies, blatant heartless use of native populations; but the Soviet Union is gone and we're the remaining superpower. It is what it is.

The author Robert Kaplan using a backpack and highly intelligent curiosity traveled much more ex-

tensively throughout our changing world than myself. I find truth to his observations; we are in a "world of disintegrating nation-states, warring nationalities, metastasizing populations, and dwindling resources ... We live in dangerous times, when a new kind of leadership is required. Visionary and ruthlessly strategic."

Trump is an immoral tactical manipulator for the purpose of his ego. Clinton is the ruthlessly strategic leader we need. Change is constant, but only has value when it has strategy, focus and direction. Underlying Clinton's coldness lays our national interests. Trump would only use, destroy achievement and play into Russian/Chinese aspirations — still want random change?

Dave Blake

Vote for Murri

Dear Editor:

As a former business owner and tenant of the uptown shopping center, I believe Morgan Murri is definitely the best candidate for District 1 county commissioner. He actively encouraged us to expand our downtown business to reach additional customers uptown. Morgan seemed to know both intuitively and by extensive experience what we needed as business people.

He always went the extra mile to brainstorm, strategize and help improve business — it felt much like teamwork. I felt my business, was valued and understood.

To this day, I miss the friendly faces that would stop in just to check in. I miss being a part of the local business community, striving to make Pagosa a place where people want to be and are able to stay. Morgan is leading the charge in that effort. I believe in his abilities so much so that I continue to search for opportunities to involve Morgan in my next venture.

Attend the debate tonight to hear Morgan's plans for a thriving community and vote for Morgan Murri for county commissioner in November.

Ann M. Bubb

Wadley spending

Dear Editor:

Do you want conservative management of your tax dollars? If so, you can't afford to reelect Steve Wadley as a county commissioner. His history of wasteful spending

is not what I expect from a fiscally conservative elected official. Remember the 20-percent pay raise for the most highly paid, elected county workers? Wadley made that happen. He refused to vote on the issue — standing in the hallway while the other commissioners did their jobs — thus causing a split vote. According to the rules, a split vote was a "yes" and the resolution passed. If Wadley had any concern for wisely allocating your tax dollars, he would have voted "no" and worked on a way to support all county workers in a way we can afford. Now, if we're foolish enough to re-elect him, guess who gets a 20-percent raise?

Unfortunately, he was just getting started wasting our money. His vote to support the \$28 million downtown justice center is hard to understand for several reasons. First, the extra debt payments for the most expensive option would be in excess of \$600,000 per year for 25 years if the county can borrow the money. If we can't borrow the money, then we get to raise taxes to pay for it. Second, why would we want a jail downtown in the middle of our prime real estate for attracting business development, tourists and the revenue they bring to our community? When was the last time you chose a jail as a neighbor? We need a new justice center, but does it need to be the most expensive and poorly located? I think not.

Elections have consequences. If we reelect Steve Wadley, is there any reason to expect his behavior to change? I believe we would be confirming our support for his excessive spending.

To borrow a phrase from Wadley's campaign ads — I suggest we Keep Wadley Out of office and out of our wallets.

Kenny Daniels

Primo response

Dear Editor:

It reads like a solve-me joke: "a bearded white lawyer" moves to Archuleta County, writes an open letter to the paper, expresses like-grief for the recently deceased, admits that he trolls the obituaries for his writing material, has picked out a Spanish surname, then presumes to tell us what primo means, he a man from the border who has confused Spanish American culture and word use with Mexico, Mexicans, their border and their woes. And he touches on several

other hot-button issues which I address.

Spanish Americans are not Mexican or Mexican Americans. Out of the abundance of the heart your mouth speaks when you use it and being called a Mexican is derogatory and offensive. It is the equivalent of using the "N" word that he also alluded to in that letter titled "Primo."

The Spanish American decedents (sic) here, of whom I am one, are proud five-, six- and seven-generation kin to the ancient conquistador. We are all-American. We and our culture evolved here. We did not come from Mexico or is their culture ours.

A white-folk theory stands that we Spanish-folk, despite being rooted here for five, six and even seven generations, are a part of the problem of the reported "eleven-billion illegally entered 'Hispanics,'" their catchall term for anyone brown, whom they automatically assume hail from Mexico and have entered here into what they believe is their country, the U.S.

I've got a funny for you. You remember the red man that befriended the fleeing English immigrants? We sent them.

Levity aside, the Spanish community grieves over one of theirs and to blithely use and refer to one of our loved ones name simply as a marker to make a point titled "Primo," having not even known the individual, smacks of disregard. After all, how would you feel if we used your white unknown newly deceased father or brother or uncle or grandpa or friend to tell you something derogatory about yourselves?

It would be like me tossing around the other inflammatory word that was in your letter, the word "gringo." That word around here does show a degree of disregard which we do not often indulge in or feel we have to, being cool like that. But there are exceptions.

A Spanish ancient told me that the word gringo originated when in the past, the local Spaniard male, in jest not ignorance, referred to the uniform-elevated white man

■ See Letters A4

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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
be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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Morgan Murri for County Commissioner

What if we spent our tax money more wisely?

Every year, the community budget must balance, and represent very smart investments that will help us earn our own success as a community.

As a fiscal conservative, I am completely serious about how your tax money is invested.

Yes

I will run our budget and invest our tax money with extreme care. When we spend our tax money we must choose to invest in our own:

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Letters

■ Continued from A3

who arrived arrayed in their green military regalia; militants dressed in "green coats." It added a bit of levity amongst the Spaniards, because we're first cool like that and like to laugh and be good-natured, and later to make tolerable more strong-arming of the "peasantry" that abounded when the green coats showed up.

Carmen Ferguson

Short on facts

Dear Editor:

I checked Becky Herman's accusations about Rep. J. Paul Brown in last week's paper; unfortunately she was long on accusations and short on facts.

Checking J. Paul's voting record on VoteSmart.org, other websites that analyzed bills in the House, and searched for specific legislation by House Bill number, I finally found three bills that seemed to fit her criteria — waiting until the last hours of the session to bring up things that wouldn't pass.

When asked, J. Paul said the only time that a member of the legislature can amend the state budget is during the budget hearings. That is when he offered two amendments to help K-12 education. Both amendments were defeated by the Democrats on the House floor.

HB 15-1346, passed the House in April 2015 and died in Senate Committee May 2015, required a ballot question be submitted to the voters authorizing the taxation of C-corporation income sheltered in foreign tax havens, increasing state taxes by \$150 million in the first full fiscal year, if passed, and appropriating that \$150 million for K-12 education.

HB 16-1420 was to enterprise the hospital provider fee so that revenue wouldn't count toward the TABOR limit, allowing for growth of an additional \$156 million. HB 16-1450 specified any additional revenue be allocated to provide \$89.5 million to K-12 and higher education after \$66 million went to the Highway Users Trust Fund and to the Severance Tax transfer. Both passed the House April 9 and died in Senate Committee May 10. J. Paul voted "No" on HB 15-1346 and 16-1420 and "Yes" on 16-1450.

These bills were passed by the Democrat House late in the session, knowing they would not pass the Republican Senate, allowing them to use the votes to show how they tried to get more for education but the bad Republicans blocked it. The sad part is that the 2013/2014 Legislation session (when Rep. Mike McLachlan was there and when the legislature was controlled by Democrats) probably could have passed both these bills if they had not been so focused on attacking our Second Amendment rights. Probably none of this would have helped Archuleta schools as our funding comes through the School Finance Act, where we get significantly less per student due to the formulas used.

Brown has become a leader in the House and is representing Archuleta County well. He was the prime sponsor of the South Platte water storage, CDOT accountability and transparency and off-highway vehicle bills, all of which passed with bipartisan votes. We need his experience, knowledge and energy in the legislature. In 2015 and 2016 he was a co-sponsor of all the bills to repeal the gun

restriction bills that McLachlan voted for in 2013 when he was our representative from HD 59. J. Paul was also the prime sponsor of HB 1138 to guarantee \$1 billion over five years for highways, but it was killed by Democrats in the House.

Jim Huffman

Uptown option

Dear Editor:

I am a Minnesota resident with a home we love here in Archuleta County. I've been watching with interest the debate over the placement of a new government center and jail. While such decisions affect our taxes we don't have a say at the polls, so I thought I'd offer a viewpoint here.

By the time this is published I expect the commissioners will have made a decision, which likely will be for the downtown site. I have some comments about the arguments advanced for that site and about the status of negotiations.

I have practiced law for 39 years in Minnesota and have seen a lot of courthouses re-sited. In the past, there is no doubt the courthouse was built in the city center of the county seat. As populations grew and county government became more complex, needs developed for much larger complexes. My experience is that virtually every time those were built on the city periphery. The reasons included the availability of larger parcels of land, ease of access to the area, security, expense and availability of expansion.

Here I note that one big reason for preferring the downtown site is the notion that the government center is a community centering structure and function that, if moved, would cause a diminishment of use, value and vitality downtown. That has never been the case in any courthouse rebuild I've seen in Minnesota. To the contrary, most often when such facilities are built away from downtown they do not spur building of retail or restaurants. Function is important here. My experience is that when people go to a government office, court or the sheriff's office their goal is to get in, get their work done and get out, expeditiously. Combining such trips with shopping or dining is rarely a consideration. Even the judges drive to eat lunch out. Far more important than shops, bars and restaurants is ease of access and very ample parking. On the other hand, more room is made available downtown for business activity, with freed-up parking spaces and less non-retail traffic.

So between the downtown option and the uptown option, the uptown looks more reasonable. Access is good, there are few competing traffic attractions, and it's far less expensive.

Finally, I understand that there is a land-use restriction on the downtown site precluding construction of a jail. Likewise, on the uptown site more land is needed to construct the new jail. In both cases those contingencies have not been negotiated. It seems that picking a site before doing that is putting the cart before the horse. If one of these sites is selected without securing the necessary deal, the seller is going to be in the catbird seat and can name a price. The alternative of eminent domain might be available for the uptown site, but I'm not sure it could be used to defeat the use restriction for the downtown site.

Thank you for this opportunity.
James A. Lavoie

Minimum wage

Dear Editor:

Every four years some politicians bring up the issue of raising the minimum wage. This has proven to be a way to buy votes. I believe a person should be able to make more money even \$50 or \$100 per hour but I think they should have to earn it. For the government to tell businesses what to pay is undemocratic and goes against the principles of free enterprise. When the minimum wage is raised it causes bad things to happen. It causes more automation and puts people out of work.

Remember when grocery stores carried your groceries to your car and you didn't have to check yourself out?

Remember when you could have your gas pumped, tires checked, oil checked and your windshield cleaned?

Remember when a bank cashed your check and there were no ATM machines?

Remember when you could call a business or government agency and talk to a real person?

Business people are not stupid. They realize when machines get cheaper than labor they will convert and the services that once were provided will now be provided by you.

John Meyer

PAWSD garden

Dear Editor:

I recently visited the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) office and walked to the xeriscape garden. To my surprise, what a mess. I returned to the office and ask what is going on with the garden. It was explained to me the new board decided to let the xeriscape garden go, due to costing \$20,000 per year.

It is hard to believe \$20,000 for a garden that is in winter conditions probably half the year.

Could the PAWSD board research a lesser cost gardener, or could the community schools become alerted of the need to help maintain the garden?

I believe this garden is a benefit to the community, i.e. to landscape and save water. We need to set an example, especially to folks who move here and first thing want to plant a lawn. I was very proud to take people to the garden and give them ideas of what to plant.

To PAWSD board, please reconsider.

Pam Morrow

Deplorable

Dear Editor:

Webster's Dictionary defines "deplorable" as, "very bad in a way that causes shock, fear, or disgust."

Hillary Clinton may have been a little over the top when she said that half of Trump supporters fit into a "basket of deplorables." Trump responded by saying, "Wow, Hillary Clinton was so insulting to my supporters." This response was really laughable, considering that Trump's campaign has been based on calling people insulting names. His opponents were lyin', crooked, small, no energy, and phony. Journalists are dopey, totally dishonest, third-rate, low ratings, fired like a dog, etc. Women are animals, slob, pigs, dogs and disgusting animals. He insulted the people of Iowa by saying, "How stupid are the people

of Iowa?" And most famously, he called an entire ethnic group rapists and murderers.

Wow, makes Hillary's comment seem positively tame.

Let's look at a few instances of Trump, Trump's family and Trump's supporters acting like deplorables:

Just a few days ago, Trump suggested that Hillary's Secret Service detail be disarmed and "let's see what happens to her." This builds on his earlier comments that "Second Amendment people" can take care of Hillary if she wins. Encouraging violence against a presidential candidate. Deplorable.

Trump called the Clinton Foundation, which has helped millions of people around the world, "the most corrupt enterprise in political history." At the same time, the Trump Foundation, which appears to have donated nothing to charity, was illegally paying the Florida attorney general to stop an investigation into Trump University. Deplorable.

Trump rails against firms that supposedly have moved American jobs to other nations. Yet, none of the products in his clothing line are made in the U.S. Further, an examination of products in Trump's new hotel in Washington, D.C., finds everything from linens to lamps to furniture made in China and elsewhere. Hypocrisy? Deplorable.

Donald Trump Jr. said that if his father lied like Clinton, the media would be "warming up the gas chamber." A reference to the Holocaust to make a political point? Deplorable.

Trump has blamed sexual assault in the military on the mixing of men and women in the service, a classic example of blaming the victim for the crime. Deplorable.

Last November, Trump mocked a reporter with a disability. At a rally Trump waved his arms in a way that evoked the disability of New York Times reporter who has a chronic condition which limits the movement of his arms. Mocking the disabled? Deplorable.

Finally, Trump falsely claims that he doesn't condone violence at his rallies. Yet, dozens of times, he has encouraged just that act. To a protester, he recently said, "I'd like to punch him in the face." So, it is

■ See Letters A5

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Leadership

- J. Paul Brown led the House in a unanimous vote on HB 1256 evaluating sites for water storage on the South Platte River saving Western Slope water.
- J. Paul successfully passed and was the prime sponsor for SB 122, increasing accountability and transparency of CDOT to prevent Government waste.
- J. Paul led the way in passing HB 1030, the off-highway vehicle bill that will strengthen tourism and Colorado's economy.

J. Paul Brown

Paid for by the Committee to Elect J. Paul Brown

Letters

■ Continued from A4

no wonder that a Trump supporter punched out and injured a 69-year-old grandmother, Shirley Teter, at a rally in Asheville, N.C., causing her to fall over her oxygen bottle. Seven Trump supporters were arrested at that rally. Deplorable.

If Trump's supporters condone these actions, I would have to consider them deplorable.

John Porco

A parable

Dear Editor:

A business owner stopped at a fast food outlet for lunch on the way to his office. He had taken significant risks in building his business the past 10 years. After paying off the company debt he was finally making a significant income on his investment of resources and long work weeks. At the counter he ordered a "combo meal" listed for \$8.95.

The clerk punched in the sale and said, "That's \$44.75 sir." "What?" he exclaimed.

"Sorry sir — new policies. Our records indicate you make \$250,000 a year and that you should pay this to subsidize others not as lucky as you."

"I hardly think working hard, sacrificing for years and taking enormous financial risk make me lucky," the businessman replied.

At the next register an elderly woman was ordering the same meal. The businessman overheard the clerk charging her \$17.90. She reached in her wallet as the businessman asked why she had to pay twice the posted amount. He was told the \$8.95 price was considered a base price for those earning around \$50,000 annually and prices vary depending on income. The woman, he was told, had a significant Social Security benefit and substantial investment income, so she was required to pay more.

During the exchange, a middle-aged man approached the counter and ordered the same item. His total was \$4.48. The businessman asked him why his meal was just \$4.48 when the woman paid \$17.90 and he was to be charged \$44.75? "Oh you must be rich," he replied. "I barely make over \$2,000 a month so it's just the right thing to do."

"Why so little?" asked the businessman.

"It's enough for me," replied the man. "I don't work that much — I'd rather take it easy and enjoy life. Besides, with programs like these I can do pretty well."

The businessman left and soon moved his business to another state. Some employees went with him but several stayed and took lower-paying jobs with some even losing their homes. They did however, qualify for the inexpensive "combo meal." Six months later, the diner closed as higher-income customers had moved away and there were not enough left to sub-

sidize others.

Insert ColoradoCare for combo meal. What happened to taking personal responsibility? When did it become a mandatory responsibility for risk takers and hard workers to pay the way for those who do less?

If some make poor health and financial decisions, why should those that make good decisions support them and enable bad behavior? Our health care system is broken and more so since Obamacare's inception. The productive and the job creators will simply move and those considering moving here will go elsewhere.

Those who are doing better financially generally contribute generously to charity. Confiscating their income for a poorly designed socialist health care plan will have negative impacts on charitable organizations, as discretionary income for contributions will be drastically reduced.

For Colorado's sake, vote no on 69.

Greg Saffer

Greatest asset

Dear Editor:

Kids, our greatest asset — so, let's have some fun. Where there's a will, there's a way. Our "early days" neighborhood was full of kids, hardworking dads and moms who share responsibility for all of the kids. My little 5-year-old son was very frugal with his allowance, saved, saved and saved. He didn't have a bicycle like his older buddies and I wasn't ready for him to have one — told him I couldn't afford one, but if he could find one, he could buy with his allowance, it would be OK. I thought that would settle the issue once and for all. Wrong. A few days later, he came walking down the street with his "new" bike. He found a kid a few blocks away who apparently had outgrown his bike and was happy to get a few dollars for it.

What a kid. I will add that it was well worth the money, his money, that is. Hee-hee. Instill self-confidence in those kids and they'll take care of the rest.

Patty Tillerson

On death

Dear Editor:

"When I was a young man and never been kissed" — (remember that song?) I didn't know much about dying then either — in fact, hardly ever thought about it. Oh, I did the occasionally stupid thing, had my share of brushes with death. But I didn't know anyone who'd died, just sort of figured, well that'll come eventually (as it will to all of us).

"Now that I'm old and getting ready to go" — finishes the song. Well I'm not ready to go — few of us are. But I do reflect back on my life, and how good it's been. Over 75 years of accomplishment, success, failure, both in and out of love. And

now I do know people who've died — lots of them. My parents, my sister-in-law, close friends my age (or were when they died).

And it's got me to thinking about dying. Not in any morbid way, but in a realistic way. Buddhism, of which I'm an adherent if not a practitioner, has extensive teachings on the skill of dying gracefully, in full acceptance of the process. I am envious of the many people I know who have died doing what they love — be it skiing or knitting. And I grieve for the many I know who have died after a lingering illness — at home or in a nursing home, suffering the pronouncement of a terminal illness. With no choice but to last it out, waiting for the inevitable. Seeing my loved ones suffering with me, knowing with certainty that I will die soon. Case in point my sister-in-law. Diagnosed with inoperable terminal pancreatic cancer and given three months to live. She lasted five, but toward the end was doped up on morphine so much she was barely conscious. She eventually died of dehydration and malnutrition because she couldn't eat or drink.

I would choose to die with dignity. Celebrating my life with friends and loved ones. Knowing that I can share in their preparedness. Dying graciously when I know it is near-term certain.

That's what the Colorado End of Life Options Act, Proposition 106, will allow me to do. More than 165,000 signatures were gathered on petitions this summer to successfully place this measure on the November ballot. If passed, the measure will allow terminally ill patients who are judged mentally competent to obtain medicines to voluntarily end their life. The process must be approved by two licensed physicians and be done only at the request of the patient. Complete details on this measure can be obtained on the Web at ceoflifeoptions.org.

Please support this measure so that those terminally ill among us who choose to die gracefully may do so.

Merlin Wheeler

Out of touch

Dear Editor:

This letter is part of my ongoing goal to be clearly understood by SUN readers. On Monday, I was again the only conservative voice on the BoCC in a 2-1 vote to go forward with a \$28 million dollar (sic) court/jail/sheriff building. I voted no.

Commissioners Wadley and Lucero voted to build a brand-new, \$28 million dollar (sic) facility for just criminals, judges and law enforcement. Built in our very limited downtown tourist district, next to Rez Hill Park (sic), across the street from our senior and community centers, four blocks from our high school, Seeds of Learning, Yamaguchi Park and our Hot Springs.

Contrary to last week's SUN editorial, there is no plan that includes removing all county functions from downtown. Just the courts, jail and sheriff. We will keep the county clerk/recorder, treasurer, assessor, human services, senior services, planning, administration and BoCC downtown. These are the vast bulk of county services, customers and employees. They drive the lion's share of county-related downtown commerce and should remain downtown.

The SUN's editorial opinion and

Lucero's and Wadley's votes provided no facts to support their position, only vague opinions about downtown vitality and community, and that moving the courts, jail and sheriff will negatively affect the "future livelihood" or vitality of the community. The existing data suggests quite the opposite in fact.

So, what are the facts? Since we do not have all of the cash on hand for a workable solution to the problem. The rest can only come from one of two places. Raising property taxes or sales taxes.

If we scrape together most of our reserves and are very lucky on the few grants available, we might pull together about \$7 million dollars (sic) as a "down payment." The \$28 million dollar (sic) project cannot be paid for with property taxes, period. Why? By law we can only raise taxes to 3 percent of total property value in the whole county. The most we could raise is just over \$9 million dollars (sic). So with our \$7 million "down payment," the most expensive project we can afford to pay for with property taxes, by law, is about \$16 million dollars (sic).

What about sales tax instead, as Commissioner Lucero suggested? Yes, it is possible. But with our same \$7 million dollar (sic) "down payment," we would have to raise the sales tax by 53 percent to pay the remaining \$21 million for the project.

To get their \$28 million dollar (sic) project down to \$16 million the new jail would have to be reduced to 24 beds, far smaller than the existing jail. The state judicial representative even testified that they could not support a project so over-done and obviously doomed to fail at the polls in 2017.

At a time when roads, affordable housing, day care, schools and broadband are in need of funding, it is out of touch and irresponsible to propose or support such a project.

Michael E. Whiting

Editor's note: Last week's editorial never indicated that all county functions were being removed from downtown. In fact, it was titled "Justice center: Making a monumental, legacy decision."

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ACVAP

The Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program would like to thank First Southwest Bank for honoring our agency at this year's Community Appreciation BBQ. Their crew pulled out all the stops with delicious food and community camaraderie. And, their generosity goes on — they will be matching dollar for dollar the donations we received at the event. First Southwest Bank is truly a community bank.

Thank you,
The ACVAP team

RONNIE MAEZ

for county commissioner

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MOVING FORWARD!

I am pleased to commend Rod Proffitt to you as County Commissioner. Here's why.

I first met Rod four years ago when we both went on the Colorado Housing, Inc. Board of Directors. Colorado Housing was in disarray. Their funding had been canceled by the USDA, their Executive Director had resigned, and most of the board was gone. Rod immediately got to work to identify the steps necessary to insure an orderly, legal and fair closing: files had to be assessed and organized, homeowners had to receive accurate and clean deeds, and creditors had to be paid.

It took Rod three years and countless volunteer hours to get this done. He used his legal expertise, extensive experience in municipal government, planning and building commissions, and a dedication to doing the right thing to get matters resolved and squared away correctly -- deeds were cleaned up and creditors were paid. Over the last forty years I have served on many boards and audited hundreds of non-profits, and I have never worked with a volunteer that worked harder, smarter and with such dedicated diligence than Rod Proffitt.



Rod Proffitt will be a commissioner that makes good things happen in our community.



ROD PROFFITT FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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Business

Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors



Photo courtesy D. West Davies

The Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors installs a new board of directors for 2016-2017 during its annual installation and awards dinner on Sept. 15. Pictured, front row, left to right, are Debra Zenz, Shellie Hogue, Peggy Andrews, Carol Peterson, Barbara Swindlehurst, Sharon Crump and Laura Daniels and back row, Layne Poma, Ed Keyes Jr. and Tracy Gosar.



Photo courtesy D. West Davies

The Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors honor Brent Christians (left), as recipient of the 2016 Realtor of the Year Award and Debbie Loewen (right), recipient of the 2016 Spirit Award.



The Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors also awarded David Cammack with the 2016 Spirit Award.



Photo courtesy D. West Davies

Ivy King, recipient of the 2016 Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors' Rookie of the Year Award.

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County's unemployment rate decreases to 3.1 percent

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The unemployment rate for Archuleta County decreased to 3.1 percent in August, with 6,456 people in the labor force and 198 of those claiming unemployment.

In July, there were 6,518 people in the county's labor force with 217, or 3.3 percent, claiming unemployment. The total workforce lost 62 people over the month, while the number of unemployed people

decreased by 19, causing the .2 percent decrease in unemployment.

In August 2015, there were 6,128 workers in the county, of which 204, or 3.3 percent, were unemployed. August 2016's rate is down .2 percent by comparison.

Looking at this August's employment situation for the rest of the state, Huerfano County had the highest unemployment rate for the month with 6.2 percent, while Mineral County had the lowest rate at 1.7 percent.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate for the state decreased from July to August going from 3.8 percent to 3.3 percent.

Over the year, the unemployment rate for Colorado has dropped, decreasing from 3.5 percent in August 2015.

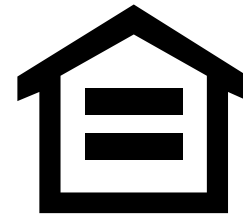
The number of people actively participating in the labor force decreased 3,000 over the month to 2,890,800 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed

decreased 1,700 to 2,781,700. The larger decrease in total employment than in labor force caused the number of unemployed to increase 1,300. Despite the decline in the number of unemployed, the unemployment rate was unchanged from July due to rounding.

In comparison, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged over the same period at 4.9 percent.

The unemployment rate, labor

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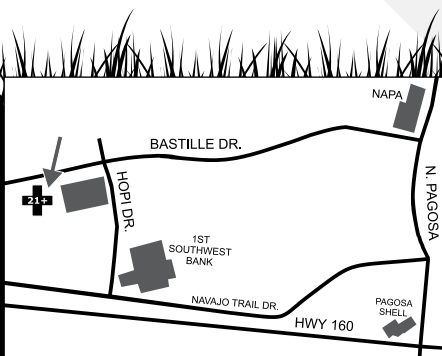
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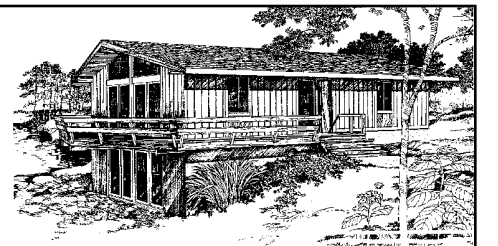


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CHAMBER NEWS

It takes a village to pull off an event

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Special to The SUN

As the Chamber winds down from a major event, I look back to see if this event has not only benefited our organization, but the community as well.

ColorFest has always been a highlight for many people as they combine a trip through southwest Colorado to see the colors as well as take part in some festivities. This year was no exception. However, I would like to take this time to thank Pagosa for helping us grow this event.

Back in 2005, the Chamber moved the "wine and cheese tasting" from the parking lot at the Chamber to Town Park — in the park. We then had some food catered. We then inquired of the restaurants if they would be interested in participating in a "Taste of Pagosa" since that event no longer occurred at the Archuleta County Fair because the restaurants were just too busy.

Starting in 2006, we had restaurants join our event and paired wine with their food items. We stayed in Town Park for about another two years until the numbers grew and we needed to increase the size of the tent.

The next location was to move the event to the athletic field in Town Park. Everyone hung with us and sometimes restaurants did double duty. The short story is that the event has continued to grow, with the tent increasing in size to accommodate the numbers about every two to three years.

This year, we celebrated our 11th anniversary of the Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival and our sixth or seventh year for Music and Microbrews.

These events would not hap-

pen and would not have grown without the assistance from the community. First off, additional electricity was added to the athletic field after the first semi-disastrous year of restaurants and musicians needing power. Many thanks go to Mike Alley who helped champion this cause (and still volunteers excessively), La Plata Electric Association and to the Town of Pagosa Springs, both of whom had the foresight to making better use of an existing facility. Their in-kind donations helped us build that park for more community events. The restaurants — we would not even have a food event without their participation. Remember, this event was created at this time because the community wasn't that busy and the restaurants could handle the additional time, staff and impact that working an off-property event created.

Now, the restaurants are packed at this time of year. There is still the challenge of working an off-property event and the attendance numbers have grown significantly, creating additional burden. The food is awesome, the restaurants have fun "competing" for the Golden Whisk awards and they do a magnificent job. We can't thank you enough. It is you who bring the people in for the Passport to Pagosa. It is the breweries from around the region who bring in the people for the microbrews because they love your crafted brews.

Next is our lodging community. What generous businesses you are. Our lodgers help out by donating rooms to house our pilots and our breweries. This donation is crucial to the success of this event. It used to be that there were rooms to be had — not so much any more. We want you to take this time to make money, so we appreciate your

generosity when we know you can sell these donated rooms. Pilots and lodging owners have become friends, some pilots will only stay at certain places because they are friends. We are able to attract pilots and breweries because they love our community, like coming here to fly because of the beauty and we take care of them. Being able to soak due to the generosity of one of our sponsors is a huge advantage.

We can't name all the sponsors here, but without your support of this event, it would not be possible. Please look at the ad that will be in The Pagosa SUN next week as we thank you for your participation. Your generosity of funds, merchandise, services and support is invaluable.

The are no harder workers than the Chamber staff and volunteers. When the last box is dumped into the office to be sorted on a Monday, we can sort of collapse and breathe. The work effort of putting on an event such as this requires great coordination skills — this year done by Cheryl Bowdridge. The staff puts in 14- to 16-hour days and does most of the "heavy lifting" — literally. Our volunteers are always willing, friendly and they, too, share the heavy lifting load.

The community — you rock. Your encouragement and positive and improvement critique is the reason that we continue to grow and hopefully provide bigger and better events. The Chamber wants to provide quality events that engage the community and bring people to our town so that you benefit from the event experience. Our community is stunning. We want to help showcase that fact, but we couldn't accomplish that feat without the "village" that it takes to execute an event such as ColorFest. We thank the tourism board for

highlighting this event and using the many photos that come out of this event as a way to give exposure to our community and showcase our beauty and vibrancy. We all win, but it isn't just the Chamber — it is our village — thank you.

'Ten Fatal Mistakes Small Businesses Make and How to Avoid Them'

On Oct. 6 from noon until 1 p.m., the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will host the seminar, "Ten Fatal Mistakes Small Businesses Make and How to Avoid Them."

Rich Lindblad, SBDC advisor, will conduct the class, which will be held at the First Southwest Bank conference room on Navajo Trail Drive. The seminar is \$10 and attendees should bring a brown bag lunch.

Did you know that 80 percent of start-up businesses fail in their first five years? If you have just started a business or are looking to start one, then you should be attending this class. What a better way to spend your lunch hour than learning how to be a better business person. You can register for the class at www.sbdccolorado.org/training/workshops or call 247-7009 for more information. The Chamber of Commerce and SBDC are proud to be supporters of this event. Mark your calendars for this important short business session.

Membership information

Did you know that as one of your membership benefits you can attend our Maximizing Your Membership class for free? The next Maximizing Your Membership class is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 26, from noon until about 1:15 p.m.

Some of our older members don't realize the new benefits that are available. Why not take an hour out of your day to find out how we can help your business and see exactly what your Chamber benefits can do for you?

You are paying for benefits after all — take advantage of them. New or old member, call our office at 264-2360 to reserve your space. A light lunch is provided.

Unemployment

Continued from A6

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

However, nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and

government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The business establishment survey covers about seven times the number of households surveyed and is therefore considered a more reliable indicator of economic conditions. Because the estimates are based on two separate surveys, one

measuring jobs by worksite and the other measuring persons employed and unemployed by household, estimates based on these surveys may provide seemingly conflicting results.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 71,600, with an increase of 60,700 in the private sector and an increase of 10,900 in government.

The largest private sector job gains were in construction, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services. Mining and logging declined over the year.

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

Over the year, the average work-week for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 34.8 to 33.9 hours and average hourly earnings decreased from \$27 to \$26.69.

marshall@pagosahun.com

Card of Thanks

Skaters Coalition

The Skaters Coalition for Concrete would like to thank our generous donors who made it possible for Phase 2 of the skate park to be completed — The Springs Resort and Spa, Weber Sand and Gravel, Hart Construction, Roy Palmer Plumbing LLC, Eric Spors, G.T. Sanders (formerly Proline Supply), Todd Miller, Jeff Quinn, the Sowerby family and Robert Brown (in memory of Carlie June Brown). We would also like to thank Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs for partnering with us to build an exciting skate park for our community.

Michael Musgrove

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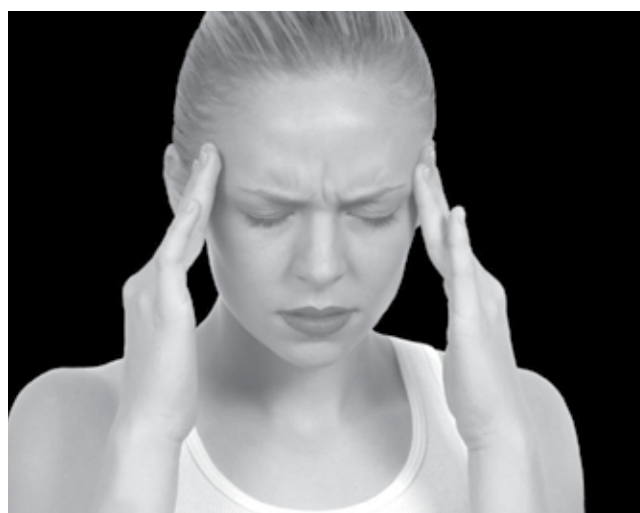
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County

Continued from front

looked at dozens of sites, and facilities and configurations, we've ... got some really great data on all of our options."

Whiting called for a motion before the BoCC discussed the issue and heard public comment.

"I move to select the Hot Springs Property that Archuleta County already owns to build the justice center/jail," said Commissioner Clifford Lucero, with Commissioner Steve Wadley seconding the motion.

The meeting was then opened for public comment.

"There's two things that you need to make sure whatever motion you make will do. One, it better pass, because whenever you guys

take it to a vote and it goes down in flames of glory ... whatever that motion is, that will set everyone in the community back another couple years," said audience member Matt Ford, adding that the BoCC should also make sure their decision doesn't negatively impact the community.

"If you guys spend any more than you absolutely have to put in this facility, then you're making the wrong choice," said Ford.

Audience member Morgan Murri made a comment expressing his frustrations with the process of choosing a justice center location.

"I don't have an opinion on location, I have an opinion on the dollar amount," said Murri, adding that the BoCC should have figured out

a budget before going courthouse shopping.

"I just hope today that you really, really look upon the impact of your decision, and the long-standing implication, and the ripple effect of that implication long after we're gone," said audience member Andre Redstone. "Because the location and the logistical implication of that location will potentially have a profound effect upon our community and the facets of our community."

Representatives from the sheriff's office and the courts were then allowed to speak.

Archuleta County Sheriff Rich Valdez began by saying that the last year and a half has been a long, grueling process, but he was thankful

for his staff enduring the hardships that came during that time.

"The county's largest liability is detention facilities and the majority of the lawsuits that come out of county entities is because of detention facilities," said Valdez. "I fear that we're going to have this issue, especially with the transport back and forth, and driving at night and hitting deer and elk ... the situation that we're put in, our risk increases every day. For us, we need a building. We understand the taxpayers, but we have specific needs that we need fulfilled as well."

Administrator for the 6th Judicial District Eric Hogue also made a comment, raising several points about safety concerns from the current courthouse.

Hogue explained that current courthouse has concerns with complying with disability standards, and that the width of the hallways isn't really safe for the public and criminals to be in the vicinity of each other.

Hogue stated that he felt what the courts requested in space for the new courts building is modest compared to the courts sections of other county courthouses.

"In my opinion, neither option is a great option because both have evils. Uptown has a long-term viability evil ... I have other concerns about the long-term durability of the building, it's life expectancy and its current age, its current location," said Hogue. "The Hot Springs location carries with it a price tag that I'm quite uncomfortable with, and I've mentioned that in probably the last four meetings I've been at."

Hogue went on to call the estimated \$28 million price on the proposed Hot Springs Boulevard justice center a "metro price tag."

Once the meeting was closed to public comment, the commission-

ers made comments and explained why they were voting the way that they were.

"I'd like to go to the sales tax to pay for this," said Lucero. "The town is willing to work with us, and they've been great partners. They've reached out and tried to do everything they can to help us get this process going."

Lucero continued, "I think it's really important to know that once we select the property, then we can start working on the price tag, and I know that we've been talking about a \$28 million price tag, we have no idea if that's the price tag at all. For example, we have a \$2 million price on the excavation for the property. That price is for 10 acres ... Numbers have been manipulated, so to speak."

"This is hard for anyone to swallow, and while it'd be real easy to kick the can down the curb ... meanwhile Rich is driving prisoners back and forth on a 120-mile round trip, and one of these days something is going to happen," said Wadley, explaining that he preferred the site downtown, and that the town has indicated they would prefer the location of the justice center to be downtown as well.

Whiting pushed back against what Lucero said by saying the numbers weren't manipulated.

"Here's the bottom line, neither of those options is affordable for us ... They're simply too high, and we can't afford it. The problem is math," said Whiting. "The math goes like this. Estimating we can probably raise \$7 million to put towards this project, five our own, maybe a million from the courts, maybe a million from DOLA, so a quasi-conservative guess on the down payment we can make on this is about \$7 million. The problem with that is that it still doesn't bring either project down

low enough to make a difference."

He continued, "Here's the bottom line on property taxes. There's a statutory limit on how much we can vote to borrow against our assessed value. Three percent on \$308,550,000 in value. The bottom line is it doesn't matter how we go to the voters with, the voters can only borrow \$9,255,000. That's it. We can't borrow enough money to pay for anything over \$16 million ... So a \$19 million project doesn't pencil. A \$28 million project is a disservice to the taxpayers ... If we use sales tax, and we use \$7 million as a down payment, the \$21 million that we would have leftover to pay for, if we did that with sales tax we'd have to raise sales tax by 53 percent. Not 53 cents, 53 percent."

Whiting went on to say that the only affordable option would be using the Parelli building but building a smaller jail.

"The reason that I'm going to vote no on this is that it's grossly irresponsible, it's the opposite of conservative, not to mention the fact that if we take anything like this to the voters, we'll set ourselves back by three years."

Lucero and Wadley voted in favor of the motion with Whiting voting against it, making it pass 2-1.

In a follow up interview, Lucero said that following the vote on Monday he spoke to Hogue, who said that the realistic cost for the proposed justice center would be more in the neighborhood of \$20.2 million for a facility that the county needs and could afford.

While Lucero highlighted a \$20.2 million figure, that did not factor in soft costs of 20 percent as estimated by the figures provided by Lucero.

"If we sharpen our pencils, we can get the price even lower," said Lucero.

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Legal

Continued from front

ment. The agreement includes provisions for potential construction by the town of a bridge over the San Juan River.

The bridge would provide access to the development site, as well as an alternative to Hot Springs Boulevard for connecting to U.S. 160 to and from the south.

Public interest in the potential bridge eventually spurred extensive discussion of the plan and the negotiations with the Partners in public meetings last winter. Possible construction remains undetermined at this date.

Consultants' reports evaluating the economic and traffic impacts of construction of the proposed bridge are being prepared. Costs of the reports will be shared by the town and the Partners under an agreement reached earlier this summer. According to information provided to The SUN on Sept. 12 by Town Manager Greg Schulte, the reports will be released to the public when ready, likely within the next several weeks.

Roane's fees in Hudson's lawsuit are subject to dispute because the Sunshine Law provides for payment of reasonable attorney fees (and costs) to a citizen who sues a public entity successfully to enforce provisions of the law.

In a petition filed on Aug. 30, after Lyman ordered release of the recording, Roane is seeking fees and costs totaling more than \$35,000. If Lyman agrees, the town would be liable for that amount.

In the document, Roane contends his fees are based on an hourly rate of \$200, which he says is consistent with typical charges by local lawyers. In an affidavit submitted in support of his petition, Roane states he has 23 years of legal experience, and "local attorneys with experience comparable to mine generally charge at

least \$200.00 per hour for litigation services."

Citing the proposals submitted by numerous lawyers this summer seeking appointment to become the town's attorney, he continues, "Most attorneys, in fact, charge more."

Roane says in the petition that his fee in total is based on work for 172 hours in connection with the suit, a cumulative amount of slightly more than four weeks during the course of 11 months from event to legal outcome.

In the petition, he says his time was consumed by case intake, planning, legal research, communications with the client and ultimately preparation of pleadings including a complaint, motions and responses to pleadings filed on behalf of the town.

According to Dawes, however, the suit brought on Hudson's behalf did not involve any complicated issues, and Roane had prior experience in handling suits dealing with those very issues.

Furthermore, he contends, although Hudson's suit won public disclosure of the recording of the disputed executive session, Roane was not fully successful in winning acceptance of his client's legal position, since there was no ruling that an executive session may never include a contract adversary.

Instead, Dawes contends, the court ruled only that the executive session in this case was improper under the Colorado Sunshine Law.

Consequently, Dawes argued, Roane's claimed hours expended on legal research and drafting of pleadings in the suit against the town are excessive.

Dawes further points out in his brief that his own time devoted to defending the town in Hudson's suit was only approximately 50 hours, less than one-third of Roane's claimed time, with a cost of

only \$10,020. He suggests that the court should consider the amount of time needed to defend the town in assessing the reasonableness of the time needed to sue the town on Hudson's behalf.

Dawes concludes with the assertion that a reasonable attorney fee for Roane in Hudson's suit would be no more than half of the amount claimed.

According to Schulte, fees to represent the town were actually paid by its insurance company, under a standard clause of the insurance policy assigning to the company responsibility to defend claims against the town.

But to the extent of fees to be ultimately paid for Roane's work, Schulte acknowledged to The SUN on Sept. 14 that the town would need to pay out of pocket, as that will not be covered by the policy.

The contention by Dawes on behalf of the town that the reasonableness of fees to represent a plaintiff in a suit under the Sunshine Law should be measured against the fees paid to defend it for violating the statute, raises issues for the court to decide under the policy of the law cited by Roane in his petition.

Roane contends that the law's provision providing for payment of attorney fees to winning plaintiffs was intended by the Colorado legislature to deter public bodies from violating the Sunshine Law.

The law, he argues in reliance on prior court decisions, "discourages governmental bodies from forcing citizens to sue in order to access public records," and "relieves citizens from the financial burden" of successfully challenging violations by protecting them from out-of-pocket expenses.

It will be up to Lyman to determine the amount of reasonable fees to be awarded in Hudson's suit. jim@pagosasun.com

Marijuana

Continued from front

contained 16 marijuana plants, with most of them being mature and almost ready for harvest.

The ACSO dug up the plants as evidence.

There was also a dirt pathway that led from the grow site to a house on top of the hill, with the house's porch having grow nutrients and chemicals on it, said Hamilton.

Hamilton went on to explain that on Sept. 10, the ACSO took

32-year-old Kale Hall into custody and charged him with "Unlawful act/licenses-marijuana."

Hamilton said that Hall claimed to have a medical marijuana card that would allow him to grow 75 plants, but because he was growing on property that wasn't his, the medical card didn't apply to the situation.

Hall was transported to La Plata County Jail, with his bond being placed at \$10,000, said Hamilton, adding that he bonded out the

same day.

Hamilton explained that currently, the unlawful act charge is the only charge he faces, but there's a possibility of having more charges added on as the plants were not in a locked container, which also violates Colorado law.

She also stated that this case was somewhat unique, as the ACSO has decreased the number of marijuana charges it levies since Colorado legalized marijuana.

marshall@pagosasun.com

Chacon

Continued from front

Tonya Hamilton.

Hamilton explained that Chacon's death is considered suspicious and still under investigation.

Cadaver dogs are being brought into the area where his remains were found to search for any remains that human eyes might have missed, said Hamilton.

Hamilton explained that the exact amount of time that Chacon's remains were there before being found is unclear, but the window of time the ACSO is dealing with is in the last year.

Hamilton explained that interviews were still being conducted with friends, family and past employers.

The remains were found on Aug. 23, when U.S. Forest Service workers were working in an area off of Mill Creek Road and found a skull.

The ACSO was contacted, which spurred the investigation.

If you believe you have any information regarding this investigation, contact Detective Sgt. Warren Brown at 264-8499.

Forum

Continued from front

same location.

The forum will begin with introductions, then questions will be asked of the candidates by league representatives. Following this, written and screened questions will be allowed from the audience.

The LWV was founded in 1920 to promote political responsibility through informed and active citi-

zen participation in government. There are approximately 80,000 members of the LWV within all 50 states and the Virgin Islands. In Colorado alone there are 1,500 members.

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that neither supports nor opposes any candidate or party. The LWV does take positions on issues based on in-depth study and

provides voters with that analysis.

Local LWV membership is \$15 and all citizens are encouraged to join and get involved. For more information on the LWV, visit the website at <http://lwwac.org/league.html>.

For more information on the forum, contact Mary Beth McAuley at marybeth.cmcauley@gmail.com or 264-2566.

2016 edition of Southwest Colorado Index health care report released

By Paige Elliott
Special to The SUN

Health care, the sixth report of the 2016 edition of the Southwest Colorado Index, is now available. This report examines specific areas of health care to give an overall picture of how southwest Colorado provides for and supports its residents.

The index takes a comprehensive look at specific topics in order to measure the overall economic, social and environmental health of the communities in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties (Region 9). Previously called the Pathways to Healthier Communities Indicator Report, it was first published by Operation Healthy Communities Inc. (OHC) in 1996. After OHC produced five editions of the Indicator Report, the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado took over publication in 2008.

Key findings:

- The number of uninsured Coloradans has decreased across Region 9 by an average of 8 percent. The estimated percentage of uninsured individuals exceeds the estimated state percentage for every county; however, from 2013 to 2015 there has been a marked decrease in these percentages: Archuleta decreased 7 percent, Dolores 8 percent, La Plata 8 percent and Montezuma 7 percent. San Juan increased by 2 percent.

- Dental visits have increased. In 2015, 11 dentists accepted Medicaid for the five counties in Region 9, up from 2007, when only six dentists in the region accepted

Medicaid, and only one for the entire region in 1997. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate strong growth in southwest Colorado for Medicaid recipients eligible for dental benefits.

- 30 percent of pregnant women in the region are receiving prenatal care starting after the first trimester, which is above the state average of 21 percent. There is a decrease in numbers of births to both unwed mothers and teens.

- Behavioral health is difficult to measure, yet vital to a community's health. Recent numbers indicate differing trends. Patients served by the region's mental and integrated health services, Axis Health Services Inc., decreased from 5,581 patients in 2006 to just over 4,000 in 2015, a 28.3-percent decrease. However, the number of emergency assessments increased by approximately 49 percent, from 557 individuals in 2007 to 832 in 2015. Suicide rates increased from 18 deaths in 2009 to 29 deaths in 2014.

- In 2007, there were 200 admissions to Axis Health System Crossroads Center. In 2015, that number more than doubled to 435. As a result of these referrals, many persons with mental illness were diverted early and avoided unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system.

- The number of meals served in senior center facilities indicate an increase in outreach. In La Plata County (the most populous region), meals served to seniors grew over 250 percent from 2,000 to 2015. In contrast, meals served in San Juan County (the least populated county) decreased by more than half (52 percent).

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Wilson appointed chief judge of the 6th Judicial District

By Robert McCallum
Special to The SUN

Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nancy Rice has appointed District Court Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson as chief judge of the 6th Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties). He replaces retiring Chief Judge Gregory G. Lyman, who was appointed to the District Court in 1996 and was named chief judge in 1998. Wilson's appointment is effective Jan. 10, 2017. "Chief Judge Lyman has had a distinguished 20-year career on the bench, he will be missed

and I wish him well in retirement," Chief Justice Rice said. "I am confident Judge Wilson will be a strong leader for the 6th Judicial District. I look forward to working with him in this new role." Wilson was appointed as a district court judge for the 6th Judicial District in July 2002. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Iowa. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was in private practice for 12 years and was the founding partner of the law firm of Wilson & Crawford. Prior to private practice, Wilson served as an assistant district attorney in the 22nd Judicial District from 1989 to 1990, the 6th Judicial District from 1984

to 1989 and the 4th Judicial District from 1981 to 1983. Wilson is the former vice president of the Four Corners Bar Association. Colorado is divided into 22 judicial districts, each with a chief judge. As chief judge, Wilson will serve as the administrative head of the 6th Judicial District. He will be responsible for appointing the district administrator, chief probation officer and clerks of court, assisting in the personnel, financial and case-management duties of the district and seeing that the business of the courts is conducted efficiently and effectively.



District Court Judge Greg Lyman swears in new Archuleta County Court Judge Justin P. Fay Tuesday afternoon at the Archuleta County Courthouse. Fay will follow in the steps of the retired Sam Cassidy.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

County Planning Commission seat open

By John Shepard
Special to The SUN

The Archuleta County Planning Commission has one seat open to a volunteer for a three-year term to begin in November. The county Planning Commission is the land use advisory group reporting to the Board of County Commissioners and meets once or twice a month on Wednesday evening. The Planning Commission is responsible for the Archuleta County Community Plan, reviewing and updating the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations, and reviewing and making recommendations on development projects. For more information, visit the Planning Department page of the county website, <http://www.archuletacounty.org>. Residents of Archuleta County can mail letters of interest and background to the county commissioners' office, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or email to fgoheen@archuletacounty.org.

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Secretary Williams: Be careful about calls requesting voter information

Special to The SUN

State and county election officials have received numerous complaints from Colorado voters who are concerned about phone calls that appear to be an effort to obtain their personal and sensitive information. During the automated calls, voters are advised their registration is incorrect and needs to be updated before they can receive a ballot for the November election. But both Democrats and Republicans who

have received the calls told the Colorado Secretary of State's Office or their county clerk that their registrations are current. At least one person reported being asked to provide a full date of birth after selecting the option for "more information." The individuals also have reported that the calls are from an organization identifying itself as "Go Vote CO" or "Go Vote Colorado." Some voters believe the secretary of state is somehow involved because that name is similar to the Web

address of the secretary of state's online voter registration system (www.GoVoteColorado.com). The secretary of state's office does not contact individual voters except to respond to inquiries initiated by voters themselves. Secretary of State Wayne Williams reminds Colorado residents not to disclose sensitive personal information, such as month and day of birth, driver's license or state-issued ID numbers or Social Security numbers to any person

or organization they do not know and trust, whether by telephone or otherwise. Anyone with information concerning the individuals or organization responsible for conducting this telephone solicitation campaign identifying itself as "Go Vote Colorado" or "Go Vote CO" is asked to contact Elections Division Legal Analyst Chris Amero at (303) 894-2200, ext. 638, or chris.amero@sos.state.co.us at the Secretary of State's Office.

Sheriff's office to host Coffee with a Cop Sept. 27

By Mike Le Roux
Special to The SUN

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, deputies from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships and

drink coffee. All community members are invited to attend. The event will be at 10-11:30 a.m. at Dorothy's Restaurant, located at 775 San Juan St. Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the office's work

in Archuleta County. The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between deputies and community members one cup of coffee at a time. Please contact Mike Le Roux with questions at 731-4799, or email mleroux@archuletacounty.org.

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Photo courtesy J. D. Kurz

Pagosa Springs High School science teacher J.D. Kurz and students pose for a photo at the Colorado Rural Electric Association's annual Energy Innovations Summit in Denver last week. Kurz wrote in an email, "We basically invited ourselves to the conference and the director waived the \$125 per person registration fee. It was a great opportunity for my students to mingle with professionals and vendors, and hear about current issues and developments in electricity generation, transmission, and storage." Pictured, front row, left to right, are Lucia Cortese, Adeline Thompson, Megan Farrah, Delaney Khung and Katreena Yenezza. Back row: Kurz, Keegan Britton, Devin Olivares-Garcia, Jacob Hughes, Joshua Keuning, Niall Pastuszek, Carson Grose and Jack Harker.

Ethics commission releases findings regarding complaint against county

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Colorado Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) has released its findings of fact and conclusions of law in response to a complaint filed by a local resident against the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and the BoCC's attorney.

The document was released after the IEC held a hearing and found that the BoCC and County Attorney Todd Starr committed no wrongdoing when they hired Starr through a contract.

The complaint was filed by Archuleta County resident Greg Giehl.

"The essence of the complaint is that the Archuleta County Commissioners accepted the resignation of the county attorney and rehired him on a private contractor basis in violation of the code of ethics in Article 18 of Title 24, C.R.S., and in violation of the ethical aspects of the Archuleta County Procurement Policy," reads the document.

The document goes on to list the commis-

sion's conclusions of law, which states that the BoCC and Starr did not violate the sections of Colorado Revised Statute that they were accused of, as well as not violating the county's ethical procurement code.

"Why don't you ask the People of Archuleta County if they believe there is a problem with handing an open ended \$6000/month contract to a former employee, so he can go down the street and open a new private business with public money. This situation is much more than just a legal fee contract," wrote Giehl in a comment to The SUN. "Ask the people who's money is being spent this way, what do they think. Explain to them that in the Colorado Constitution it actually states that making profit from any public funds is a felony. I believe it is criminal and the question of criminality has not been addressed."

Giehl later wrote, "The Constitutions are the only thing all public employees have a sworn duty to abide by, yet most violate the constitution everyday just to receive a paycheck."

"I hope this final decision, which clearly and unequivocally exonerates us from any wrong doing ends this nonsense and we can again focus

100% of our attention on the people's business," wrote Starr in a comment to The SUN. "The sad news is, we have two other lawsuits pending all because Archuleta County wouldn't violate the law and put certain issues on the ballot. Therefore, we continue to have to spend tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of staff time defending these claims. I think the majority of Archuleta County would have preferred that money had been spent fixing 433 potholes and applying a couple of miles of mag chloride."

Starr later wrote, "Archuleta County has real issues to address such as the condition of our county roads and our jail facilities. A vocal minority is upset because we wouldn't take an illegal action and allow for a citizens' initiative. Frankly, I agree with them that such a process should exist but right now it doesn't; instead of fighting with their own county I wish they would work at the state level to change the law. I would think they would have a lot of support in that effort — I know I would support such a change." To read the full findings of fact and conclusions of law, see www.pagosun.com.

marshall@pagosun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Sept. 22

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

Tuesday, Sept. 27

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Coffee with a Cop. 10-11:30 a.m., Dorothy's Restaurant, 775 San Juan St. Opportunity to ask questions of deputies and learn more about the Sheriff's Office.

Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Re-

view Board. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Dr. Mary Fisher Medical Foundation board meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center main building conference room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Upper San Juan Health Service District regular board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center main building conference room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Town of Pagosa Springs Historic Preservation Board. 5:45 p.m., Town Hall front conference room, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

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

Lewis St. Economic development and housing discussion as part of ongoing review of the Archuleta County Community Plan. The current Community Plan was adopted in 2001, and is available as a PDF on the Planning Department page of the county website, <http://www.archuletacounty.org>. The public is encouraged to contact Archuleta County Development Services — Planning Department with questions and written comments.

Keep up on local happenings with
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The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2101

Thursday, Sept. 29

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

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

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Outdoors



DUST2 bringing Tony Boone to Public Lands Day Celebration

By Annie Sewell
Special to The SUN

Developing Urban Singletrack Trail and Team (DUST2) is proud to announce it has successfully raised the funds to hire renowned trail builder Tony Boone to flag, design and map Phase 1 of its proposed urban singletrack trail in Pagosa Springs.

Boone, who hails from Salida, Colo., has passionately led crews in sculpting over 500 miles of shared-use and purpose-built trails for folks of all ages and abilities. His national and international experience ranges from professional pioneer in the evolution and art of creating sustainable, machine-built trails for mountain bikers, hikers, runners and equestrians.

Boone will be a featured guest at the Pagosa Area Trails Council Public Lands Day Celebration on Sept. 24. The celebration is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Coyote Hill on Piedra Road.

Boone will be available at the DUST2 booth to discuss and demonstrate sustainable trail design and construction from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Then, at 1 p.m., join DUST2 and Boone at the Pagosa Springs High School parking lot as



DUST2 board president Annie Sewell (second from right) receives donations from Amanda Gadowski (left) and Janine Emmets of Pagosa Mountain Sports and Jesse Hensle (right) of Pagosa Springs Medical Center. The medical center recently matched Pagosa Mountain Sports' \$1,000 donation.

Boone leads a walk through of the newly flagged Phase 1 trail.

For detailed information on these events and more, visit www.Dustx2.com.

To learn more about DUST2, project plans or to make a donation, please visit www.Dustx2.com or DUST2 on GoFundMe.com.

San Juan Stargazers move meeting date

By Joan Mieritz
Special to The SUN

The San Juan Stargazers will not have their regular meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22, because the League of Women Voters is having a special event to meet and hear all our local candidates at the Extension building at the fairgrounds. Instead, we will meet on Thursday, Sept. 29, in the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center conference room at 7 p.m. It is located on Hot Springs

Boulevard.

Our program may seem strange, but the timing is necessary. We will be studying and sharing plans for the total solar eclipse that will happen Aug. 21, 2017. That may seem far away, but it will not be visible in Pagosa, so you will need to travel, with many fun options available. It will be a short eclipse, so you will want to get to the center line of totality. You absolutely must wear protective glasses so you do not experience "eclipse blindness"

or retinal burns. This topic is of interest to the general public, so everyone is invited to attend.

We still have one astronomy Night Sky Program at Chimney Rock on Sept. 30 at 5:30 p.m. (you can come without reservations). This is the last chance this year to bring your telescope (great practice opportunity with immediate help available) or to learn to operate one of our four CRIA telescopes. It is a casual enough situation that you can learn as you go. If you have been "thinking" of doing this all summer, Friday is your last chance. You will be helping others as well as learning so much yourself. Please call 731-0186 if you would like to get involved.

Oct. 8 is Astronomy Day with activities on the lawn at Martie's Mercantile (across from the library) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have activities for both children and

adults.

That night, starting at 7 p.m., will be International Observe the Moon Night. Countries around the globe will have gatherings to observe and study our most precious and beautiful moon. We will be meeting at Yamaguchi Park. Look for the telescopes. We are hoping it will be a community party. All day, we will have pop and snacks available to support our scholarship fund.

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

Anyone interested in learning more about astronomy is invited to come to all our events.

Last chance to order seed mixes

By Cynthia Purcell
Special to The SUN

The San Juan Conservation District is offering local landowners the opportunity to purchase a variety of seed mixtures specially developed to provide a ground cover that requires very little watering.

Consider these mixes for establishing vegetation around newly constructed homes or for improving pasture condition. A native

grass mixture, dryland pasture mix, native wildflower mix and a wildlife mix are available. Erosion control blankets are also being offered.

Orders are being taken until Oct. 6. The seed will be available to pick up on Oct. 20.

Need an order form? Please contact the San Juan Conservation District at 731-3615 or stop by the office at 505A CR 600 (next to Piedra Automotive).

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SUN photo/Jim Garrett

Dark smoke rises from a burn point indicating an ignited ponderosa within the Pargin prescribed burn. Some burning is done to help clear the area to produce open patches in the forest.



SUN photo/Jim Garrett

A helicopter hovers above the Pargin burn with a machine mounted in the helicopter that grasps PSDs individually from a hopper and automatically injects them with glycol immediately prior to discharge. After being discharged, the balls fall to the ground, igniting into flames after reaching the target.

Fire from the sky: Behind the Pargin prescribed burn

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

We know prescribed burns are good for our forests.

But, sometimes, the pall of smoke in our air may remind those of a certain age of the words Jerry Lee Lewis sang in 1964, "You shake my nerves and you rattle my brain. ... Goodness, gracious, great balls of fire."

The lyrics of the classic rock song, credited to Jack Hammer and Otis Blackwell, are even more apt than only for the agitation they evoke, for in starting prescribed burns the United States Forest Service (USFS) actually uses balls falling from the sky to ignite fire on the ground.

But, despite that, if the song's image suggests frenzy, The SUN's visit to the site of the Pargin prescribed burn on Friday, Sept. 16, reveals that, in truth, the USFS's approach to a prescribed burn is the opposite: carefully planned and calculated safely to achieve a specific result.

The Pargin prescribed burn, south and east of U.S. 160 at Yellow Jacket Pass, produced considerable smoke in the Pagosa Springs area during and after the three-day ignition period beginning Thursday, Sept. 16. But it was all pursuant to a permit issued by the state of Colorado limiting fire ignition to the three-day window of favorable weather conditions and subject to cancellation in the event that monitoring stations measured smoke accumulations in excess of approved limits.

The 6,000-acre burn site is in the HD Mountains, an area of the San Juans including Chimney Rock National Monument, noted for stands of old growth ponderosa pine and good wildlife habitat, as well as archaeological sites. The HD Mountains are part of the Columbine Ranger District of the USFS.

Columbine District Ranger Matt Janowiak talked to The SUN on Friday at a vantage point on Relay Station Road, overlooking the ignition locations within the Pargin site. While observing the plumes of smoke from ignition points rising over the ridges in orderly rows, Janowiak confessed

to having added some gray hairs during the run-up to the burn.

He commented that a prescribed burn has lots of moving parts.

"You plan, plan, plan," he said, and it's a relief "when things go smoothly."

The area of a prescribed burn is contained within a perimeter established by a technique known as "black-lining." The perimeter is intended to assure containment of fire within the selected area.

For the Pargin burn, Janowiak said, the perimeter was a total of 19 miles long.

A black-lined perimeter is a band about 100-feet wide surrounding the burn area. Crews advancing over the ground by foot burn off flammable brush, grasses and debris within the band, prior to any ignition of flames within the interior of the burn area.

Janowiak said that for a major prescribed burn like Pargin, which requires substantial manpower, the USFS may bring in resources from around the country. Much of the black-lining of the perimeter for the Pargin burn was handled by a crew from the Tatanka Hotshots from the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota.

Brandon Hess of the Tatanka Hotshots described the work for The SUN. Crews hike to the perimeter, where they use devices called "drip torches" containing a mixture of diesel and gasoline to ignite vegetation at selected points in the perimeter band.

In addition to the torches and fuel needed for starting the limited, black-lining fires, Hess said the crews are heavily loaded with personal supplies, as well as chain saws and other equipment that could be needed to suppress any flames potentially advancing outside the narrow band. The crew moves on to an adjacent section of the band, he said, only when the brush, grasses and debris have been cleared from the prior section, and the flames have burned themselves out.

Hess said the black-lining job in the rugged Pargin terrain had taken the Tatanka Hotshots and other crews four days.

It was routine, he said. "Everything went pretty smoothly."

After black-lining around the site has been completed, the means of igniting the prescribed burn within the interior involves plastic balls, similar to but smaller than pingpong balls, containing a load of fuel. The balls, formally referred to as "plastic sphere dispensers" (PSDs), are dropped to the ground from a helicopter.

Jodi Mallozi, the USFS fire prevention officer for the Pagosa Ranger District, explained to The SUN that the balls are filled with potassium permanganate, an inert chemical. They only become "balls of fire" when an injection of glycol triggers a chemical reaction over a period of 20-30 seconds. That happens only above the specific target area.

Mallozi said that when switched on by an operator, a machine mounted in the helicopter grasps balls individually from a hopper and automatically injects them with glycol immediately prior to discharge. After being discharged, the balls fall to the ground, igniting into flames after reaching the target.

The helicopter used at the Pargin burn was supplied and flown by a Montrose, Colo., based contractor with extensive experience in wildfire prevention and suppression work.

For igniting a prescribed burn, in addition to the pilot, a helicopter is manned by a spotter and an operator controlling the drop machine.

Spotter Lance Martin of the USFS's local San Juan Hotshots explained to The SUN that a full payload of PSDs is 10,000. That is sufficient for an hour and a half over the drop zone before the helicopter needs to refuel.

Mallozi explained that the machine drops balls when triggered by the operator successively in rows, which a bystander can readily observe from a safe distance as plumes of smoke rising above the forest canopy. She noted that the drop rows typically run parallel to a ridgeline, starting at the top. The rows continue progressively downslope in long, side-by-side runs. The spotter guides the pilot to the proper course.

The downslope progression of rows helps to avoid compounding

the spread of the fire, that might otherwise be caused by combining the effect of intended ignitions with the natural tendency of fire to expand to unburned terrain upslope.

While ignition is in progress, and until the prescribed burn dies out, fire suppression crews standby, outside the black-lined perimeter but within line of sight, ready to respond in the event that the fire exceeds its planned scope.

Chris Tipton, the Columbine Ranger District's fire management officer, explained the primary objective of a prescribed burn as similar to removing "paper and kindling from a fireplace," analogizing brush to the paper and ponderosa pine to the kindling. The process reduces the forest's susceptibility to ignition from natural sources like lightning strikes.

Tipton elaborated that ponderosa is much more fire resistant than the conifers growing in the San Juan National Forest like fir and spruce, and has a shorter "fire-return interval."

He said that a more even mixture of species of conifer and pine results in a more resilient forest.

Janowiak added that another objective of a prescribed burn is improvement of wildlife habitat. That is achieved by burning not just to remove understory, but also to clear some areas fully, producing a mosaic of open patches sprinkled in the forest.

Looking out over the Pargin burn from the Relay Station Road vantage point, Janowiak pointed out a few points where smoke plumes seen above the canopy appeared darker than most. These, he said, were spots where ponderosas had been ignited to help clear an area.

Opening areas within the forest, Janowiak said, improves forage for wildlife by encouraging the growth of grasses.

The HD Mountains, he noted, are prime winter habitat for elk, deer and turkey.

He said that in view of the benefits for wildlife, the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife had contributed support to the USFS for the Pargin prescribed burn.

jim@pagosahun.com



SUN photo/Jim Garrett

Jared Whitmer with the Columbine Ranger District holds a "plastic sphere dispenser" (PSD). After black-lining around the site has been completed, the means of igniting the prescribed burn within the interior involves PSDs containing a load of fuel. The balls are dropped to the ground from a helicopter.

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Leviticus (Vayikra) 23:23-25

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Autumn yellowing of conifer needles a normal process

By Ryan Lockwood
Special to The SUN

Although thousands of evergreen trees in the foothills of southwest Colorado are beginning to display dying yellow or orange needles, many are simply going through a natural shedding process, and are not infested by bark beetles or tree disease.

Colorado evergreens commonly shed their older, interior needles as part of an annual growth cycle. Needles on the lower portion of the crowns or closest to the trunk are most commonly shed, but trees stressed due to drought or root

damage may shed more needles to keep the tree in balance with its root system.

Soon-to-be shed needles typically turn yellow first, then a reddish-brown color before dropping off. Trees can have varying levels of needle shed, even within the same property or general area.

In the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Durango District, which serves Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties, most of the inquiries received about the phenomenon relate to ponderosa pine, but other conifer species commonly exhibit fall

needle drop as well. Needle drop is generally observed starting in early September and can be noticeable through fall and into early winter.

Evergreen trees that shed fall needles have a different appearance than trees infested by bark beetles. The needles on a beetle-infested tree typically change color throughout the entire tree, initially starting with an off-shade of green and turning to reddish-orange by the following summer. In addition to changing needle color, bark beetle-infested trees will show other signs of attack, such as popcorn-shaped pitch tubes on the

trunk, boring dust resembling fine sawdust collecting in bark crevices and at the base of the tree, and regular woodpecker activity.

Seasonal discoloration and loss of pine needles frequently is called "needle cast," but the term actually refers to several fungal diseases affecting conifers.

For more information about tree and forest health, contact the CSFS Durango District at 247-5250 or visit csfs.colostate.edu.

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Sports

CROSS-COUNTRY

Pirates show up big in Durango, host Saturday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

It was another record-setting week for the vast majority of Pagosa Springs High School's cross-country team, with 21 varsity and junior varsity harriers setting personal records at the Southwest Sunset meet in Durango on Sept. 16.

After not seeing official competition since Sept. 2 in order to focus on the start of school, 11 varsity Pirates, clad in glow sticks and running under the full moon, set personal records in their return to action at the night meet.

"The kids were ready to run a race," said coach Scott Anderson, adding, "We came away from the meet very happy. It was a beautiful night to run for the varsity races."

Anderson said the course was the same as last year and, while parts of the course were better lit than last year, he contributed much of the Pirates' success to the runners being ready to return to competition.

The boys' squad placed fourth and the girls' third out of 13 teams.

All seven varsity Pirate runners set personal records on the boys' squad, led by Jacob Hughes, who placed fourth overall in 16 minutes, 47 seconds. Ethan Brown followed, finishing seventh in 16:55.

"Jacob and Ethan are just ... they're much stronger, a little bit older and, particularly on Jacob's side, a lot wiser. That was the smartest race I have seen him run," Anderson said.

Anderson also noted that, since he's been coaching, he doesn't believe he's had two guys finish under 17 minutes, especially in the same race.

Coy Thomas was the next Pirate finisher, finishing 35th in 18:38, followed two seconds later by Nate Lewis, who finished 36th.

"Nate had a really big race to finish as close to Coy as he did," Anderson said.

Kaleb Buffington was the next Pirate to cross the line, finishing 42nd in 18:54, followed by Keanan Anderson, who finished 51st in 19:29 and Trenton Buffington, who placed 60th in 20:09.

Anderson pointed out that the Pirates finished fourth behind some strong teams, with Alamosa, the day's top finisher, possibly one of the better teams in the country and Durango, the No. 2 team, being last year's 4A championship team.

The third finisher, Navajo Prep, from Farmington, N.M., was new to the Pirates.

This week, the Pirates will work on packing closer together, with the Pirates' three, four and five runners finishing closer to the top two (the first five runners contribute to the team standings).

The Lady Pirate harriers finished third in Durango, behind Durango and Alamosa, respectively.

Four varsity Lady Pirates set personal records on the night: Maddie Greenly, Emma Heidelmeier, Sarah Ross and Celia Taylor.

"The girls, we had a couple people step up a little bit bigger, which was good to see, so they're starting to round into competitive form, also," Anderson said.

Delaney Khung was the top finisher for the Lady Pirates, placing seventh overall in 21:05.

Greenly followed in ninth place in 21:14, followed by Kori Mogensen a second later in 10th.

"Maddie ran probably one of her best races of her career," Anderson said while highlighting several members of the girls' squad.

Heidelmeier finished 17th in 22:10, with the coach noting she "came out and showed up really big" after being sick for the previous race.



Photo courtesy Jamilyn Star
Delaney Khung runs alongside a pair of competitors at Friday's Southwest Sunset meet in Durango. Khung placed seventh overall, finishing in 21 minutes, 5 seconds to lead her team to a third-place finish.

Shelby Cronin finished 33rd in 23:05, Ross crossed the line 37th in 23:35, and Taylor finished 39th in 23:37.

"The girls actually, again, for them, ran really well," the coach said.

Anderson said the focus now is getting the team's four and five

runners closer to the top three.

"When we do that, they'll be pretty darn strong," he said.

Saturday, the Pirates will host their only home meet of the season, with this year's course atop Reservoir Hill.

"As long as we don't have too many more kids sick, we should be able to represent fairly well," Anderson said.

The course starts in the meadow, Anderson said, and is fairly spectator friendly. The public is invited to attend the event, with parking available at the base of the hill and midway up the hill. There will be parking attendants, Anderson said, as well as some handicap parking at the top of the hill.

The junior high races will begin at 9 a.m. and will be followed by the junior varsity and varsity races.

The varsity girls race is slated to begin at 10:15 a.m., followed by the varsity boys at 11 a.m.

"Cross-country rocks," Anderson said.

randi@pagosasun.com

Pagosa Springs High School National Honor Society to host annual alumni barbecue

By Sabra Miller
Special to The SUN

Come join the Pagosa Springs High School National Honor Society on Sept. 30 for its annual alumni barbecue.

The barbecue will be held at 5:30 p.m. before the homecoming football game at 7 p.m. All Pagosa Springs High School alumni are welcome to enjoy burgers, hot dogs and various refreshments provided by the National Honor Society. The

National Honor Society has been hosting this event for several years before the homecoming game.

The alumni barbecue is one of the many ways in which the National Honor Society gives back to both the high school and the Pagosa Springs community.

The upcoming homecoming dance will be attended by students on Oct. 1. This year's homecoming theme will be Disney Dreams. Both events are held during homecoming week, which encourages stu-

dent engagement and school spirit.

During the week leading up to the game, students will participate in school games, themed dress-up days and a pep rally. A new addition to this year's list of events are team flash mobs during lunch hour.

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VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates record three league wins

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Pagosa Springs High School girls' volleyball team traveled to Alamosa for a "tri," a new Intermountain League format involving three teams, with two matches each, at one site.

The league has scheduled the tri format for three Saturday dates this season to reduce travel. Last Saturday was the Lady Pirates' first.

In their back-to-back matches, coach Connie O'Donnell told The SUN, the Pagosa squad "fought hard and came out on top of both."

The Lady Pirates first triumphed over the hosts in a tight contest, besting Alamosa in straight games, 25-22, 25-21 and 25-19. They then squared off with Monte Vista and duplicated the feat by a comfortable margin, scuttling their foe 25-10, 25-13 and 25-14.

On Tuesday night, back at home, the Lady Pirates did it again, vanquishing Montezuma-Cortez. This time, however, it was a five-game tussle, 25-18, 23-25, 25-6, 21-25 and 15-5.

The week's three matches were the first in the league this season for the Lady Pirates. Overall, their record now stands at 8-1. The team is currently ranked fourth in the state in Class 3A.

Alamosa

Of the tight victory over the Mean Moose, O'Donnell said Pagosa "really wanted to win" to avenge a loss from last year.

"In our league," she said, last year Alamosa "was the closest in

state rankings to us."

Winning in just three games was a "bit surprising," the coach said, "but we just really dominated the match."

O'Donnell also noted the fine play of junior Faith Ahlhardt. The outside hitter "had an outstanding match," she said. "She only missed one serve, played defense like a champ and put the ball down when she hit."

Statistics from the match were not available at press time.

Monte Vista

In their victory at the Alamosa tri over their rivals from Monte Vista, also known as the Pirates, the Pagosa side was in control throughout.

The play was not as tightly contested as in the Alamosa match and O'Donnell said, "we were able to dominate."

She noted that the Lady Pirates' effective "serving really stood out."

Taylor Jones collected five aces against Monte Vista, Morgan Lewis and Megan Farrah notched three each, and Ahlhardt two. Haley Mitchell also served effectively for Pagosa, with only one error charged, against 10 good serves.

For the match, Ahlhardt, Farrah and Jones were the Lady Pirates' leaders in kills, Morgan Lewis and Teagan Stretton in assists, and Farrah, Ahlhardt, Isabelle Pajak and Addie Thompson in service returns.

Montezuma-Cortez

Of the home win over the visiting Panthers, O'Donnell said, "I'm really proud of this team."

The coach noted that factors including a line-up change required the Lady Pirates to adjust on the fly, but the team is "like a family and they take care of each other."

In the first game, Cortez started fast, benefiting from some Pagosa errors and jumping out to a 3-6 lead. But the errors evened out as the set progressed and Cortez was unable to match the home side at the net. At 15-13, a long run of effective serving by Morgan Lewis including two aces carried the Lady Pirates to a big lead, 23-13. A back and forth exchange of points followed, leading to Pagosa's 25-18 win.

In the second set, the visitors began to play more effectively at the net with several kills and blocks. The Lady Pirates were hurt by several infractions called at the net, and the Panthers prevailed 25-23.

But the Lady Pirates stormed back to take the third game 25-6 behind several stretches of effective serving by Mitchell, Ahlhardt and Jones, who sent deliveries hard and deep into the Cortez court, often at the feet of the Panther's returners. Aided by strong play at the net by Lewis and Farrah, as well as Ahlhardt and Jones, the Lady Pirates overpowered their foe.

But in the fourth set, Cortez bounced back, winning 25-21. Throughout the set, the Pagosa side was again plagued by errors.

Whatever the problem, it was promptly corrected by the Lady Pirates between sets. The Pagosa side jumped out to a quick 12-2 lead in the fifth set, with good serving and a flurry of kills by Ahlhardt,

Jones and Mitchell. The match then ended on an ace served by Jones, with a final fifth set tally of 15-5.

For the match, Farrah, Ahlhardt and Lewis all had a dozen or more kills for the Lady Pirates. Farrah and Jones each turned in three blocks. Jones had five aces and Lewis and Farrah three each.

Ahlhardt and Farrah led the way with 20 or more digs each, while Addie Thompson contributed nine. Lewis and Stretton each had 18 assists, while Farrah, Thompson, Isabelle Pajak and Ahlhardt were the leaders in service returns.

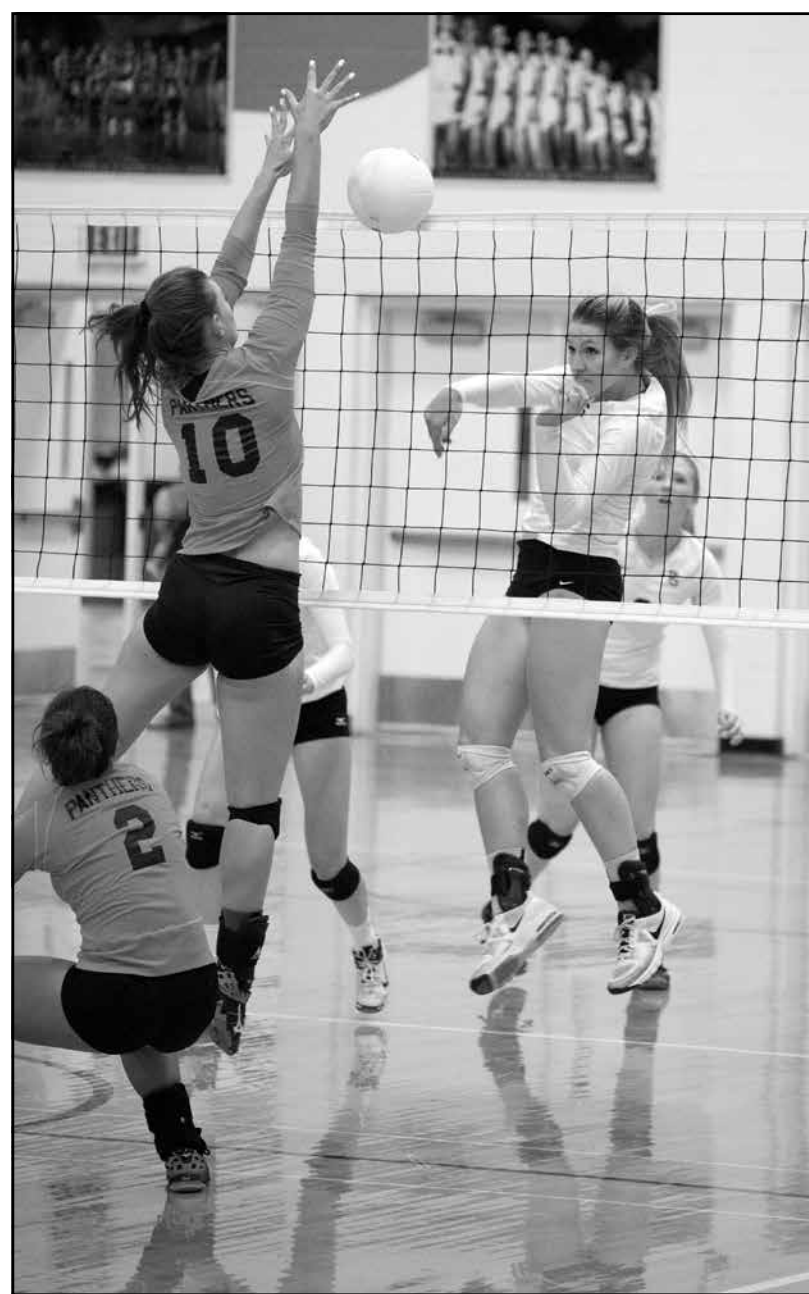
O'Donnell appraised the team's work against Cortez with the comment that "our passes were not on target. That's the big thing we need to work on. We need to pass better to the setter, so that we can use the three hitters that we have in every rotation."

But, she praised the Lady Pirates' defense, which "played great. They are truly great at getting to balls that most people would have deemed impossible."

Noting the unevenness of the team's play against Cortez, O'Donnell concluded, "the fact that we were able to fight through the tough times together and come out on top says a lot about this team."

Upcoming matches for the Lady Pirates will be at Aztec High School this afternoon, and at Centauri High School in La Jara for a league match on Saturday.

The Aztec Tigers currently stand at a record 6-5 on the season. The Centauri Falcons have a 6-1 record, and are 2-1 in the Intermountain League.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Megan Farrah hits a smash into the opponent's court in the Lady Pirates' victory at home against Cortez on Tuesday. The Pirates will be looking to improve their record today in Aztec and Saturday against Centauri in La Jara.

SOCCER



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Pirates' Maverick Miller fires off a successful shot around the Alamosa keeper and a defender in the first half of Pagosa's 2-1 victory at home last Saturday. The Pirates improved to 3-2 with the win.

Pirates soccer beats Alamosa and Cortez, faces Telluride next

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs boys' soccer team tackled Alamosa at home on Saturday. The Pirates bested their Intermountain League (IML) rival 2-1 with a dominating effort belying the close score.

Then, on Tuesday, the Pirates completed a successful week with another league victory on the road at Montezuma-Cortez, 3-2.

After a rough start for the season, the twin triumphs gave the Pirates a 3-2 league record, putting the team in the thick of the fight for league honors.

Alamosa

The Saturday match started and continued with the Pirates attacking the Mean Moose goal, but initially without results.

In the first several minutes, a Pagosa free kick bounced off the cross bar, and the Alamosa keeper turned in good saves on a header, a corner kick and then a long blast by striker Leo Witschurk from the middle. Later, a Pirate shot caromed off the goal post, and several

Pagosa crosses to the goal mouth were smothered by the Alamosa defense, now packed into the goal area.

Finally, in the 25th minute of the match, the Pirates broke through the Alamosa ranks, when Maverick Miller rushed down the right side through defenders and launched a powerful shot. When the keeper made an excellent save, but could not control the rebound, Miller pounced and struck the ball into the net for a hard-won lead.

In the meantime, when the visitors were able to win possession, they could seldom get out of midfield to generate dangerous scoring opportunities. When they did break out, their attacks came to naught, as Pirates' defender Keaton Anderson and his mates took balls away and sent them back upfield toward the Alamosa end.

More Pagosa attacks followed, but despite another shot off the Alamosa goalpost and more good opportunities on corner kicks, the half ended with the Pirates up only 1-0.

Early in the second half, however, Pitcher Lindner, Miller and

Witschurk combined effectively to advance the ball out of midfield into the Alamosa end, setting up Josue Castaneda, who scored on a great shot from the middle, high to the right corner of the net.

More opportunities followed for the Pirates, as Miller, Witschurk and Castaneda pressed the attack, but the Alamosa keeper stood tough, turning in several more good saves. Additional Pirate shots went wide or were blocked by defenders packed in front of the visitors' net, and a strong free kick by Witschurk sailed over the crossbar.

Pagosa could not score again. Then, in the waning moments, an Alamosa player gained possession in the Pirates end and dribbled across the field in front of the goal. His shot then found the Pagosa net, just inside the right post.

The Pirates held on for the 2-1 victory.

Afterward, coach Lindsey Kurt-Mason lamented that the Pirates had "lots of good opportunities, but didn't finish."

Still, he said that everybody was contributing, and praised the team for "coming together" after its dif-

ficult start to the season.

"We won this game at the Coal Ridge tourney," he said, where a week earlier, the team had started to believe in itself despite two tough losses.

The coach particularly noted the leadership shown by Tate Hinger, whom he said is a "great role model" and always "supports his teammates."

For the Alamosa game, Kurt-Mason lauded the play of Anderson on defense, whom he said was "outstanding" throughout the match.

But Miller was the player of the game, Kurt-Mason said. The speedy senior was credited with five shots on goal for the match, and was a force pressing the attack for the Pirates throughout the game.

"His serves on set pieces were outstanding," the coach said, and, overall, he "created many scoring chances for us."

Montezuma-Cortez

Following the Pirates' 3-2 victory over the Panthers on Tuesday, Kurt-Mason told The SUN, "we took the field with a purpose."

■ See Soccer A15

GOLF

Pirate golf team takes third at regionals, qualifies for state

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

For the first time in roughly a decade, Pagosa Springs High School will be represented by a team in the state golf tournament.

Despite being three strokes short of placing second in the Region 1 regionals Monday, all four Pirate golfers qualified for state individually, with coach Mark Faber explaining that means the golfers will participate both as individuals and as a team.

"They've worked really hard and it's finally paying off," Faber said. "I expect them to be competitive at state, I really do."

The Pirates took part in the 16-team regional tournament Monday in Colorado City at the Hollydot Golf Course, the team's fifth tournament in 11 days.

Owen Severs led the Pirates at regionals, placing sixth overall (out of 60 golfers with valid scores) and shooting 83 — 12 over par.

Dane Kline was the next Pirate in the standings, tying with two other golfers for eighth place with an 85.

"Dane was probably as consistent as he's been all year, which was nice to see," Faber said.

Nathan Smith found himself in a four-way tie after shooting an 88, and Jonathan Robel shot an 89.

Faber said the team could have scored even better, but each golfer had a few holes cause him problems.

"I'm proud of all of them," he said, noting that they didn't give up.

Overall, the team (with three scoring golfers) shot a 256 (43 over par), landing the Pirates in third place, behind Alamosa (239, 26 over) and Manitou Springs (253, 40 over).

Two teams and 13 individual golfers advance to the state tournament from each region, Faber explained. However, since all four Pirates qualified, they earned the right to play as a team.

Faber said it's the first team he's taken to state in probably 10 years, "which is nice."

The state competition will take place Monday and Tuesday at the Saddle Rock Golf Course in Aurora, with the golfers playing 18 holes each day.

The course will be new to the Pirates, who will head up for a practice round on Sunday before delving into competition Monday.

Leading up to Monday's regional competition, the Pirates played in a

number of tournaments over a short span, beginning with the Monte Vista tournament on Sept. 9.

At that tournament, the team finished second out of nine teams. "They played pretty well," Faber said.

Seven Pirates played in the tournament, though only three contributed to the team standings.

Severs led the Pirates on the day with an 80, followed by Smith with an 86, Robel with a 96, Kline with a 98, Jack Harker with a 97, Rolan Sanchez with a 90 and Devon Jacquez with a 99.

Faber said Severs' 80 was his best round of the year, and highlighted the play of Severs and Smith at the tournament.

The following Monday and Tuesday, the Pirates played in back-to-back tournaments in Durango.

Monday, the team played at Hillcrest Golf Course, where they battled not only the course, but also an hour-long lightning delay.

At Hillcrest, the Pirates were led by Robel with an 88, followed by Ben Pargin with a 101, Sanchez with a 102 and Jacquez with a 120.

Due to the lightning delay, the day's results were not yet available by the time they hit the road to return home.

The next morning, another crew of Pirate golfers were in Durango, this time at the Dalton Ranch course.

Smith had a "very good day," shooting an 85 to lead the Pirates, followed by Severs with a 90, Kline with a 96 and Tanner Peart with a 99.

"Nathan played well," Faber said. "He just had a couple of holes that got him."

Faber was also proud that all of the Pirates broke 100 on "a pretty technical, tough course."

Again, the day's results were not yet available by the time the Pirates hit the road home.

Then, on Sept. 16, the team was in Colorado City at Hollydot for the Rye Tournament, which also served as a warmup for the regional tournament on the same course.

Smith led the Pirates in the tournament with an 87, followed by Kline and Robel both shooting a 92 and Severs' 93.

"They started playing better," Faber said. "It's kind of getting better as we go along. They let a few holes get away from them in that one that really cost them."

The Pirates finished seventh out of 19 teams in that tournament. randi@pagosahun.com

FOOTBALL



SUN Photo/Randi Pierce

Pagosa Pirate Connor Aragon maneuvers through several Monte Vista Pirates during the Pirates-versus-Pirates game last Thursday. This Friday, the Pirates will travel to Ignacio to fight the Bobcats, with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

Pirates fall to Monte Vista, face Ignacio Friday

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 15, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team fell to the Monte Vista Pirates by a score of 31-14.

Pagosa had a rough start, as Monte Vista scored seven points in the first quarter and an additional 10 in the second.

However, by the third quarter, the Pagosa Pirates began to rally and scored 14 points in the last half of the game.

In the last half, the Monte Vista Pirates also scored 14 points, which brought the ending score to 31-14.

Pagosa Pirate Ty Kimsey scored both of the team's touchdowns.

The Monte Vista Pirates garnered 16 first downs, whereas the

Pagosa Pirates garnered 11.

Pagosa had three penalties, which caused the team to lose 20 yards. Monte Vista had five penalties, which caused the team to lose 33 yards.

In an interview with SUN staff, coach Myron Stretton said that because the team was still making small mistakes, they were working hard on execution and discipline.

"I'd say team unity has improved," said Stretton, adding that the team was working hard across the board.

This week, the Pagosa Pirates will travel to Ignacio to face the Bobcats on Friday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m.

The Pirates currently hold a 0-3 record while the Bobcats hold a 2-1 record.

marshall@pagosasun.com

RECREATION NEWS

Time to register for youth basketball, gymnastics

By Darren Lewis
SUN Columnist

The Pagosa Springs Recreation Department is currently accepting youth basketball registration for ages 7-8 through Oct. 3.

The cost is \$35 and you may register at the Ross Aragon Community Center or online through Xpress bill pay.

Gymnastics registration

The Pagosa Springs Recreation Department is currently accepting gymnastics registrations for ages 3 and up through Oct. 3.

The cost is \$35 and you may register at the Community Center.

Classes will be held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings for four weeks. Class sizes are limited, so register early.

Fitness center

The Community Center fitness center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2 per day, \$10 per month or \$80 per year.

Online registration

Through the use of Xpress Bill Pay, the Town of Pagosa Springs Recreation Department offers

online registration for most youth programs, including tee ball, baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

Xpress Bill Pay provides a secure, convenient option to register for programs through the use of a credit card, debit card or by transferring funds directly from a banking account using electronic funds transfer (EFT). To register for programs online or learn more about Xpress Bill Pay, visit the parks and recreation department page at www.townofpagosaspings.com.

For more information, call the recreation office at 264-4151, ext. 232.

Soccer

Continued from A14

"Our passing game was accurate from our defensive third to the midfield," he continued. "Then, it was finding seams in the Cortez defense, which we did well."

The Pagosa goals were scored by Will Villalobos, Brandon Breman and Miller. The latter also assisted on both of his teammates' scores, and Miller's own goal came off an assist from Paul Farrah.

Keeper Niall Pastuszek turned in nine saves for the Pirates.

Kurt-Mason said Anderson was the player of the game for the

Pagosa side in the Cortez match, saying he "played a very solid game ... aggressive and smart."

The defensive stopper "is a great comfort back there," he commented.

Anderson has a powerful foot, and the coach said he "had great serves from set plays and created a number of attacks" against the Panthers.

In addition, the coach also praised the play of Lindner, whom he said, "is growing into the [role of center] midfield really well," increasing his volume of shots and

keeping control of the play.

Kurt-Mason attributed Lindner's growth to improved understanding of the position.

In addition, the coach said that the combination play of Miller and Michael Candelaria is a significant Pirates' asset. They both play with speed, and generate quick counterattacks that have the capability of turning a game around, putting the Pagosa side on the attack in an instant.

He concluded by saying the team is putting "energy into training [and that] shows in the game.

We are getting it."

Friday and Saturday this week, the Pirates have home matches against IML rivals Telluride and Ridgway, both of whom own early season wins over the Pagosa. Nevertheless, the two teams are bunched with the Pirates in the middle of current league standings.

Telluride's season record is 4-3-1. The Miners will play the Pirates at 4 p.m. Friday.

Ridgway stands at 4-2. The Demons will be at Pagosa at 11 a.m. Saturday.

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A tail number and a tale of two airmen

By Roy Vega
Special to The SUN

Pagosa Country is known for its uniqueness and sense of community. This story of a chance encounter is just one of those unique situations that makes living here special.

A tail number

Jerry D., retired U.S. Air Force, posted the short history of C-130A, Tail No. 56-0518 "Last Herk out of Vietnam" dated Oct. 25, 2005, on The Patriot Files Forums:

"The C-130A Hercules, tail No. 56-0518, was the 126th built by Lockheed Aircraft Corp. of Marietta, Ga. It was accepted into the Air Force inventory on Aug. 23, 1957.

"It was assigned to the 314th Troop Carrier Wing at Sewart AFB, Tenn., from 1964 to 1972. On Nov 2, 1972, it was given to the South Vietnamese Air Force as part of the Military Assistance Program. A few years later, the aircraft would be involved in a tremendously historic flight.

"On April 29, 1975, this Herk was the last out of Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. With over 100 aircraft destroyed on the flight line at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, some of them still burning, it was the last flyable C-130 remaining. In a very panicked state, hundreds of people were rushing to get aboard, as the aircraft represented a final ticket to freedom.

"People hurriedly crowded into the Herk, packing in tighter and tighter. Eventually, the loadmaster informed the pilot, Major Phuong, a South Vietnamese instructor pilot, that he could not get the rear ramp closed due to the number of people standing on it. In a moment of inspiration, Major Phuong slowly taxied forward, then hit the brakes. The loadmaster called forward again stating he had successfully got the doors closed.

"In all, 452 people were on board, including a staggering 32 in the cockpit alone. Using a conservative estimate of 100 pounds

per person, it translated into an overload of at least 10,000 pounds. Consequently, the Herk used every bit of the runway and overrun before it was able to get airborne.

"The target was Thailand, which should have been 1:20 in flight time, but after an hour and a half, the aircraft was over the Gulf of Slam and they were clearly lost. Finally, a map was located, they identified some terrain features and they were able to navigate. They landed at Utapao, Thailand, after a three-and-a-half-hour flight.

"Ground personnel were shocked at what 'fell out' as they opened the doors. It was clear that a longer flight would almost certainly have resulted in a loss of life. In the end, however, all 452 people made it to freedom aboard this historic C-130.

"Upon landing, the aircraft was reclaimed by the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to two different Air National Guard units for the next 14 years. On June 28, 1989, it made its final flight to Little Rock Air Force Base, current home of the 314th Airlift Wing, and was placed on static display."

A tale

The co-pilot on that fateful last flight out of Saigon was a young Republic of Vietnam Air Force 1st Lt. named Thuan Nguyen. He had previously evacuated his wife Lan and their two small children, a daughter 2 years old and a son 7 months old, along with other evacuees and had volunteered to return to the Tan Son Nhut Air Base for more evacuees even as North Vietnamese forces were overrunning it. When Nguyen landed this C-130 at Utapao, the Republic of Vietnam Air Force insignia was removed from the aircraft, and he was a man without a country.

Nguyen moved his family to San Antonio, Texas, where he had undergone flight training with the U.S. Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base (following English language school), getting his wings flying a

T-41. He was then sent to Keesler AFB Biloxi, Miss., to check out on the T-28 aircraft, and finally to Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio, to get certified on the ship he would fly on combat missions in support of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam operations against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces, the C-123. After a few years of harrowing flight missions which saw many of his comrades lost to enemy fire, Nguyen was promoted to co-pilot of the Hercules C-130.

Nguyen settled down in Houston, Texas, had three more children, and went from being a laborer with a construction company to becoming a contractor and starting and running his own company. He and his wife became naturalized American citizens and officially took the names of Tom and Angie Nguyen. He retired from the construction business and purchased a second home in Pagosa Springs last September.

Tom and Angie Nguyen met Roy Vega, adjutant of the local American Legion Post, who invited Tom Nguyen to be a guest speaker at the post's regular meeting on Sept. 14. Air Force veteran and past post commander Hal Lowe came to the meeting and, upon being introduced to Tom Nguyen, struck up a lively conversation, with both being former C-130 pilots.

Then, incredibly, it came to light that not only had both veteran combat pilots flown the same type of aircraft, Lowe had in fact flown Tail Number 518 before the ship had been turned over to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force, the exact same ship that Tom Nguyen helped pilot on the last flight out of Saigon as it fell, and which is now on permanent display at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas.

This chance encounter of former pilots from two air forces with experiences with the exact same aircraft which went on to acquire historical significance proves once again that many paths cross in Pagosa Springs.



Photo courtesy Don Brenno

Tom Nguyen provides an informative, moving and heartfelt presentation of his experiences as a pilot during the Vietnam War as guest speaker at the American Legion Post's regular meeting on Sept. 14. His story told of his escape with his family as the country was overrun by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese and his new life in America, which included becoming a U.S. citizen. Pictured, left to right: American Legion Post Commander Ed Robinson, Republic of Vietnam Air Force veteran Tom Nguyen and United States Air Force veteran Hal Lowe.



Photo courtesy Tom Nguyen

C-130 Tail Number 518 "Last Herk Out of Vietnam" is on permanent display at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas.

Former Navy SEAL honored for exemplary service

By Franklin Anderson
Special to The SUN

Vietnam-era underwater demolition teams (UDTs) and SEALs honored Pagosa Springs Cmdr. Franklin Anderson, retired from the U.S. Naval Service, for his exemplary service during the Vietnam Conflict during a special event held at the Coronado Yacht Club in Coronado, Calif., on Aug. 18.

Anderson received the Bronze Star with Combat V for Valor for his involvement in the Battle of Vung Ro Bay. Anderson had recently trained a Vietnamese SEAL Team (LDNN) when word was received that a North Vietnamese trawler was sited off-loading weapons at Vung Ro Bay. He accompanied the LDNN and upon arrival at Vung Ro Bay, they went ashore under heavy enemy fire and secured the area.

Anderson personally dove on the sunken trawler and recovered documents that conclusively proved that the North Vietnamese and Communist Chinese were bringing in war materials directly from Haiphong Harbor. For this action, he also received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Silver Star, which stated, "Lt Anderson was a very Brave Man."

He received the Legion of Merit for his role as commanding officer of SEAL Team One. Adm. Blouin stated Anderson "took a group of sailors and made them into one of the best fighting forces in Vietnam."

He instigated bringing SEAL Training into Underwater Demolition Team Replacement Accession classes and provided instructors to teach small unit tactics and weapons. He formed Camp Billy Machen at Niland, Calif., as a SEAL indoctrination training area. Upon arrival at SEAL Team One, he had 10 officers and 50 men. He immediately changed the method of operations into Intelligence Collection, which provided other combat forces with invaluable information.

The demand for SEAL services became so great that he initiated actions to bring forces from the Atlantic Fleet (SEAL Team Two) to help fill the requirements for more SEALs. He initiated through the chain of command a request for an increase in manpower authorization for 50 officers and 500 men, which was approved.

When he departed SEAL Team One, he had 50 officers and 350



Photo courtesy Franklin Anderson

The Vietnam-era UDTs/SEALs honor Cmdr. Franklin Anderson for his exemplary service during the Vietnam Conflict at the Coronado Yacht Club in Coronado, Calif., on Aug. 18.

men. SEALs were classified "secret" and few knew of their existence, however, the success of their operations brought forth many inquiries about the "men with green faces" in late 1966, and Anderson gave the first press conference and acknowledged the existence of SEAL teams.

During this period, Anderson was instrumental in the development of many new weapon systems in conjunction with several test stations. He was also involved in the formation and use of Vietnamese defectors and others in what became known as the Provincials Reconnaissance Units, which were very effective in protecting villages from incursions by the Viet Cong. For all of his actions and success of SEALs, Anderson received the Legion of Merit in October 1968.

On Jan. 14, 1969, Anderson and men from SEAL Team One, and some from SEAL Team Two (who were TAD to ST-1) were summoned to the White House to receive the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) from President Lyndon Johnson. This also happened to be Johnson's last official act as president of the United States.

The citation reads, "for exceptional meritorious and heroic service in the conduct of Unconven-

tional Warfare Operations against the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam."

Although often required to carry out their operations in treacherous and almost impenetrable mangrove swamps against overwhelming odds, SEAL Team One personnel maintained an aggressive operating schedule and were highly successful in the gathering of intelligence and interdicting Viet Cong operations.

On one occasion, a SEAL fire team ambushed a junk and two sampans accounting for seven Viet Cong dead and the capture of valuable intelligence data.

During this operation, all SEAL personnel had to remain exposed and in waist-deep water and mud in order to obtain clear fields of fire. As a result of their constant alertness and skillful reading of Viet Cong trail markers, members of SEAL Team One were successful in discovering numerous well-concealed Viet Cong base camps and supply caches, and captured or destroyed over 228 tons of Viet Cong rice as well as numerous Viet Cong river craft, weapons, buildings and documents. The outstanding esprit de corps of this unit was evidenced on Oct. 7, 1966, when a direct hit by

an enemy mortar round wounded 16 of the 19 men on board the units armored LCM, and again on April 7, 1967, when three members of SEAL Team One on board the LCM were killed and 11 wounded by the Viet Cong positioned along the riverbanks of a narrow stream.

On both occasions, SEAL Team One men who were able, even though seriously wounded, returned to their positions and continued to fire their weapons until they were out of danger, thereby helping to save the lives of their comrades.

The heroic achievements of SEAL Team One reflect outstanding professionalism, valor, teamwork and selfless dedication of the units officers and men. Their performance was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

From August 1969 through July 1972, Anderson was assigned to Commander in Chief, Pacific Command (CINCPAC) staff as a member of a Strategic Target Analysis Group for the planning and conduct of special operations against the North Vietnamese. Their plans were approved at the highest level and many successful operations were conducted. For his role, Anderson was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal by the Commander in Chief Pacific (Adm. John S. McCain).

From CINCPAC, Anderson was assigned to staff of CNO for the conducted of research, and development of, special equipment for use by special warfare forces.

When he retired in May of 1977, he had more time in Naval Special Warfare than any other officer in the U.S. Navy.

Anderson was born in his grandmother's home on South 7th Street in Pagosa Springs. He has been married to the former Martha Kuhnle, of San Diego, for 55 years.

Upon retirement, he has not been idle. He was commended by the Colorado House of Representatives for activities in agriculture, community affairs and politics. In 1996, he was selected as La Plata County Agriculturist of the Year. He currently serves on many boards and commissions as well as running the ranch that he has started from the ground up. Anderson raises sheep, cattle and registered Arabian and Quarter horses.

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

Sept. 12 — County warrant, San Juan Street.

Sept. 13 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, failed to drive in single lane (weaving), drove vehicle without insurance, U.S. 160.

Sept. 13 — Fraud by check-other method, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Sept. 16 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Sept. 17 — Drove vehicle without insurance, failed to display valid registration, improper registration-registration rescinded, canceled, or used for another, vehicle did not have signaling device as required, operated vehicle with improper/unsafe tires, glass in vehicle did not permit normal vision, Country Center Drive.

Sept. 18 — Failed to display valid registration, Aspen Village Drive.

Sept. 18 — Violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, drove vehicle when license canceled, Colorado license plate violation, vehicle with defective or no stop light(s), Harman Park Drive.

Sept. 18 — Expired license plates, drove motorcycle or motor-driven cycle without valid license, County Road 600.

Sept. 19 — Information only, U.S. 151.

Sept. 19 — Found property, Village Drive.

Sept. 20 — Violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, San Juan Street.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Sept. 16 — Trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Diane E. Knutson

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Samuel H. Cassidy

Sept. 13 — Thompson Robert, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Sept. 16 — Joel Smith, driving under restraint, 48 hours community service, fines and costs — \$249.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Greg Lyman

Sept. 20 — Arick Bitsue, controlled substance-possession schedule 1/2/ FL/KT, two years probation, 50 hours community service, fines and costs — \$3,208.50.

Sept. 20 — Arick Bitsue, violation of bail bond condition-felony, two years probation updated sentence, fines and costs — \$1,678.50.

Destination Imagination to hold informational meeting

By Sheila Weahkee
Special to The SUN

San Juan BOCES is hosting several Destination Imagination (DI) informational meetings for parents, students, teachers and community volunteers.

DI is a program for students K-12 that fosters creative problem solving, teamwork, critical- and divergent-thinking skills, financial and time management, experimentation, presentation skills and

just plain fun.

DI challenges students to tackle problems across multiple areas of interest, including architecture, art, theater, music, engineering, physics and more.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Durango 9R School District Building, 201 East 12th St., in the 9R Board Room.

For more information, please contact Sheila Weahkee at (970) 764-7550 or sheahkee@sjbooces.org.



Shop
Pagosa Springs
first.

Colorfest



SUN photos/Randi Pierce, photos courtesy Beth Tollefsen

The hallmark of Colorfest is the hot air balloons, which grace the skies over Pagosa Springs multiple times over the festive weekend. An increased number of pilots hit the skies in their balloons this year, pleasing spectators and photo enthusiasts.



Births

The following are August births with parents from Pagosa Springs, as reported by Mercy Regional Medical Center:

Alice Leann, Donna Roque and Tyson Muir, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, 8:02 a.m., Aug. 15.

Michael Hayden, Melissa and Travis Adams, 8 pounds, 11 ounces, 2:47 p.m., Aug. 22.

Parents are invited to submit photos of their baby and an official announcement to editor@pagosasan.com to be printed in the newspaper.

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

The Pagosa Springs SUN 264-2101

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Little Black Dress Affair – Magic Happens

Saturday, Oct. 1



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

Little Black Dress Affair will offer something for every lady Oct. 1

By Aubrie Limebrook
Special to The PREVIEW

Spectacular dress picked out? Check. Fabulous shoes ready to go? Check. All the bling to match? Check. Ticket bought from Seeds of Learning? Check. Best girlfriends ready to enjoy a magical evening and fun after party? Check.

Now that you are all ready for Little Black Dress Affair 2016 — Magic Happens, let's talk about the amazing silent auction items that you will have the opportunity to bid on this year.

Our silent auction has been meticulously planned and thought out so that we can provide items that you don't see at other silent auctions or events. We went far and wide to find things that will excite you, amaze you and surprise you. Come and see what other things might spark your interest.

You can be sure there will be items you will want to be bidding on. See you on Oct. 1 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. for an evening of magic and mystery.



Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning

The silent auction at Seeds of Learning's Little Black Dress affair will have something for every lady, and things not found at other local events. The event is set for Oct. 1.

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Thursday
 Riff Raff Brewing Company: Songs of the Fall, 6 p.m.

Friday
 Riff Raff Brewing Company: Jacques Grant and Pamela Novak, 6 p.m.

Saturday
 East Side Market: Open Mic with Living Proof, 9 a.m.
 Riff Raff Brewing Company: Ben Gibson Duo, 6 p.m.

Sunday
 Riff Raff Brewing Company: Bob Hemenger, 4 p.m.

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

Reg. U.S. Pat. Office

The Pagosa Springs SUN thanks longtime Pagosa Springs supporter Mrs. Shirley Slesinger Lasswell for the privilege of being the only newspaper in the United States to publish the 'Red Ryder and Little Beaver' comic strip. The ongoing adventures of Red Ryder and Little Beaver which began appearing in the Preview section with the December 26, 1996, edition of the SUN first ran in major daily newspapers across America from December 25, 1938 through December 4, 1963. Drawn by the late Fred Harman, the comic strips are under the registered copyright restrictions of Red Ryder Enterprises, Inc.

© Red Ryder Ent. Inc.

By Fred Harman

Panel 1: "OUTLAW HIDEOUT, RED RYDER!" "YES! AND STELLA IS WITH 'EM!" "LOOKS LIKE SHE'S COOKING UP SOMETHING FOR 'EM!"

Panel 2: (Close-up of Red Ryder)

Panel 3: "HOW SOON IS THIS STUFF GONNA BE HOT ENOUGH TO GET GOLD OUTA ROCKS, MISS?" "ANY MINUTE NOW!" "IT OUGHT TO EXPLODE!"

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Photo courtesy Susan Hamlet
Caller Carla Roberts and the Wild West Squares are offering a 10-week introduction to square dancing class. Enrollment is open through September.

Free square dance class open through September

By Carla Roberts
 Special to The PREVIEW

The Wild West Squares of Pagosa Springs is offering a free 10-week introduction to square dance with classes continuing to accept new students on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m.

The next class is Sept. 28 at the PLPOA Clubhouse. Enrollment is open through the month of September.

The Wild West Squares, with caller Carla Roberts, is a modern western square dance teaching program that starts at a basic level, so new dancers can quickly master enough calls (or dance steps) to experience the exhilaration of dancing in a group setting.

Learn teamwork, stretch your mind and body and develop friendships with a growing group of enthusiastic dancers. The class focus is for everyone to have an enjoyable dance session while learning the building blocks of square dance.

This is a fun, easygoing and free class open to families, couples and singles. The suggested age for children is at least 8 years old. Call Roberts to enroll at 903-6478.

Improve physical and mental health

The golden duo — mental and physical exercise—has been shown to enhance cognitive functioning

over exercise alone, indicating that the best brain health workouts involve those that integrate different parts of the brain such as coordination, rhythm and strategy.

Square dancing fits the bill perfectly and has many opportunities for socializing — opportunities that don't usually exist in other workout routines.

If you want to forget your troubles, stress and other life dramas, consider grabbing a partner or coming solo and hitting the dance floor. You're bound to lose track of everything that's troubling you since it's nearly impossible to focus on anything but the steps being called.

There are different levels of square dancing. The beginning level alone consists of 69 different dance moves or "calls." The next level adds an additional 31 calls. Keeping track of all those dance steps requires quite a bit of mental focus. If you've been looking for a fun, unique way to improve your overall health, consider square dancing. Your mind and body will thank you.

Stay healthy this fall with square dancing every Wednesday night from 7 to 8 p.m., continuing Sept. 28 through Nov. 23 at the PLPOA Clubhouse located at 230 Port Ave. To best enjoy dancing, wear comfortable clothes and clean shoes.

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BONNIE'S GONE AND WE ARE CLEANING SHOPPE!

Put your green chile to the test at the Cha Cha

By **Jacque Aragon**
Special to The PREVIEW

Each year, the fall season arrives with shorter days, cooler nights and bushels of fresh roasted green chiles. In Pagosa Springs, there is an annual green chile cook-off where chefs of all abilities and backgrounds compete for cash, trophies and bragging rights.

This event, the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic (PAGCC), was created to celebrate the green chile harvest and pay homage to a local green chile enthusiast who sated Pagosans' green chile palettes for years with her tasty homemade recipe.

PAGCC's mission is to build community in the Pagosa Springs area while celebrating our cultural heritage through local cuisine and music

Patty Aragon, along with her husband, Ross Aragon, owned and operated Al's West and East in the 1970s until 1992. They served traditional American and Southwestern cuisine and were most famous for their green chile, which they served straight up or atop burgers, fries and almost everything.

"My mother made the best green chile, hands down," explained Jacque Aragon, who has organized the cook-off for the last eight years. "I'm proud to carry on the family tradition and love seeing other people get excited about making and eating green chile."

Roughly 40 entrants, both amateur and professional, compete each year in the cook-off. Some cooks get creative; others go classic style. Without their generous contribution of time, effort and ingredients, this community event would not be possible. Cooks are required to show up with their slow cookers and ingredient lists between 10 and 10:30 a.m. in order to start the official judging on time. Each entrant will receive a commemorative green chile baseball hat.

Three judges volunteer for the difficult and filling job of choosing their favorite chiles. Each judge tastes all chiles present and rates



Photo courtesy Jacque Aragon

Roughly 40 entrants are slated to have their green chile put to the test of a panel of judges at the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic on Oct. 1.

them on a scale from 1-10, plus takes notes in case the scores are close. Then the scores are added up and monies and medals are awarded to first, second and third places in meat and vegetarian categories.

Once the judges are finished, the tasting is opened up to the public, who by this time have created a formidable queue. Each

■ See Cha Cha on next page

JOIN US FOR THE BIBLICAL FEAST OF TRUMPETS



YOM TERUAH

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Leviticus (Vayikra) 23:23-25

Numbers (Bemidbar) 29:1

SCHEDULE & EVENTS

Prayer & Teaching Evening of Sept. 30

Teaching & Worship Oct. 1 & 2

See our website for location, times, and details.

Come join us in the dress rehearsal for the King of Kings with times of worship, teachings on the biblical feast, and blowing of the shofar throughout the weekend.

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Fall Break.
See you in
October!

Cha Cha

■ continued from previous page person who participates in the tasting and pays \$7 is entitled to 10 tastes and a vote for the People's Choice awards for first, second and third places. Commercial en-

tries will also be eligible for these prestigious awards.

The PAGCC is part of the Mountain Chile Cha Cha, which is hosted by GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors), and

will take place in Town Park rain or shine on . There is a kids' fun race, a 5k, 10k and half marathon for competitors of all abilities. Go to joingecko.org for more information.

Also part of the Cha Cha event is a Latin music concert featuring Pagosa's own Los Mitotitos. This popular local band is sure to fill the dance floor with their rockin' rancheras and captivating cumbias. Other attractions include a Mexican beer garden, Hatch green chiles roasted on site, and an all-day kid's corner with face painting and henna tattoos. Also, back by popular demand is the margarita contest, where local restaurants and bars compete for best margarita.

This is a free community event- We hope to see you at the Cha Cha.



Photo courtesy Jacque Aragon

The margarita contest will be back by popular demand at this year's Mountain Chile Cha Cha set for Oct. 1.

Keep up on local happenings with
The SUN.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
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Perry Davis Harper returning to town for house concert

By Laura Moore
Special to The PREVIEW

Perry Davis Harper is returning to Pagosa Springs for a one-night-only house concert to help raise funding for the construction of Thingamajig Theatre's new actor housing.

Harper is well known for his opera training and performance. Having sang with some of the finest performers from New York and throughout Europe, Harper's rising tenor voice has been sought after by some of the finest opera companies.

What you might not know is that Harper is also a jazz singer. And a drummer. And a certified "fight trainer" specializing in the bull-whip (ever seen a rose snapped from the clenched teeth of an assistant?). There's a whole lot more to Harper than meets the eye.

These are just a few of the surprises you'll experience at the house concert, an evening with a dash of opera, jazz, Broadway, standards, mixed in with a cornucopia of "hidden" talents that make Harper one of the most entertaining artists in the country.

Thingamajig Theatre is a 501(c)3 that brings in over 70 professional artists from around the country each year to participate and create in the theater's year-round productions. Each of these artists need housing for the length of their stay, which ranges from one day to a couple of years. The theater has scrambled to find generous host families, donated hotel rooms and the difficult, expen-

■ See Concert on next page



Photo courtesy Tim Moore

Perry Davis Harper, well known for his opera training and performance, is returning to Pagosa Springs for a one-night-only house concert to help raise funding for the construction of Thingamajig Theatre's new actor housing. The house concert will take place Oct. 2.

★★★★★

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Here come the Extra Crispy Chicks

Our granddaughter is getting married in six weeks and the whole family has been invited to the wedding. I can't tell you what it's taking to get this country family ready for a southern California wedding. We are calling it The Beverly Hillbilly Destination Wedding.

We want to look good and be ready for her moment. We don't want to embarrass anyone, especially ourselves. You can obviously see our challenge. We've got a lot of work to do on us before we arrive.

Our two daughters headed to Albuquerque on a mission that turned into a five-hour shopping marathon. They came home at 2 a.m. and said, "Mother, tomorrow we'll have a style show. We bought dresses for you to try on, too. Whatever doesn't look good, we'll

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



take back."

"Sounds good."

The next day, they both came by the house and we tried on dresses. My Sweet Al looked on. He was raised in front of a dressing room door waiting to see his mother in designer clothing. He enjoys that kind of stuff. He's waited in front of many dressing room doors for me, also. When I ask how I look, he is so blinded by love, now by old age, he says, "You look beautiful." He's

no help in an honest assessment.

Trying on clothes is not my kind of fun. It's work, pushing and tugging into dresses and looking in the mirror. That alone will make anyone want to stop eating. I've put myself on a strict diet. I've got to get back in shape and I've got six weeks to do it.

My Sweet Al said he didn't have a thing to wear. He is still worried about his wedding suit he wore 30 years ago for our two daughters' weddings. He bought it new and walked our first daughter, Cricket, down the aisle. Then, two weeks later, he wore it again. He walked our second daughter, Allison, through the park to the gazebo on her wedding day. He gave away his two daughters, cried and rejoiced

■ See Lane on next page

Concert

■ continued from previous page
sive and elusive case of mid-term rentals.

Thingamajig has decided that the best option for the future of the theater is to sink its roots deep into Pagosa soil and construct a unique house that will host 24 artists at a time, thereby committing the theater to make a long-term investment into bringing professional theater to Pagosa Springs. It is an exciting time for Thingamajig Theatre and we need your help to bring this vision to reality.

Harper's house concert will take place on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. The concert will be at the stunning home of Connie Papple, a generous donor who hosted a number of our performers for over a year at her home. Food and beverages will be served in the incredible home and the small number of guests will enjoy the incredible vocals of Harper filling the spacious home and lighting up their hearts.

This concert is the first in a series of three house concerts put on by Thingamajig Theatre in the efforts to raise funding for the new house. The second will take place in December with the return of Jamie Finkenthal (Lady of the Lake, Fantine) James Scott (Sebastian) and Boni McIntyre (Mrs. Potts) in the home of Bob and Robin Brobst — another couple generous enough to have hosted actors and artist almost year round for nearly three years. The final concert will take place in May with one of our new stars of the 2017 summer season in the newly completed actor house.

Plans for the actor house will be present for viewing at both the October and December concerts.

Tickets for the concerts are extremely limited. They are \$100 each and the October concert can be purchased immediately by going online to www.pagosacenter.org or by calling 731-7469. The box of-

rice messages are checked daily in September.

If you wish to make a capital contribution to the Thingamajig Theatre Artist Housing Fund, checks can be mailed to Thingamajig Theatre Company, 2313 Eagle Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or you can visit www.pagosacenter.org to make a donation via credit card.

Please call Laura Moore at 507-0408 with any questions about the naming rights available for purchase for the rooms in the actor house and the fun and fantastic perks that goes along with having your name permanently above the rooms in the Thingamajig actor house.

Here's to the next 50 years of Thingamajig Theatre Company.

Curtains Up Pagosa announces scholarship recipient

By Dale Johnson
Special to The PREVIEW

Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP) announces the award of scholarship to its newest recipient of the John Graves Memorial Scholarship fund, Gus Palma.

The scholarship is an annual award of \$1,000 for four years for students pursuing a career in the performing arts.

Palma is attending the Santa Fe University of Art and Design in Santa Fe, N.M., majoring in musical theater, where he has just been cast as one of the leads in the college's upcoming production of "Company."

Palma has been active with CUP and Pagosa Springs High School



Gus Palma

productions ever since he discovered the stage several years ago. We are extraordinarily proud of Palma.



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Friday at 6pm
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Saturday at 6pm
Ben Gibson Duo

Sunday at 4pm
Bob Hemenger



UU topic: ‘I Am Who I Am’

By Dean Cerny
Special to The PREVIEW

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) invites you to attend a presentation titled “I Am Who I Am,” with Utah visitor Dean Cerny, this Sunday, Sept. 25, for its regular service.

Knowledge of self has been the advice of sages throughout human history. Religious and philosophical wisdom traditions offer a variety of means and practices to aid in the pursuit of self-knowledge. Unfortunately, those means often become the end of true inner knowing. Religious belief systems were designed to provide existen-

tial paradigms into which we may grow as individuals situated within a larger community.

But what happens when the information we glean from deep self-introspection contradicts these status quo belief systems? This is not a mere rhetorical question by any means for members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) community.

More often than we wish to acknowledge, the answer to this question is a matter of life and death for a significant portion of the gay community.

My answer to this question of contradiction and conflict is

my life’s story. More important, sexual identities aside, the tension between profound spiritual self-knowledge and established religious ideologies is a story familiar to all Unitarian Universalists throughout history. Let us relate and celebrate our differences.

Cerny was raised in the Presbyterian faith in rural Wisconsin. He graduated from Arizona State in religious studies and, after several false starts, he obtained his master’s in religion and theology with honors in historical theology from the United Theological Seminary in Minnesota. He served as pastor

■ See UU on next page

Lane

■ continued from previous page
all the way, but those were special moments and Al hasn’t forgotten what he wore.

When he got off the plane a couple of years ago, if you remember someone stole his suitcase from the back of his truck. His suit was in it. He believes his wedding suit was such a fine suit with all his memories attached that someone in south Albuquerque is wearing his suit this very day.

I don’t have the heart to tell him, they probably trashed it into a dumpster and it’s in the Albuquerque dump 30 feet under tons of trash. I said, “Hang it up, Al. You’re not getting your suit back. Wear your light black leather jacket with a nice pair of slacks.”

With his shoe fetish, he’s got brand new shoes he’s hid from me in the top of the closet. He’ll look just fine. I’m not worried and didn’t think anything about it. I solved his problem.

The girls and I went back to trying on dresses. I said, “You bought three of the same dress. Why did you do that?”

“We loved the dress. Let’s all try them on and see who looks best in it.”

We were all standing in front of the mirror, each with the same dress on. Allison said, “I know, let’s

take a picture with us in them and send it to Cricket. We’ll tell her we are all wearing the same dress for the wedding. If the wedding party doesn’t show up, we can be her bridesmaids.

We all had a good laugh, but we all know Cricket. She is serious about her daughter’s wedding day. It’s not the day to be funny.

I looked in the mirror and said, “There’s a lot of white meat showing. I need a tan. It’s going to be in sunny California and everyone will have tans but us.”

Our youngest daughter and my Sweet Al tan religiously on her days off. It’s their bonding time. One hour on one side, then flip to the other side in a whole lot of sun tanning oil, kinda like frying chicken. Our other daughter said, “I’m going to the tanning salon every day for the next six weeks.”

“Be careful, you’ll get too tanned and you’ll look like George Hamilton. You’ll be the new spokesman for KFC. They will call you the Extra Crispy Chick.”

Amazingly, we found several dresses and took back what we couldn’t wear, and spent three more hours in the store. I forgot to look for something for Al to wear. On the way home, he said, “I still don’t have a thing to wear on the trip, dinner, wedding or the time

in Vegas.”

“Why didn’t you say something while we were in Kohl’s. Are they wearing fat ties or skinny ties these days?” He pulled out a 30-year-old bib tie and said it was his favorite tie.

I said, “Absolutely not. You look like you’re ready to eat fried chicken.”

Our son-in-law said, “I’m wearing my uniform, that’s easy. I’m done shopping.”

Then our son emailed us. “I’m flying in from the Philippines and bringing my two golden retrievers, but there’s a slight problem. Reyna will be in heat.”

I emailed back, “What? Why the dogs? Why haven’t you fixed her before now? Don’t they believe in doing that in the Philippines?”

Let’s just say, it’s going to be a country wedding in southern California. Everyone will be tanned in oil, smokin’ hot in our new dresses in warm weather and heated up, right down to the dog.

Final brushstroke: What it takes to get ready for a special event. It would be easier to stay home and send a nice gift. But I’m not going to miss the look on everyone’s face when six of us, all dolled up, pull up in that big black diesel truck with two dogs in the back, and one in heat. Lord, deliver me.

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Photo courtesy Rod Proffitt

Dick Babillis, member of the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club and cancer survivor, holds the pig — an award that goes to the group that raises the most for Relay for Life each year. This year, Pagosa Springs' two Rotary clubs worked together to raise almost \$6,000 of the \$39,000 raised for the whole event. Babillis was also the largest individual fundraiser for this year's Relay. With Babillis, left to right, are Pagosa Springs Rotary Club president John Duvall, Archuleta County Relay event chair Paul Lehmann and Pagosa Mountain Morning Rotary Club president Jeremiah Cummons. With the closing of the American Cancer Society regional office in Durango, local Relay events will have no support in putting on future Relay events, so whether Pagosa holds a Relay for Life event in 2017 is doubtful.

UU

■ continued from previous page of a rural community church in southern Utah.

Cerny lives with his partner of 37 years, John, and their four dogs in an off-grid home in rural Kanab, Utah. He leads a weekly spiritual growth fellowship based on the study of world religious ideologies in the same community.

This program aligns with

PUUF's quest to become a formal Welcoming Congregation and reflects the Unitarian Universalist principles of "The inherent worth and dignity of every person" and "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

PUUF welcomes people of all spiritual belief systems, ethnicity, gender identities and sexual orientations and invites you to enjoy

refreshments and conversation after services, which are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza. From North Pagosa Boulevard, turn onto Park Avenue; then turn into the Greenbriar Plaza, drive to the east side of the parking lot and look for the Unitarian Universalist sign, facing north. For further information, call 731-7900.


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The author of peace

By Jan Davis
Special to The PREVIEW

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.” — 1 Corinthians 14:33a (KJV).

Our nation is under siege. It is full of confusion and chaos as man chases after truth. We see racial tension on both sides. People march in protest against what they believe is injustice. Religious factions attempt to divide our nation and the principles upon which we were founded. Our leaders are at a standstill on the course of action to bring peace to our cities. We pray for a semblance of peace as we search for solutions where none can be found.

We are a nation founded upon basic principles. All men are created equal with the same rights. Freedom of speech, freedom to gather in a peaceful assembly and freedom to bear arms. Freedom in the pursuit of happiness and justice. Freedom to worship in the church, synagogue or temple of our choice.

As Christians, we are to be a part of the solution, not the problem. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. Christ came so that man might have life and life more abundantly.

A Matter of Faith

He came to earth as an example of God's love for mankind. He loved the unlovable. He demonstrated mercy to the hurting and grace to the lost. He did not care if he was in the home of the wealthy or the outcast. He treated all the same. He shared forgiveness with the Samaritan as well as the Pharisee. Christ came to bring peace to the world and the world rejected Him.

Our nation has also rejected Christ and the principles upon which His ministry was built. They have denied God's truths and believed the lies of men.

It is not about the color of our skin, political affiliation or religious beliefs. It's about right and wrong. It's about loving your neighbor as yourself and forgiveness.

As Christ followers, it is our duty to share Christ in our communities. Speak truth, seek justice and live a righteous life so others may see Christ in us, our hope and salvation.

We can impact the lives of those in our sphere of influence. We can bring peace to our neighborhoods and it will overflow into our cities and states. We can make a difference one life at a time, as we unite with one cause — to live in peace with our neighbor.

Don't allow the freedoms others have fought so bravely to defend to be taken from us. It is time for our nation to go back to its roots and the concepts upon which it was built. Because of these beliefs we have overcome hardships and diversities in our past to be united in one cause. That this nation under the leadership of God will have a new birth of freedom — and that this government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish.

Join me in praying for our leaders, military, police officers and first responders, who have dedicated their lives for the continued safety and peace of our nation.

Because of Jesus, we can live in peace.

I love you, but Jesus loves you more.

PCNT to discuss a living god and universe

By Carla Ryan
Special to The PREVIEW

At Pagosa Community of New Thought (PCNT), the theme for September is “The Great Giver.” Lessons, sermon topics and music selections support this focus throughout the month.

To support that theme, a special reading will be presented on Sept. 25 as part of the Sunday topic, “The Living God,” presented by the Rev. Carla Ryan.

While most people accept God as “The Great Giver” of life, New Thought (in the Science of Mind philosophy) also teaches that this divine presence is a living, ever expanding and creative consciousness. This is a god of the living, as taught through the Bible. Other holy texts of the world will also be

brought into the talk as Ryan offers metaphysical meaning to this traditional lesson of aliveness from a New Thought perspective.

PCNT honors all lifestyles, belief systems, religious paths, and people for who they are, children of the divine. New Thought is a trans-denominational philosophy and draws from all the world's major religions to teach Universal principles and concepts. Everyone is welcome.

Weekly Sunday gatherings are held at 10:30 a.m. in the north room of the PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave., just west of Vista Boulevard.

For information about this group or New Thought in general, contact details are as follows: email PagosaCommunityNewThought@gmail.com, call (970) 400-1442 or attend a Sunday service.



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Our Savior Lutheran Church to welcome speaker Robert Bennet on Oct. 8

By Andrew Packer
Special to The PREVIEW

Robert Bennet, Ph.D., the author of "Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare in America" and "I Am Not Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare," will be speaking at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

Dessert and child care will be provided.

A fascinating and unnerving book, "Afraid" is a must-read that

equips all Christians to recognize the devil's influence in our society and to act on it.

Bennet describes real events and actual confessions people have shared with him of demonic encounters — in America, in our modern age. Summoning demons, interacting with "ghosts" and holding séances led to what many may call horrifying hallucinations and even schizophrenia. But for many Americans, these things are their spirituality.

How can we break free from the despair and crushing fear that such encounters can bring? How do we come to the aid of our neighbors who are lost in Satan's deceptions? Bennett points us to the only way out: God's grace and the medicines He gives to His people.

Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, Sept. 22

Dancin' and Movin' with Debbie. 9:30-10:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Just bring your love of movement. For information, call Debbie Copple at 398-0606.

Open Play. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ages 5 and under. We have plenty of fun toys, puppets, puzzles and more that will be available for this hour of open play time. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Overeaters Anonymous. 11 a.m., Centerpoint Church library. Open to everyone. For more information, call Leslie at 799-0775.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Adult High School Equivalency Classes. 3-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Mark Wardell has returned to help you study for your tests and much more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Fan Fiction Writing Event. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Teens in the 7th-12th grades are invited. You'll be coming up with stories about some of your favorite characters. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Candidate Forum. 6 p.m., Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. A county commissioner candidate forum hosted by the Archuleta County League of Women Voters.

Friday, Sept. 23

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Bring your stitching

project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Free Screenings. 10 a.m., Senior Center. San Juan Basin Health Department, screenings on total cholesterol, triglycerides, blood pressure checks, referrals and translations for Spanish speakers.

Digital Photography. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Whether you are new to digital photography or want to take the next step, you are welcome to this class. We will touch on the basics of digital photography as well as how to use your camera in manual mode, advanced settings, composition, and using monopods and tripods. You can bring your digital camera or device. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Meet the Artist with Margot Gedert. 1-3 p.m., Senior Center. Gedert's paintings are hanging in the dining room as part of our "Art in Public Places" program. Refreshments will be served.

Movie. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. A fun mix of animation and live action. A story of a charming mouse adopted by a human family. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Whatchamawhozit's Auditions. 2:30-4 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Thingamajig Theatre Company will be holding auditions for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Kids wishing to audition for the class need no experience, but need to memorize the audition script. Admittance to the class will be by audition only. Cost for the 10-week class is \$100. For kids ages 6-14. For more information, go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Saturday, Sept. 24

Baby Storytime. 9:05-9:25 a.m.,

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

Sisson Library. Twenty minutes of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Toddler Storytime. 9:30-10 a.m., Sisson Library. A half hour of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Meditation and Dharma Talk. 10 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universal Fellowship, Suite 15-B, 70 Greenbriar Drive. Debra Quayle offers monthly dharma talks and meditation guidance. All are welcome.

Public Lands Day Event. 10:30 a.m., Coyote Hill Trailhead, Piedra Road. Tony Boone will be the featured speaker at the DUST2 booth. He will be speaking on sustainable trail design. Please wear sturdy shoes, appropriate layers, sunscreen and hat. Water and snacks advised.

Public Lands Day Event. 1-3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School parking lot. Tony Boone will lead participants on a walk through of the newly flagged and designed Phase 1 Urban Single Track Trail. Please wear sturdy shoes, appropriate layers, sunscreen and hat. Water and snacks advised.

Sunday, Sept. 25

Bingo. 7 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo from 7-9 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Sept. 26

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Line Dancing Beginner and Intermediate. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginner at 9:30 a.m. Intermediate 10:30 a.m. Call Beverly for information at 264-2064.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies.

Call 264-0501, ext. 2 to make an appointment.

Caregiver Support Group. 10:30 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. The meeting is led by Elaine Stumpo, regional director of the Alzheimer's Association. For more information, call 259-0122.

Bingo. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Bridge for Fun. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Southwest Organization for Sustainability (SOS). 3:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center conference room. Monthly meeting. Everyone welcome.

Grief Support Group. 5 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. All meetings are open to the public. The purpose of the sessions is to help people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For more information, call 264-5508.

Operation Christmas Child Fall Meeting. 5:30 p.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Supplies and boxes will be ready for pickup to be taken to participating churches. Plan on supper as well as a brief video. We need to know how many guests for dining and which local churches or organizations will be represented. Call Nancy Burke to RSVP at 731-5901 or (719) 660-5155, or email mbuzzurke@gmail.com.

High Country Squares. 6:30-8:30 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. First and third Mondays include Plus Fun workshop. Second and fourth Mondays regular club dances. Mainstream and Plus square dancing with Jim Park calling. Contact person: Steve, 731-0044.

Tuesday, Sept. 27

Dancin' and Movin' with Debbie. 9:30-10:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Just bring your love of movement. For information, call Debbie Copple at 398-0606.

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., Pagosa Brewing Company. The luncheon is \$12. Please call 946-1895 for your lunch reservation by Sept. 26 so we can count you in to join us. Everyone is welcome.

Mexican Train. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Teen Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. X-box, Wii, board games and snacks. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Writing Hands Organization of

Pagosa Springs (WHOOPS). 5:30-7 p.m., Ruby Sisson Library. New writers' group open to all genres and skill levels. For more information, call Carla Ryan at (303) 358-0069 or email carlamryan@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

A Matter of Balance. 9-11 a.m., Senior Center. An award-winning falls-prevention program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who have concerns about falls. Snacks will be provided. Class size is limited. For more information and to register, call 264-2167.

Line Dancing Advanced. 9-11 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Call Beverly for information at 264-2064.

Free Blood Pressure Checks. 10 a.m., Senior Center.

Preschool-Kindergarten Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. All ages. Join Early Literacy Librarian Michael for great stories, fun songs and plenty of reasons to get up and move. Storytime is a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Flow Yoga Class. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Please bring a mat and a towel. For

■ See Calendar on next page

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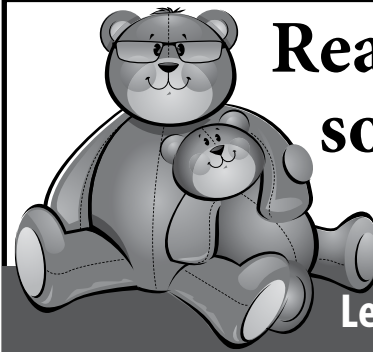
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Ray Finney

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Contact Ray at rayfinneyforcountycommissioner.com

Paid for by the Ray Finney for Archuleta County Commission, David Butcher, Chairman

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
more information, call Roz at (281) 435-0563.

HELP (Healthy Eating Lifestyle Plan). Noon-1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Weigh-in, support and more. Everyone is welcome. Call Nancy Strait at 731-3427 for more information.

Movie. 1 p.m., Senior Center. Popcorn and beverages provided.

Book Art. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Participate in some creative destruction. Come turn old books into something new. Meet in the teen area. For teens in the 5th-12th grades. For more information, call 264-2209.

Jelly Beans and Squiggly Things After-School Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, room 9. For information, call 903-8104.

Community Shred-It Event. 4-6 p.m., Hometown Foods Market parking lot. Throwing out financial, medical and other private papers in the recycle bin can leave you open to identity theft. Watch your papers being safely shredded for \$5 per box, limit three boxes. For more information, call 264-5931.

Archuleta County Planning Commission. 6 p.m., Archuleta County Administration Building, 398 Lewis St. We will be discussing economic development and housing. For more information, call 264-1390.

Learn to Square Dance. 7-8 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Carla Roberts will teach simple calls that are quick to learn in a fun, easygoing class open to families, couples and singles. For more information and to enroll, call Carla at 903-6478.

Thursday, Sept. 29

Dancin' and Movin' with Debbie. 9:30-10:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Just bring your love of movement. For information, call Debbie Copple at 398-0606.

Open Play. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ages 5 and under. We have plenty of fun toys, puppets, puzzles and more that will be available for this hour of open play time. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Overeaters Anonymous. 11 a.m., Centerpoint Church library. Open to everyone. For more information, call Leslie at 799-0775.

Duplicate Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

Role-Playing Game. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Sisson Library. Use your imagination to go on adventures and battle monsters in our ongoing RPG. This will be a monthly program. If you want to be a part of the game but missed last month's event, don't worry. You can join in at any time. For teens in the 7th-12th grades. For more information, contact Claire, teen librarian, at 264-2209.

Friday, Sept. 30

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Digital Photography: Uploading and Editing. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. This class will give you the tools to upload photographs from your digital camera and then edit the photographs using a free online image editor. Registration is required; to register, call 264-2209 or email rachael@pagosalibrary.org.

Board Games. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Come and play a variety of board games. For all ages. For more information, call 264-2209.

Saturday, Oct. 1

10th Annual Mountain Chile Cha Cha. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Town Park.

Baby Storytime. 9:05-9:25 a.m., Sisson Library. Twenty minutes of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Toddler Storytime. 9:30-10 a.m., Sisson Library. A half hour of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Seeds of Learning Little Black Dress Affair — Magic Happens. 5-8:30 p.m., Community Center. Magical entertainment, delicious food and an evening of elegance to enjoy with your friends. Tickets are on sale now: \$50 for general seating and \$440 for reserved tables of eight. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 264-5513.

Sunday, Oct. 2

Perry Davis Harper Concert. 6 p.m., Home of Connie Pappeler.

The phenomenal singer is returning to a one-night-only house concert. Food and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.pagosacenter.org, or

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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MOVING FORWARD!

I am pleased to commend Rod Proffitt to you as County Commissioner. Here's why.

I first met Rod four years ago when we both went on the Colorado Housing, Inc. Board of Directors. Colorado Housing was in disarray. Their funding had been canceled by the USDA, their Executive Director had resigned, and most of the board was gone. Rod immediately got to work to identify the steps necessary to insure an orderly, legal and fair closing: files had to be assessed and organized, homeowners had to receive accurate and clean deeds, and creditors had to be paid.

It took Rod three years and countless volunteer hours to get this done. He used his legal expertise, extensive experience in municipal government, planning and building commissions, and a dedication to doing the right thing to get matters resolved and squared away correctly -- deeds were cleaned up and creditors were paid. Over the last forty years I have served on many boards and audited hundreds of non-profits, and I have never worked with a volunteer that worked harder, smarter and with such dedicated diligence than Rod Proffitt.



Mike Branch

Rod Proffitt will be a commissioner that makes good things happen in our community.



ROD PROFFITT FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

RodProffitt4ArchuletaCounty.com

ArchuletaNeedsRod@gmail.com

(970) 903-9314



Paid for by Committee to Elect Rod Proffitt County Commissioner

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
call 731-SHOW.

Bingo. 7 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo from 7-9 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Oct. 3

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network. 9-11 a.m., CrossRoad Christian Fellowship. Writers are invited to hone their craft in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For more information, email richgammill41@wolfcreekwriters.com or call 731-2040.

Medicare Mondays. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging office. For benefits, explanation, questions and assistance for enrollment regarding Medicare parts A, B, D and supplemental policies. Call 264-0501, ext. 2 to make an appointment.

Grief Support Group. 5 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. All meetings are open to the public. Purpose of the sessions is to help people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For more information, call 264-5508.

High Country Squares. 6:30-8:30 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. First and third Mondays include Plus Fun

workshop. Second and fourth Mondays regular club dances. Mainstream and Plus square dancing with Jim Park calling. Contact person: Steve, 731-0044.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

Dancin' and Movin' with Debbie. 9:30-10:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Just bring your love of movement. For information, call Debbie Copple at 398-0606.

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., Dorothy's Restaurant.

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Flow Yoga Class. 10-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Please bring a mat and a towel. For more information, call Roz at (281) 435-0563.

HELP (Healthy Eating Lifestyle Plan). Noon-1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Weigh-in, support and more. Everyone welcome. Call Nancy Strait at 731-3427 for more information.

Jelly Beans and Squiggly Things After School Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, room 9. For information, call 903-8104.

The Spouses/Family of Veterans Group. 5:30-7 p.m., St. Patrick's

Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Contact Dr. Sharon Carter at 398-0883 or Charlotte at 731-1025 for further information.

Learn to Square Dance. 7-8 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Carla Roberts will teach simple calls that are quick to learn in a fun, easygoing class open to families, couples and singles. For more information and to enroll, call Carla at 903-6478.

Thursday, Oct. 6

Dancin' and Movin' with Debbie. 9:30-10:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Just bring your love of movement. For information, call Debbie Copple at 398-0606.

Overeaters Anonymous. 11 a.m., Centerpoint Church library. Open to everyone. For more information, call Leslie at 799-0775.

Friday, Oct. 7

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Community Center. Loaner paddles are available if you don't have one.

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

San Juan Symphony to kick off season 31 Oct. 8 in Durango

Special to The PREVIEW

New San Juan Symphony music director Thomas Heuser officially begins his tenure with Fresh Faces and Firebird, the first concerts of Season 31: Resounding.

Performances are slated for Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Concert Hall in Durango and Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Henderson Performance Hall in Farmington. Single tickets and season tickets are available for both venues. Durango season tickets are 50 percent off for first-time season ticket buyers.

The concert opens with Mozart's flirtatious "Figaro Overture." Savor the uplifting music of Clint Needham's "Spires" and the sumptuous "Romance" of Antonín Dvořák, featuring the solo violin debut of San Juan Symphony concertmaster Brent Williams. Then, after intermission, prepare to be mesmerized by the ritual dances and mysterious lullabies of Stravinsky's epic "Firebird Suite."

The thrilling fanfare of the "Finale" will herald the start of an exciting new chapter in our regional symphony's history.

Recognized for his stirring leadership and energetic programs, Heuser has devoted himself to artistic excellence, music education and community collaboration as a music director and public servant in the arts.

Heuser will give a preconcert talk on Oct. 5 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Rochester Hotel in Durango, and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 9 at the Henderson Hall in Farmington before the afternoon symphony performance. Both talks are free and the public is invited to attend.

For Durango tickets, please call 247-7657, purchase online at www.durangconcerts.com or visit the Community Concert Hall ticket office in the Welcome Center at 8th Street and Main Avenue. For Farmington tickets, please call (505) 566-3430. For more information, go to www.sanjuansymphony.org.

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Photo courtesy John M. Motter

Fires have greatly altered the appearance of downtown Pagosa Springs. All of the original log buildings are gone. After they burned, it was hoped that building with bricks and blocks would solve the problem. Unfortunately, fires still caused much damage as did this conflagration which started in an upstairs apartment of the Citizens Bank building then located on the northwest corner of the San Juan and Pagosa street intersection.

Entering Pagosa from the east

Before and during the first years of settlement in Pagosa Country, the most used entry route from the east was the Elwood Pass Road. This route crossed the Continental Divide via Elwood Pass and followed the East Fork of the San Juan River to its junction with the West Fork of the San Juan River, then followed the united river downstream to Pagosa Springs.

It probably will help understand the origin of this route if I give a short summary of the history of what was happening at the route's origins in the San Luis Valley on the eastern side of the San Juans.

Considerable settlement had already taken place in the San Luis Valley by the time Pagosa Country settlement started in the late 1870s and early 1880s. Communities existed at today's San Luis, around Fort Garland, along the branches of the Conejos River, along the upper reaches of the Rio Grande as far as Del Norte, at Saguache, and other points in the northern extremes of the San Luis Valley.

Some of the settlement could be attributed to Hispanics and agricultural pursuits, and some to the discovery of gold in the San Juan Mountains. Early communities in the mountains such as those along the Upper Animas River in the Silverton area, Lake City, Ouray, Telluride and Summitville sprouted up around major gold and silver strikes.

An important route to the Upper Animas gold communities crossed the San Luis Valley from Mosca Pass to Del Norte, then followed the Rio Grande to its sources and crossed



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

the mountains into Silverton by way of Stony Pass.

Closer to home, gold was discovered at what became Summitville circa 1870. Access to Summitville from Del Norte and other points connected with an old trail that moved west by way of Elwood Pass. Just a few years later, Gen. Palmer's Rio Grande Railroad started across the San Luis Valley westward with the ultimate destination being the San Juan Mountain gold sources.

All of this activity stirred up resentment among the Southern Utes Indians, which caused the Army to conduct several surveys to identify the best routes across the San Juans. One of these routes was the old trail across Elwood Pass. When it was known that Fort Lewis was to be built at Pagosa Springs, the Army decided to build a supply road from Fort Garland in the San Luis Valley to Fort Lewis in Pagosa Springs by way of Elwood Pass.

Following the Army's lead, many of Pagosa's first settlers entered Pagosa Country by this route. A number of early residents of Summitville also reached Pagosa by this route, as did early mail deliveries. More next week on entering Pagosa Country from the east by way of Elwood Pass.



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Free fan fiction, digital photography, book art and role playing sessions

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Here are more free activities for tweens, teens and adults available at your library:

Today, Thursday, Sept. 22, from 4 to 5 p.m., teens in the seventh through 12th grades are invited to a fan fiction writing event where you'll be coming up with stories about some of your favorite characters.

Two new digital photography sessions are on the calendar. Tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon, adults will learn the basics of digital photography as well as how to use your camera in manual mode, advanced settings, with monopods and tripods, and more. It is your choice whether or not to bring your own digital camera or device. If the weather is nice, we'll walk from the library to a nearby scenic overlook for photos.

Then, next Friday, Sept. 30, at the same time, you'll learn how to upload photos from your digital camera to a computer and then edit them using Pixlr, a free online image editor similar to Adobe Photoshop. Registration is required for this session because of the limited number of laptops available.

Next Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 4 to 5 p.m., fifth- through 12th-graders are invited to a book art session where you'll participate in creative destruction — turning old books into something new.

On Sept. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. is the beginning of a series of monthly role-playing game for teens in the seventh through 12th grades. You can join this fun group any time. Contact Claire if you have questions.

These are five of the many creative, educational and fun events going on regularly for all ages at your library.

To be sure you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family, we encourage you to pick up a copy of the events calendar each month. There are three versions — kids, tweens/teens and adults.

HSE (GED) and adult education

Now that school has started, Mark Wardell has returned to your library for the high school equivalency (formerly known as GED) classes.

In addition to helping people study to take the high school equivalency tests, he also can help adults with other educational needs, including college applications, college placement tests, trade/vocational school entry, student aid



(loans and scholarships) and more.

Anyone interested is encouraged to come in to see how Wardell can help with your adult educational needs on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 2 to 5 p.m. and Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m.

All-ages movie tomorrow

Join us tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 23, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. to enjoy a PG movie with your friends and family. Our contract does not allow us to name the film in the media, but you can learn the name in the activities calendars.

Open play for youngsters

Every Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m., a new open play session for ages 5 and under provides fun toys, puppets, puzzles and more for an hour of open playtime. Youngsters can socialize, pretend, play and pick up a few books while they are here.

Tech sessions

Rachael is available for Tech Tuesday sessions from 10 a.m. to noon. Drop in with your technology questions.

Note there will be no Tech Thursdays for the next several months because there will be sessions at the Ross Aragon Community Center on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Teen gaming

Teen gaming happens Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for teen gaming fans in the seventh through 12th grades. Enjoy X-box 360 Kinect, Wii and snacks.

Kids storytime

Every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m., join Michael for great stories, fun songs and plenty of reasons to get up and move. This is an excellent way for kids of all ages to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers.

Baby storytime

Every Saturday from 9:05 to 9:25 a.m., join Michael for a short session of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little ones. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life.

■ See Library on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Bulrush, e.g.
- 6 Clobber
- 10 Egyptian cobra
- 13 Cook too long
- 15 Verve
- 16 Nail holder
- 17 Harmless
- 18 Orator's no-no
- 20 Ballroom dance
- 22 Far from fresh
- 23 Tater
- 25 Chart holder
- 27 Lessen
- 28 Big coffee holder
- 29 Bowl over
- 30 Eyepiece
- 32 Make a long story short
- 34 Agreeable
- 36 Something to bat

- 38 Not backed up on disk
- 42 Made money
- 44 Balderdash
- 45 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
- 48 Workbench attachment
- 50 Apron part
- 51 "Absolutely!"
- 52 Kind of mill
- 54 Water carrier
- 55 Coffee additive
- 57 Groupie, to a rock star
- 59 Ordering option
- 61 Waiting room
- 64 Affranchise
- 65 Good news on Wall Street
- 66 Manuscript gap
- 67 Downed a sub, say
- 68 Detect
- 69 Raise an objection

DOWN

- 1 Blubber

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13					14		15				16			
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55					56		57			58				
59					60					61			62	63
64					65				66					
67					68					69				

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- 2 Apple picker
- 3 Take to task
- 4 Daily drudgery
- 5 Leg up
- 6 Lord's land
- 7 Wed stealthily
- 8 Preserve, in a way
- 9 Door feature
- 10 Discordant
- 11 Beethoven's "Moonlight ____"
- 12 Vegetable skinner
- 14 Birth
- 19 Like a spreadsheet
- 21 Emulated Mr. Chips
- 23 "No problem!"
- 24 Quarry
- 26 T-bone's locale
- 29 Iberian nation
- 31 Social stratum
- 33 Farmer's friend
- 35 Naturalist's practice
- 37 Glitch
- 39 Squashberry or blackhaw
- 40 Cast-of-thousands film
- 41 Chapter 11 issue
- 43 Clear
- 45 Indian spice mix
- 46 Charm
- 47 Say it isn't so
- 49 Motionless
- 53 4:1, e.g.
- 54 Tennis tie
- 56 Dust movers
- 58 Post-apocalyptic Cormac McCarthy novel, with "The"
- 60 Dr. Dre's genre
- 62 African grazer
- 63 Attention

Answer to Last Week's Crossword:

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Library

■ continued from previous page Toddler storytime

Every Saturday from 9:30 to 10 a.m., join Michael for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fingerplays with open play afterwards. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life.

Nonfiction

“The Book of Mysteries” by Rabbi Jonathan Cahn explores hundreds of mysteries in the format of a daily devotional. “Sixty” by Ian Brown is a diary of the author’s 61st year. “Worth Dying For” by Rorke Denver is a Navy Seal’s call to a nation. “American Treasures” by Stephen Puleo unveils the secret efforts to save the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Gettysburg Address. “Scorched Earth” by Michael Savage offers the author’s view of how to nurse our nation back to health.

Mysteries and thrillers

“Christie Closed Casket” by Sophie Hannah features Hercule Poirot and a Scotland Yard inspector. “Downfall” by J.A. Janice is a thriller set in the southwest featuring Arizona sheriff Joanna Brady. “A Great Awakening” by Louise Penny is the latest Armand Gamache mystery. “Revenge in a Cold River” by Anne Perry is set in Victorian England. “Crash and Burn” by Fern Michaels is a Sisterhood thriller.

Other novels

“A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles features a count forced to live in a hotel attic room as Russian history unfolds outside. “Razor Girl” is another humorous story by Carl Hiaasen set in the Florida Keys. “Rushing Waters” by Danielle Steel is set in New York City during a hurricane. “The Hawaiian Quilt” by Wanda and Jean

Brunstetter is an Amish story set in Hawaii. “Commonwealth” by Ann Patchett spans five decades and involves a family story told in a wildly successful book.

CDs

“Smooth Operator” by Stuart Woods and Parnell Hall is a Teddy Fay and Stone Barrington mystery. “Tom Clancy’s Op-Center Scorched Earth” by George Galdorisi is a thriller. “Dark Carousel” by Christine Feehan is a Carpathian vampire story.

Downloadable e-books

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

Programmed Nooks

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

DVDs

“Maigret” is season two of this series. “Adventure Time” is the complete first season. “House of Cards” is the complete fourth season. “Father Brown” is the complete collection. “Embrace of the Serpent,” a 2016 Academy Award nominee, is Spanish with English subtitles.

Downloadable films

For your viewing pleasure,

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

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Thanks to our donors

For books and materials this week, we thank Julie Fox, Sarah Savage, Bill Gottschalk and several anonymous donors.

Quotable quote

“Ability is of little account without opportunity.” — Napoleon Bonaparte.

Website

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What's Cookin'

Colorado Apple Tarts

Recipe courtesy: Colorado Department of Agriculture and Chef Bob Holloway.

Makes 4 tarts.
2 small apples, Gala or Braeburn
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed

Peel, core and cut apples in half. Cut apple into very thin slices (about 1/16 inch) and place in a bowl. Combine water, sugar, lemon juice and butter in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Pour liquid over apples and mix until heat of the syrup has slightly cooked the apples. Drain liquid back into

saucepan by placing into a colander over the pan and reduce liquid over medium-high heat until reduced to 1/3 cup. Cover and keep warm.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees with rack in middle of oven. On a lightly floured surface, roll out pastry sheet, using a floured rolling pin, until sheet is 12 1/2 inches long. Using a small plate as a guide, cut out four 6-inch rounds. Place rounds on lightly buttered baking sheet and top with overlapping apple slices. Bake for approximately 25 minutes or until golden brown. Brush on warm syrup and enjoy.

The Pagosa Springs SUN does not have a test kitchen and does not independently test recipes printed.

Please share your tried-and-true, favorite recipes with us by emailing them to randi@pagosasun.com.



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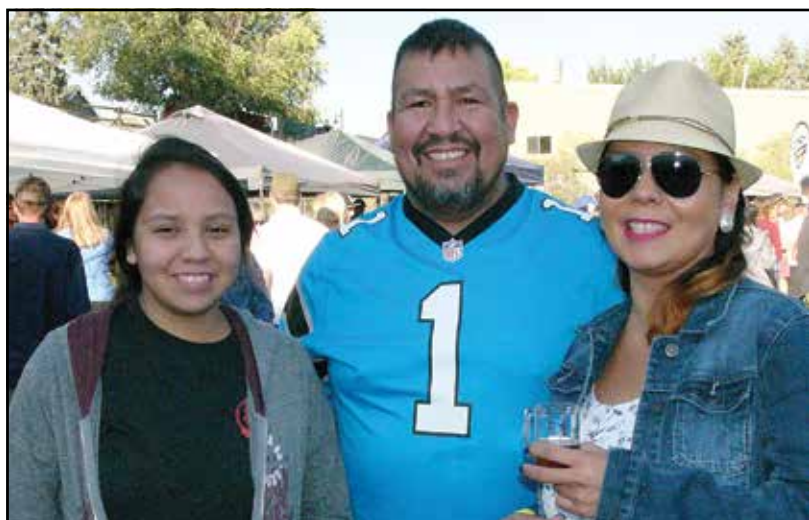
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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

COLORFEST

PREVIEW photos/Terri House, photos courtesy John Duvall

Scene ... at the Colorfest festivities. From Friday evening's Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival Friday evening to the Pagosa Springs Music and Micro Brews Festival Saturday afternoon, Colorfest was more than the balloon ascension. Local and regional talent was on display at the events, from the entertainment to the food and microbrews.





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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

COLORFEST





Photo courtesy Cynthia Minor
From left to right are Fran Schreiber-Custer, PA-C, Dr. Carole Nasralla and Robin Koffman, BSN, RN. The trio of providers is part of THRIVE's expanded prenatal care program.

THRIVE's free prenatal clinic off to great start

By Cynthia Minor
Special to The PREVIEW

The community of Pagosa Springs shared the excitement of its pregnant women as THRIVE, Pagosa's first completely free prenatal clinic, opened its doors at 602 South 8th St. on Sept. 7 and sailed smoothly through its first days, which were booked solid.

THRIVE has been providing free pregnancy tests, prenatal vitamins and ultrasounds for years, but has now expanded the scope of services to include free prenatal care up to 36 weeks, as well as well-woman exams.

Prenatal care for expectant mothers ensures the best start in life for the baby, and studies have shown that late or no prenatal care can lead to poor birth outcomes.

To encourage and enable pregnant women in Archuleta County to see a physician early in pregnancy, THRIVE is now open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for free prenatal care provided by Medical Director Dr. Carole Nasralla and her colleagues, Fran Schreiber-Custer, PA-C, and Robin Koffman, BSN, RN. Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling 264-5963, but walk-ins are welcomed with the understanding that there may be a wait.

"With this service expansion, we can play an even more valuable role in helping families thrive," said Nasralla. "THRIVE connects and works with delivering physicians and midwives, as well as other providers to better support the increasing demands for affordable and accessible prenatal care."

THRIVE will continue to provide free pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, and STD testing and treatment Monday through Wednesday, working collaboratively with providers to support and complement

a patient's physician care plan.

"We know that traveling to Durango every month for prenatal exams can be a hardship for some of our clients, especially in the winter months," said Koffman, nurse manager. "In addition to transportation barriers, women must frequently take a day off work, which can create a financial burden."

The goal is to improve pregnancy outcomes by providing free and convenient access for expectant women in Archuleta County and to support the lifelong health and well-being of families with an emphasis on prenatal care and education. Besides prenatal classes, the education component includes support and instruction in childbirth, breast feeding, parenting and life skills.

"Free and convenient access to quality prenatal care," Schreiber-Custer said, "will mean healthier moms, healthier kids and healthier communities."

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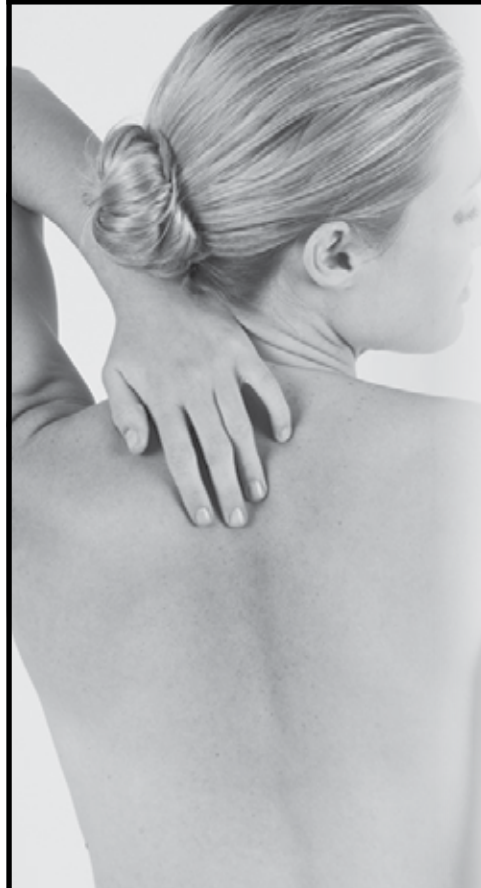
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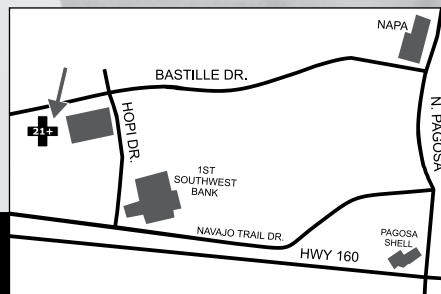
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Statement From VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald on president's final assessment of the Commission on Care

By Raymond Taylor
PREVIEW Columnist

Consistent with the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, the president's formal response to the Commission on Care was transmitted to Congress.

As the president has said, "a sacred covenant exists between veterans and this nation: servicemen and servicewomen take an oath to protect our country and, in turn, our nation pledges to take care of them when they leave the service. The commission's work to evaluate the veterans affairs health care system is important in ensuring we keep our promise to our veterans."

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald released the following statement on the report:

VA (the Department of Veterans Affairs) stands firmly behind the president's final assessment of the Commission on Care report, and we thank the commission for their hard work.

With input from Congress, veterans service organizations (VSOs) and government partners, VA has thoroughly reviewed each and every recommendation to determine whether they were feasible and advisable within the scope of the law. The president and VA find 15 of the 18 recommendations in the commission's report feasible and advisable, and we have already accomplished or have been working on 12 out of the 18 through our ongoing MyVA transformation. The department has already started implementing the commission's recommendations that the president and VA found feasible and advisable.

Transforming VA into a veteran-centric department

Two years ago, the president charged me with transforming VA into the high-performing, veteran-centric organization our veterans deserve. I am thrilled to see that through our MyVA transformation initiative. Though there is certainly much more work to be done, VA has already made irrefutable progress in increasing veterans' access to quality health care and the benefits they have earned.

Progress made

This past March, VA set a new record for completed appointments: 5.3 million inside VA, 730,000 more than in March 2014. VA increased access to veterans through an integrated system of care. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) staff and choice contractors created over 3 million authorizations for veterans to receive care in the private sector from October 2015 through July 2016. This is a 42-percent increase in authorizations when compared to the same time period last year. From

Veterans Corner

Raymond Taylor



FY2014 to FY2015, Community Care appointments increased about 20 percent from 17.7 million in FY14 to 21.3 million. Clinical workload is up 11 percent in the past two years. Nearly 97 percent of appointments are now completed within 30 days of the veteran's preferred date; 22 percent are same-day appointments; average wait times are five days for primary care, six days for specialty care, and two days for mental health care. Nearly 90 percent of veterans now say they are "satisfied or completely satisfied" with the timeliness of their appointments.

On commission's recommendation to establish VHA board of directors

Overall, we found 15 of the 18 recommendations feasible and advisable, and are working to implement them. However, VA strongly disagrees with the commission on its proposed board of directors to oversee the VHA. Such a board is neither feasible nor advisable for both constitutional and practical reasons. Most problematically, this proposal would seem to establish VHA as an independent agency, which would frustrate ongoing efforts to improve the veteran's experience by integrating veterans health care and services across VA, making it more difficult for veterans to receive the quality care where, when and how they need it.

Increasing access to health care is a shared goal

We do, however, strongly agree with the idea of external advice and counsel to ensure the VA is operating with the greatest degree of efficiency and effectiveness for veterans. VA is already advised by our new MyVA Advisory Committee, which has been hard at work since March 2015 applying the members' extensive experience in customer service and organizational change to our transformational challenge. They are leaders in business, medicine, government and in Veteran advocacy. Among them are eight veterans like: Maj. Gen. Joe Robles who after spending 30 years in the Army became president and CEO for USAA; Dr. Richard Carmona, a Special Forces Vietnam veteran and the 17th surgeon general of the United States; and Navy Veteran Dr. Connie Mariano, who was the first military woman to serve as White House physician to the president,

the first woman director of the White House Medical Unit, and the first Filipino American in U.S. history to become a Navy Rear Admiral. These are innovative, resourceful, respected leaders who are advising us on transformation. They know business. They know customer service. And, they know veterans.

I strongly support the commission's intent that creating a high-performing, integrated health care system that encompasses both VA and private care is critical to serving the needs of veterans. In fact, VA has outlined our approach to achieve this same goal in our Plan to Consolidate Community Care, submitted to Congress in October 2015. This plan would provide veterans with the full spectrum of health care services and more choice without sacrificing VA's foundational health services on which many veterans depend.

At the same time, it is critical that we preserve and continue to improve the VA health care system and ensure that VA fulfills its mission. VSOs, having decades of experience advocating for generations of our nation's veterans, have made it crystal clear that they believe VA is the best place for veterans to receive care. Many VSOs fear that the commission's vision would compromise VA's ability to provide specialized care for spinal cord injury, prosthetics, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health needs, which the private sector is not as equipped to provide. We share their concern and therefore do not sup-

■ See Veterans on next page



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What's Cookin'

Low Country Cauliflower

Recipe courtesy: Colorado Department of Agriculture and Chef Jason K. Morse, C.E.C.

1 head fresh cauliflower, cut into florets

2 tablespoons olive oil

3 tablespoons BBQ rub

1/2 cup Carolina-style mustard BBQ sauce

Fresh parsley, chopped

Cut the cauliflower into florets and place in a medium stainless steel mixing bowl. Drizzle with oil, add the seasoning to taste and toss to combine. Allow to sit for 10-15 minutes, then place the seasoned

florets onto a foil or metal perforated pan, then onto a cookie sheet.

Smoker Instructions

Fill hopper with pellets, such as a blend of maple and pecan. Turn the smoker on to smoke setting, open the lid and allow smoke to start (5 minutes), then close the lid. Once smoke has started, place the cauliflower onto a foil or metal perforated pan, place the pan into the smoker and close the lid and smoke for 1 hour.

At the 1 hour mark, remove the cauliflower from the smoker and place into the stainless steel mixing bowl. Close the smoker lid and turn

temperature to 400 degrees. Drizzle the smoked cauliflower with the Carolina-style mustard sauce and toss to combine. Place cauliflower onto the cookie sheet and put back into the smoker. Close the lid and cook at 400 degrees for approximately 15-20 minutes, or until the sauce begins to glaze. Remove from the smoker, place in a large serving bowl and garnish with a sprinkle of BBQ rub and fresh chopped parsley.

The Pagosa Springs SUN does not have a test kitchen and does not independently test recipes printed.

Veterans

■ continued from previous page
port any policies or legislation that will lead to privatization, which I am pleased the commission did not recommend outright. Privatization is not transformational. It's more along the lines of dereliction of duty.

VA is well on its way towards realizing the integrated health care network envisioned by the commission, but we cannot get there alone. Congress is our board of directors. If veterans are to receive the care and services they deserve, Congress must do its job as our board. Abdicating leadership and constitutional responsibilities by creating more bureaucracy hurts veterans and slows the progress of our MyVA transformation. Congress must act on key pieces of legislation like our Plan to Consolidate Community Care, our plan to reform the claims appeals process and the president's budget request for VA.

We, along with VSOs, have worked hard with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to develop these critical pieces of legislation. We know that the vast majority in Congress understand how critical these issues are and are ready to take action. I call on leadership from both parties to put political expediency aside and do what is best for our veterans and for taxpayers. Only then will we be able to truly transform VA into the 21st century organization veterans deserve.

For more information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans' groups

The following veterans groups meet in Pagosa Springs:

- American Legion Post 108: second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.

- American Legion Post 108 Ladies Auxiliary: second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.

- Veterans for Veterans: Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

- Combat Veterans PTSD Group: Every other Tuesday at noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Contact Kevin Kelly at (505) 699-0824.

- Women's Group of Spouses of Veterans: First and third Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., Dr. Sharon Carter's office. Contact Charlotte at 903-9690.

Important numbers

- 799-VETS, www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.

- Durango VA Outpatient Clinic: 247-2214.

- Farmington VA Center: (505) 326-4383.

- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M.: (800) 465-8262.

- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M., emergency notification: (800) 465-8262, ext. 5739.

- The Veterans Crisis Line offers free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365. Call (800) 273-8255, chat online or text 838255.



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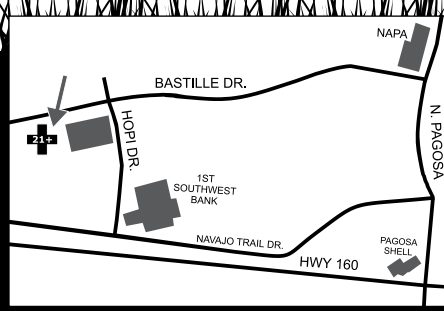
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Happy first day of fall

By Roberta Tolan
PREVIEW Columnist

Autumn has arrived and it's time for my annual "why trees turn color" article. Driving to Creede last week, the aspen were already turning, so the color show is already underway in the high country.

Fall is my favorite time of year. The nights are cold, but the days are warm and the color, well, it's just spectacular. Where does this color come from? The answer to why trees change color and why some trees turn yellow and others red lies in chemistry.

The mixture of red, purple, orange and yellow is the result of chemical processes that take place in the tree as the seasons change from summer to winter.

During the spring and summer, the leaves have served as factories where most of the foods necessary for the tree's growth are manufactured. This food-making process takes place in the leaf in numerous cells containing chlorophyll, which gives the leaf its green color. This extraordinary chemical absorbs from sunlight the energy that is used in transforming carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates, such as sugars and starch. Along with the green pigment are yellow to orange pigments, carotenes and xanthophyll pigments which, for example, give the orange color to a carrot.

Most of the year, these colors are masked by great amounts of green coloring. But in the fall, because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellow to orange colors become visible and give the leaves part of their fall splendor.

At the same time, other chemical changes may occur, which form additional colors through the development of red anthocyanin pigments. Some mixtures give rise to the reddish and purplish fall colors of trees and shrubs such as sumacs and maples, while others show bold yellows. Oaks, on the other hand, display mostly rust and browns. All of these colors are due to the mixing of varying amounts of the chlorophyll residue and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.

Temperature, light and water supply have an influence on the degree and the duration of fall color. Low temperatures above freezing will favor anthocyanin formation, producing bright reds. However, early frost will weaken the brilliant red color. Rainy and/or overcast days tend to increase the intensity of fall colors.

As the fall colors appear, other changes are taking place. At the

Extension Viewpoints

point where the stem of the leaf is attached to the tree, a special layer of cells develops and gradually severs the tissues that support the leaf. At the same time, the tree seals the cut, so that when the leaf is finally blown off by the wind or falls from its own weight, it leaves behind a leaf scar.

Most of the broad-leaved trees shed their leaves in the fall. However, the dead brown leaves of the oaks and a few other species may stay on the tree until growth starts again in the spring. Most of the conifers — pines, spruces, firs, junipers, etc. — are evergreen. The needle or scale-like leaves remain green or greenish the year-round and individual leaves may stay on for two to four or more years.

The best time to enjoy the autumn color would be on a clear, dry and cool (not freezing) day. Get out and take in the color show. It doesn't last long.

Information for the above article was provided by the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Information on Extension programs and events can also be found on our website, www.archuleta.colostate.edu, on our Facebook page by searching CSU Extension Archuleta County or on KWUF radio Good Morning Pagosa at 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month.

Private Paper Shred-It Event

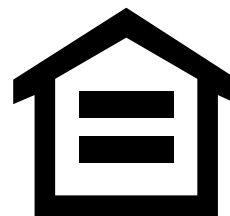
It's time to clean out those old file cabinets full of financial and personal papers that you don't want to just recycle. Instead, bring them to our semi-annual Shred-It Event on Wednesday, Sept. 28, and watch them being shredded on

site from 4 to 6 p.m. in Hometown Foods parking lot.

For only \$5 per box with a three-box limit, you can get rid of all of that paper that you have been moving from place to place and do it safely. All proceeds go to support our local Archuleta County 4-H program.

No registration is necessary, but for more information, call the Extension office at 264-5931.

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SUDOKU

		5				4		9
9					6		1	5
2			8	3	9			
		1						
7				2		3		
8			7	4				
								1
	5		1				3	6

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	3	7	8	1	2	9	4	5
4	1	8	5	6	2	7	3	9
8	2	9	3	4	7	6	1	5
7	4	6	1	3	5	2	8	9
5	8	2	9	4	7	6	1	3
2	7	1	5	9	3	8	4	6
1	3	6	2	5	9	8	4	7
9	5	2	6	8	4	3	7	1
6	9	8	4	7	1	3	5	2

ANSWER:



Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering Sept. 29-Oct. 2

By Linda Mannix
Special to The PREVIEW

For 28 years, the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering has been the highlight of the fall season in Durango.

This year, the event will be held Sept. 29 through Oct. 2, with headquarters in the Strater Hotel in Durango. The gathering brings in over 40 talented cowboy poets, storytellers and musicians who play traditional cowboy music and tell authentic stories of life in the West.

The premier performer this year is Wylie and the Wild West, who will have two shows, at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., in the Henry Strater Theater on Thursday, Sept. 29. The 9 p.m. show will have a dance floor open for dancing.

Other activities over the weekend include a Cowboy Poet Train on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, an authentic chuckwagon breakfast and shows of western fine art at three galleries.

The highlight of the gathering is Oct. 2, which starts with a chuckwagon breakfast at the corner of 5th Street and Main Avenue from 6 to 11 a.m. Scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and biscuits are only \$10 to benefit the Animas Museum.

After breakfast, the “motorless” Cowboy Parade starts at 10 a.m. on Main Avenue in Durango. This parade features horses, riders, wagons and walkers, but no motorized vehicles. Special guests at the parade this year will be American Idol contestant Jeneve Rose Mitchell, artist Veryl Goodnight, Blizzard the Longhorn steer and lots of music.

The rest of the day on Saturday features free sessions of cowboy poetry and music at the Strater Hotel in downtown Durango from 10:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. Evening

Community Concert Hall to present Get The Led Out on Sept. 28

By Indiana Reed
Special to The PREVIEW

Fans of Led Zeppelin can relive the music of The Mighty Zep as the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College presents Get The Led Out (GTLO), the American Led Zeppelin, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The dance floor will be open. From the bombastic and epic, to the folky and mystical, GTLO is said to capture the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and bring it to the concert stage.

The Philadelphia-based group consists of six accomplished musicians devoted to accurately and completely delivering Led Zeppelin's studio recordings.

GTLO was initially formed in 2003 by lead singer Paul Sinclair



Cowboy poet R.P. Smith will host the new Cowboy Comedy Revue on Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Henry Strater Theater in Durango. Tickets are \$10 in advance or at the door.

shows at the Strater are at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and are ticketed.

New this year, there will be a Cowboy Comedy Revue at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Strater Theater and a special Poster Session at Toh Atin Gallery. In the poster session, performers will recite a poem with their interpretation of this year's poster art, “The Cowpuncher” by artist Glenn Dean. The Poster Session is free.

For a complete schedule and more information, go to www.durangocowboypoetrygathering.org or call 749-2995.

and long-time friend/guitarist Paul Hammond. The band is rounded out by Jimmy Marchiano (guitar/vocals), Adam Ferraioli (drums/percussion), Phil D'Agostino (bass) and Andrew Lipke (keyboards/guitar/vocals).

Tickets for GTLO (\$29-\$37) are available online at www.durangoconcerts.com, by calling 247-7657 or by visiting the ticket office inside the Durango Welcome Center at 8th Street and Main Avenue in downtown Durango. Ticket office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All sales are final.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary season in 2016-2017, the Community Concert Hall is a not-for-profit, multiuse performance venue located on the campus of Fort Lewis College.

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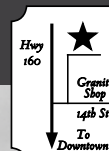
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Halloween Carnival donations, volunteers needed

By Traci Bishop
PREVIEW Columnist

Halloween may be a month away, but time is flying by. The Community Center is now looking for donations for this year's Halloween Carnival.

The Halloween Carnival will be held in Town Park on Oct. 22 from noon to 2 p.m., weather permitting. This event is free to the public and has over 700 kids attend each year.

Any and all donations can be dropped off at the center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., or call us at 264-4152 so we can come pick them up.

The Community Center is also seeking volunteers to help at this year's Halloween Carnival. Volunteers will help kids complete activities and pass out candy or prizes.

If you are interested in helping with this wonderful, free community event, please contact the Community Center for more information.

Festival of Trees applications available Oct. 3

Now is the time to start thinking about entering a tree into the Festival of Trees. Applications will be available starting on Oct. 3 at the

Community Center News

Community Center.

This one-of-a-kind event is unique to Pagosa's local nonprofits. It offers all local nonprofits a chance to either enter a tree into the event or to have a tree sponsored by a person/business. All trees entered into the festival go up for auction and 100 percent of the proceeds each tree earns during the auction go right back into the nonprofit the tree is representing.

There are only 20 entries available in this year's Festival of Trees. The deadline for applications is Oct. 31. Entries will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on this wonderful event, please contact the Community Center at 264-4152.

Programs

The Ross Aragon Community Center offers many free programs throughout the week. Check out our website, <http://townofpagosa->

[sasprings.com](http://townofpagosa-sasprings.com), for a current calendar with all of our free programs or like us on Facebook: Ross Aragon Community Center Parks and Recreation Department.

Fitness room

Stop by and try the fitness room located in the Community Center. Memberships can be daily for \$2, monthly for \$10 or yearly for \$80.

The fitness room offers many options, like the elliptical, medicine balls, free weights, treadmill, exercise bikes, cardio equipment and much more.

For more information, please call the Community Center at 264-4152.

More information

The Community Center hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. The phone number is 264-4152 and email is lgutierrez@pagosasprings.co.gov. Don't forget to look at our website, <http://townofpagosasprings.com>, for upcoming events at the center or "like" our Facebook Page: Ross Aragon Community Center Parks and Recreation Department, for updates on current events, activities and recreational programs.

How music may improve health

Special to The PREVIEW

Music may have the ability to soothe, heal and inspire physical activity.

Plato said, "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."

Music often communicates messages that are not easily expressed, which is one reason why music is such an integral part of so many people's lives.

While many people love music for its entertainment value, there is growing evidence that music can be good for overall health as well.

A study from researchers at the Cleveland Clinic focused on the use of music for brain surgery patients who must be awake during their procedures. Researchers found that music enabled the patients to manage anxiety, reduce pain and relax more fully during their procedures.

In a study titled, "The effect of music intervention in stress response to cardiac surgery in a randomized clinical trial," a team of Swedish researchers measured serum cortisol, heart rate, respiratory rate, mean arterial pressure, arterial oxygen tension, arterial oxygen saturation, and subjective pain and anxiety levels for patients who had undergone cardiothoracic surgery. Those who were allowed to

listen to music during recuperation and bed rest had lower cortisol levels than those who rested without music.

Many doctors now play music while operating or enable patients to listen to music to calm their nerves during in-office procedures.

According to Caring Voice Coalition, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of patients with chronic illnesses, music has also been shown to enhance memory and stimulate both sides of the brain, which may help individuals recover from stroke or those suffering from cognitive impairments.

Music also can have a positive impact on mood. Neuroscientists have discovered that listening to music heightens positive emotions through the reward centers of the brain. Music stimulates the production of dopamine, creating positive feelings as a result.

Some researchers think that music may help improve immune response, promoting faster recovery from illness. Undergraduate students at Wilkes University measured the levels of IgA — an important antibody for the immune system's first line of defense against disease — from saliva. Levels were measured before and after 30 minutes of exposure to various sounds, including music. Soothing music produced significantly

greater increases in IgA than any of the other conditions.

Another way music has been linked to improved health is its ability to make physical activity seem less mundane. Listening to songs can distract one from the task at hand, pushing focus onto the music rather than the hard work being done. When exercising, upbeat music can help a person go a little further as they work to achieve their fitness goals than working out without music.

The benefits of music extend beyond enjoying a favorite song, as music can do much to contribute to one's overall health.

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Finding new meaning in life

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

John had been going to the prison every week for six years to teach a Sunday school lesson to the men who wanted to attend. Every week for that whole six years Dan had attended faithfully, dressed in a cowboy shirt, Levis, cowboy boots and bolo tie.

John was careful to never ask the men what they were incarcerated for, but he could see that Dan was a good man, and he just had to know. But it wasn't Dan he asked. He scheduled an appointment with the warden.

The warden welcomed John into his office and invited him to have a seat. When John mentioned Dan, the warden smiled. "Dan's story is an interesting one. He was in his late 20s when he came here. He was convicted of petty theft, but the punishment was a life sentence, with 20 years minimum. It was fairly obvious the punishment didn't fit the crime and that the judge or someone had an ax to grind."

"How long has he been here?" John asked.

"Twenty-three years," the warden replied.

"So why doesn't the parole board parole him?"

"I'm sure they would if he asked," the warden replied. "But Dan doesn't know what to do with his life now. He's been here so long he doesn't think anyone would want him. He's a cowboy, and what little he stole was related to work, so he said he can't go back there."

John thought about it a lot, and the next week he went to visit with

the warden again.

"Can I take Dan on a furlough for a day?" John asked.

The warden nodded. "Absolutely."

After the Sunday school class that week, John intercepted Dan as he was leaving. "Dan," John said, "I want to take you to church with me outside of the prison next week."

"Oh, no," Dan said. "I wouldn't know how to act or how to answer people when they ask about me."

"You'll be with me," John said. "I'll take care of it."

The next week, Dan came to Sunday school as usual, and afterward, though he was nervous, he walked out of the prison with John. When they arrived at church he was greeted as a friend. When someone asked Dan where he lived, John simply gave them the name of the town where the prison was. When they asked what Dan did, John answered that Dan was in finance. After church, Dan went home with John's family and ate dinner. Then he sat in the big easy chair and read stories to the children. He seemed to enjoy that most of all.

When John took Dan back to the prison, they drove along silently. But when they arrived, John took Dan by the hand and looked into his eyes as he spoke. "Dan, there's a big world out there, with lots of good people. You have a good 20 years or more of your life to work. You could be a cowboy again, and

maybe even have a family. Don't try to go back to where you were; go to a new state and start over."

Dan didn't say anything, but just nodded.

The next week when John started Sunday school, Dan wasn't there. He quickly learned that Dan had asked for, and received, parole. John learned pieces over the next few years as Dan sent short messages to the prison for him. John found out that Dan had gone a couple of states away to apply for a job as a ranch foreman. The man who owned the ranch had died and his wife was struggling to run it. Dan ran it well, and over time the widow was able to look beyond Dan's past and fell in love with him. He helped raise her six children and became the most loving father and grandfather there ever was.

John enjoyed the brief messages he received. But his favorite was the last one.

"Thanks for helping me believe in myself. It is a big world out here, and there truly are a lot of good people."

John smiled and thought, "And Dan, you're one of them."

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Tips to get kids more excited about eating right

Special to The PREVIEW

Childhood obesity is reaching record heights across the globe. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 41 million children were obese or overweight as of 2014.

Obesity is an all-too-familiar problem for parents, many of whom are aware of the long-term threat that childhood obesity poses to their sons and daughters.

According to Let's Move!, an

initiative launched by First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama that's dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity, obese kids are more likely to become obese as adults than youngsters who maintain healthy weights throughout their childhoods. In addition, obese children may be at greater risk for cardiovascular diseases such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Combating obesity can start in

the kitchen, where parents can set a positive example by making sure the whole family eats healthy. Parents know that encouraging youngsters to forgo fatty foods in favor of healthier fare is not always so easy, but the following tips can help get kids excited about eating healthy, which can help them maintain healthy weights and lower their risk of various ailments.

- Invite kids into the kitchen.

Kids might be more excited about healthy foods when they play a role in preparing the meals they eat. People who cook often cite the pride they feel when they cook meals that they and their families or guests enjoy. Kids feel the same sense of pride and accomplishment when preparing meals, and that pride may increase the likelihood that they will eat the entire meal, including vegetables and other healthy foods, without complaint.

- Reinvent foods kids don't like.

Rare is the child who embraces vegetables. But parents can experiment with vegetables in ways that might make them more attractive to youngsters. For example, rather than serving carrots without

sauce or seasoning, serve them with a bowl of hummus that kids can dip their carrots into to add some flavor. Available in various flavors, hummus is a healthy dip that's high in protein and various vitamins and minerals. Hummus can be high in fat, but that should not discourage parents too much, as much of the fat found in hummus is unsaturated fat that won't negatively affect kids' hearts. If hummus does not do the trick, parents can look for other healthy dips, such as those with a Greek yogurt base, that can add flavor to veggies without compromising their nutritional value.

- Solicit kids' input regarding the menu.

Much like how kids might be more excited about eating meals they prepare, they may also be more likely to embrace healthy diets when their parents solicit their input regarding the weekly meal menu. If kids ask for unhealthy fare like hamburgers or macaroni and cheese, compromise by preparing healthier alternatives, such turkey burgers or whole grain pasta with Parmesan cheese sprinkled on top. Explain your reasons for preparing

healthier alternatives. In addition, don't be afraid to veer off course every so often and let kids choose a meal that's not as nutritious as you would like. Straying from healthy fare is only problematic if it becomes routine. But periodic indulgences in pizza and other less nutritional fare should not affect kids' long-term health.

- Make experimenting fun.

Parents who love trying new things in the kitchen or when dining out can encourage the same spirit of experimentation in their children. Kids who are focused and enthusiastic about trying new foods may not think twice about how the new foods they're trying are healthy. Make experimenting with new foods a family affair by alternating who gets to choose the restaurant when ordering takeout or the type of cuisine to cook on nights when the family experiments in the kitchen. Once the choice has been made, choose healthy items and share dishes so kids can try various healthy foods in a single meal.

More information about kids and healthy eating can be found at LetsMove.org.

Should you stay in your home when you retire?

By Saul Rosenthal

Special to The PREVIEW

Q: As I approach retirement, I'm not sure if I should stay in my current home or look at other options.

A: Many baby boomers — those born between 1946 and 1964 — are now reaching retirement age. According to the Urban Institute, they will live longer, be healthier, work longer and accumulate more debt than any previous generation. The largest component of that debt will typically be a home mortgage.

Money Watch advises that "housing costs make up one-third of the average American household's budget, the largest monthly expense for most families. And since reducing living costs is the most common way to make ends meet in retirement, it makes sense to take a hard look at your housing costs and what you can do to reduce them."

Retirees (or those approaching retirement) can reduce their housing expenses. Paying off a mortgage before retirement (or as early in retirement as possible) is generally the first recommendation of financial advisors. You can speed up the process of paying off your mortgage by switching from the more common 30-year loan to a 15-year or 10-year loan product or making additional principal payments whenever possible. Today's interest rates are at such historic low levels that you are likely to save money through refinancing no matter the length of the loan term you choose.

Downsizing to a smaller house with fewer expenses (e.g., electricity, taxes, landscape care) is a popular strategy. Generally retirees need less living space than when they were growing and taking care of families.

Certainly another option is to sell the home and use the proceeds to rent something else during retirement. Renters typically do not have the real estate taxes, insurance, maintenance and repair

expenses of homeowners. At the present time, however, rents are high enough in parts of Colorado that this may not be a helpful step for homeowners who have older mortgages with small monthly payments.

More challenging solutions for seniors include moving to another city or state where housing and expenses are lower, or even to another country that offers a lower cost of living.

Realtors with the special Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES) designation after their names, who have additional training in working with sellers and buyers 50 years of age and older, can be especially helpful in these situations.

If moving is not an option, consider renting out space in your home to generate income to help pay expenses. A recent trend is towards co-housing, living communities in which people spread the expenses of home ownership over a group of people — what one commentator called "the Golden Girls solution." Co-housing dwellers may share food costs, transportation and other resources that help keep costs down.

A "reverse mortgage" allows you to live in your current home and use the equity in the home to make your loan payments. If you think you will need that equity for health or long-term care, then this might not be the ideal solution.

According to the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies and the AARP Foundation, "the biggest threat to your retirement security may be the home you live in."

Take the time to consider all of the options. Your Realtor can help you understand the most important factors and put you in touch with other professionals who can help you make the right choices.

This article was provided by the Colorado Association of Realtors. Additional information about buying and selling real estate is available at www.ColoradoREALTORS.com.



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264-2101

Classifieds

264-2101

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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LOCAL CARPENTER. INTERIOR/ EXTERIOR trim, cabinet installation, siding, etc. 25 years. (720)412-9953.

KNIFE SHARPENING SERVICE. Bring one, bring all, kitchen cutlery, hunting, scissors and chain saws. Call or come by Rocky Mountain Knives. 150 Pagosa St. (970)264-1372.

WE PAINT FENCES, HOUSES, PATIOS. Housecleaning, janitorial, landscaping, yard work, clean out garages. Also, we clean out storages, everything! (970)317-5987.

IS YOUR CONCRETE DRIVEWAY, sidewalk or patio cracked, peeling and ugly? Consider having Capstone Driveways resurface it with a new stone- epoxy treatment. Cracks and peeling areas disappear, leaving a new 5/8 inch thick beautiful driveway applied over your existing concrete. Call Jim for more information, (970)903-0471. Free estimates and finished work to show you.

JUNK IN YOUR YARD? Trash hauling, yard cleanup. (970)946-2061.

ARE YOU IN NEED of estate sale services or an auction? Moving, divorce, death in the family, liquidating an estate or farm sale. These times are the most stressful occurrences in one's life. Call me, let us help. We have over 35 years of experience, knowledge and expertise. We can help you get through this difficult time. (970)264-2649 or (505)263-9098.

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN AVAILABLE to do small jobs, remodels and troubleshooting. Colorado license #78942. Call Mark at 264-3352.

HOT TUB SERVICE: Home of the soft soak. Natural enzyme water treatment, weekly chemistry service, hot tub drains, step-by-step video chemistry lessons. Owner operated with 25 years experience. (970)507-0594, pshottubservice.com.

FINE JEWELRY REPAIR. Fast turn around, reasonable prices. Summer Phillips- Goldsmith. Turn at 14th Street, left on frontage road, one block to 15th Street. 17 years in Pagosa. M-F, 9a.m.-4:30p.m., 264-6600. www.pagosagold.com.

FOR QUALITY HOUSEKEEPING, JANITORIAL service and security checks, call Odd Jobs Unlimited. 32 years in Pagosa, insured. 264-2994.

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TIRED OF THE MUD? We gravel driveways. Reasonable rates. Call J.D. for a free estimate. 903-7091.

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SIMPLY CLEAN HOUSECLEANING- Efficient and thorough! Call Erin in Pagosa (949)566-3906 to schedule a cleaning or for more information.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. 946-2061.

SEEDS OF LEARNING is now enrolling children ages 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 both full-time and part-time slots. For more information, please call (970)264-5513 and ask for Melissa.

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IS YOUR DRIVEWAY A MUDDY mess? Driveway gravel delivered and spread. Top soil available also. Free estimates: Call Randy, 769-2755.

WINTER IS COMING! Get on the list for snow removal! Call Sean at (404)910-2766. Discounts to the early birds!

BLUEPRINTS- HAVE YOUR PLANS drawn now. Don't wait til fall. Be ready to start your house, barn, garage on time. Call Rick, 946-1737.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/ sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/ operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. Call Mike at (970)403-9222, www.riverstoneminerals.com.

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264-2101

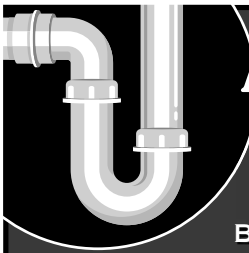
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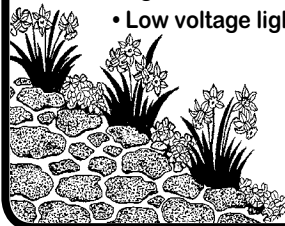
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HELP WANTED

MONTEZUMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH Department is seeking applications for a full-time SafeCare Home Visitor. This is a 35 hour position with full time benefits. SafeCare is an evidenced based in-home parenting program serving families with children 0-5 years of age. The program educates parents on safety, health and interacting with your child in a healthy way. High school diploma or GED required, bachelor's degree and bilingual preferred. Duties include attending a 5 day SafeCare training; demonstration of skills needed in the field to become a certified SafeCare Home Visitor; adherence to SafeCare protocols; participation in weekly team meetings; ability to work independently. This position will be based in Durango and will be serving La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan counties. Applications are available at Montezuma County Public Health Department, 106 W. North Street, Cortez and on the Montezuma County website co.montezuma.co.us. Please return cover letter, application and resume by 4p.m. September 23, 2016. Montezuma County is an EOE.

DURANGO COCA-COLA IS HIRING a full-time merchandiser in Pagosa Springs to stock and rotate our beverages in local grocery stores. Position is 40 hours per week and starts at \$10 per hour (pay will increase based on experience). Applicant must work weekends and most holidays. Applicant must be able to reach and lift above shoulders and below waist and have the ability to lift 65 lbs. repetitively. Applicant must have good customer and sales team communication and maintain a professional appearance, uniforms are provided. Applicant must have a valid driver's license and no more than 2 minor traffic violations in the last 3 years and have no felony convictions. Applicant must pass a pre-employment drug test and physical. Applications are available at 75 Girard St. in Durango from 8a.m. to 5p.m. Monday- Friday or submit your resume by email to lgriffin@durangocoke.com.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT 50 Joint is now accepting applications for part-time Elementary School After School Activity Leader. Application, job description and salary are located under Job Openings at www.mypagosaschools.com.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact nickh@peoplecarehs.com or (719)778-1956 if interested.

PLAZA LIQUOR NEEDS a part-time retail clerk. Cathy, (970)264-4770.

LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED kitchen cabinet sales person for custom kitchens, closets and garage cabinets. Must have experience with computer design software. Sales area is Pagosa Springs, Durango and Telluride. Email your experience and salary history to tim@tblc.net.

SUPPORT AIDES NEEDED FULL-TIME with benefits. Will train. Apply at Pine Ridge, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

ROUTE DRIVER/ WORKER and route worker. Small business seeking employee(s) to pick up waste tires within a 250 mile radius of Pagosa Springs. CDL and clean driving record, able to load/ unload/ stack/ count tires, work and drive in a variety of weather conditions. Pay based on experience. Send resume to justlikethemaster@gmail.com or mail to 472 Meadows Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

NOW HIRING FULL-TIME counter help. Please apply with Kevin at The Buck Stops Here, 19 Navajo Trail Dr.

TWO LABORERS, TEMPORARY with transportation. (970)398-9136.

POLICE OFFICER RECRUIT. The Pagosa Springs Police Department is seeking to hire a new police officer. The town will sponsor a successful applicant to attend the Southwest Regional Law Enforcement Academy. During the 18-week training, the recruit will be hired as a town employee and receive an hourly pay rate of \$15. The town will pay for tuition and equipment costs associated with the law enforcement academy. The qualified recruit must successfully qualify for and complete the academy, pass state certification and the department's field training program to join the department as an officer. For more information on the job requirements and to apply, please go to www.townofpagosasprings.com or stop by Town Hall.

ASSISTANT MECHANIC/ MECHANIC. Archuleta County Fleet Department is currently accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Mechanic/ Mechanic. Complete job description, along with application is available at www.archuletacounty.org. Submit application and resume to Human Resources, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, fax (970)264-8306 or email to fgoheen@archuletacounty.org by September 30, 2016. Archuleta County is an equal opportunity employer.

DEPENDABLE F/T BOOKKEEPER/ OFFICE Manager needed. Experience in QuickBooks, Excel, A/P, A/R. Payroll and taxes required. Must be detail oriented. Wages depend on experience. Apply in person. 576 CR 400. 264-2650.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for a **Cook.** The cook prepares and cooks food for meals and functions in a timely manner for the hospital patients, staff and visitors. Follow menus according to those established by the facility, prepare food according to established recipes, maintain cooking equipment and keeping preparation area clean and organized. Demonstrates proper preparation of prescribed recipes for all patients and cafeteria items, ensuring guidelines are followed. Maintains sanitary conditions of all tableware, pots, pans, steam lines, ovens and other dietary equipment; set up patient trays attractively, conveniently and correctly, in compliance with Sanitary Code (and other setups for functions). Applications may be picked up at hospital registration and the human resources office or downloaded from www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

LOOKING FOR SOME TEMPORARY laborers to help with clean up. Please email Sean@wolfcreekrodworks.com. Pay is based on the job for the day.

SIMPLY CLEAN HOUSECLEANING- Efficient and thorough! Call Erin in Pagosa (949)566-3906 to schedule a cleaning or for more information.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is seeking positions in food and beverage, lifts, retail, rental, ski school, snow removal, base ops and grooming. Snow Reporter needed, full or part time, from 6a.m. to 3p.m.; must have interactive web experience, command of Microsoft office and strong organizational and communication skills. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or PO Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. See wolfcreekski.com for details. All jobs are winter seasonal (November through April) with competitive wages.

CONRAD MEDINA CONSTRUCTION IS looking for carpenters, carpenter helpers and laborers. Must have own transportation. Call (970)749-4144.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Part-time position Monday- Thursday, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Position is assisting physical therapists with patient care and clinic care. On the job training. Email resume and letter of interest to admin.inbalancept@centurytel.net. No phone calls or walk ins.

LPN/RN WANTED. NEW GRADS welcome. 12 hour shifts. Must be Colorado licensed, benefit package. Competitive wages. EOE. Apply in person. Pine Ridge Extended Care Center. 119 Bastille Dr. Pagosa Springs.

PART-TIME EMPLOYEE. Position is responsible for assisting in the daily operation of the PLPOA Recreation Center; assisting in the operation of the front desk; assisting with all cash register transactions; selling Recreation Center memberships, lake use permits and boat permits; excellent communication and problem solving skills; strong guest services skills; strong computer skills and assisting with pool and hot tub chemical readings. Additional hours on holidays and in summer. Evenings and weekends required. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Rec Center membership included. Submit application to Pagosa Lakes Rec Center, 45 Eagles Loft Circle, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Email: plpoa@plpoa.com. Phone (970)731-2051, fax (970)731-5362. Position is open until filled. EOE.

LABORERS WANTED. Driver's license and transportation required. Call 731-1805.

PAGOSA SENIOR CENTER has an Office Assistant position open. Monday- Friday, 9a.m.-2p.m. Computer skills, outgoing personality, greeting the public and answering the telephone. Send resume to pattye@pseniors.org. (970)264-2167.

HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

NOW HIRING SEASONAL, FULL-TIME meat cutter. Please apply with Kevin at The Buck Stops Here, 19 Navajo Trail Dr.

DESIGN A SIGN IS HIRING a full-time graphic designer. Should have knowledge of Adobe software and Vector art. Sign experience a plus. Apply in person, 57 Majestic Dr., M-F, 9a.m.-5p.m.

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BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown/ river view. Furnished, \$850 rent, \$850 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers, no pets. (970)264-6797.

4 BEDROOM, 4 BATH, 2-car garage home downtown. Bonus office room, gourmet kitchen and great views. Perfect for large family. No smoking, pet okay with deposit. \$2,200 per month. Call Sunetha, (970)731-4344, ext. 2.

CONDO FOR RENT. 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 1,400 sq. ft. Garage, furnished, near downtown. Nice mountain view. \$1,275 monthly. (254)289-4028.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

1,800 SQ. FT. RETAIL SPACE, Silverado City Shopping Center, located between Upscale Resale and Marconi's Restaurant. (970)946-3902.

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TWO ROOM OFFICE SUITE upstairs in downtown next to the Liberty Theatre in the Historic Metropolitan Hotel. \$300 per month plus deposit. Month to month rent available. Call Jacques (970)946-7636 or Nettie (480)349-1468.

HIGH COUNTRY MINI STORAGE. Most sizes available. Paved, lighted, security. Behind The Outfitter. Call 264-9142.

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EXCELLENT RETAIL LOCATION. 1,500 sq. ft. Great visibility and plenty of parking in the very busy uptown City Market area. We are thriving; come and join us! Morgan, (303)475-6053.

STORAGE SPECIALS, DISCOUNTED RATES by the day, week or month. All sizes and we will beat anyone's price in town. Lets Store It. 731-0007.

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TALISMAN OFFICES OR RETAIL for sale or lease. 2 units combined 1,252 sq. ft., 2 offices, 2 baths, open area in between for reception area and/or conference room. Lease \$1,200/ month plus \$320 for cam fee, 1 year lease. For sale at \$119,000. Call Steve Crow at (970)946-2134. Galles Properties, Inc.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING for sale or lease. Cascade Plaza 5,921 SF located on Eaton Drive and Village Drive behind City Market. 7 office spaces on .93 acre: 5 offices leased, 2 offices for lease. 1,350 sq. ft. for \$1,100; 1,250 sq. ft. for \$1,000; and 975 sq. ft. for \$700. 10% Cam fee. Building for sale at \$695,000. Call Steve Crow, 946-2134, Galles Properties Inc.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: SNOW REMOVAL business for sale. Includes 2003 Ford F350 pickup with 8' Western snow plow, an additional 7-1/2' Western snow plow, and established clientele. \$13,000. Call (970)946-1169.

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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1,216 sq. ft., purged, storage shed. New flooring throughout, upgraded entrance and interior doors. Backs to greenbelt, adjacent lot available. \$69,500, cash only. (970)731-4341.

HOUSES FOR SALE

FSBO 2,000 (+/-) SQ. FT., 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath in Pagosa Highlands. \$325,000. See at walkthruproperties.com.

FSBO. 57 SETTLER DR. Vista Lake area. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Clean and well maintained. Fenced yard, \$250,000. (970)731-1340.

TEAM PAGOSA Real Estate Sales and Property Management Services, www.teampagosa.com. Call Laura, (970)731-8599, Team Pagosa Realty Group.

SMALL OFF GRID CABIN on 2 lots in Aspen Springs. \$80,000 owner carry, MLS#722824. Jeff Reynolds, Remax Pinnacle, (970)403-4008.

IMAGINE A "HOME WITH A VIEW" in Pagosa Springs, CO. Relax, ski, soak and float. Preview at mtviewhome.com. \$399,999. Contact Dick at (970)731-9734.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Doublewide in Vista, 87 Brook. 1,892 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard, purged. \$129,000. (970)398-9196

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER. 50 Woodsman Dr. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$267,000. (970) 582-0305; (970)883-3127 after 5 or weekends.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH MOBILE HOME with "as is" kitchen appliances. All reasonable offers considered, \$9,000. Call (970)264-2548.

LOVELY 2,358 SF, 4 BEDROOM, 2 bathroom, single family home on .34 acres just across the street from North Village Lake with amazing mountain views. 3-car garage, fenced backyard, open living room, dining room and kitchen area. Kitchen has tile flooring, granite countertops, dishwasher, stove and side by side refrigerator. Natural gas fireplace in living room. Large master suite has walk in closet, attached bathroom with shower, jetted tub, granite countertops and dual sinks. This is a great family or vacation home. If you would like a showing, please text or call Melissa at (970)773-8573.

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CABIN AT NAVAJO LAKE! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, on 1 acre with mountain views, recently remodeled, walk to lake. \$198,000. Peggy Andrews Independent Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

1,800 SQ. FT., 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, new construction on beautiful treed lot with greenbelt off back deck. End of cul-de-sac in quiet neighborhood, feels secluded but minutes from shopping and dining. This house features office with separate entrance great for home business. 2-car oversized garage with plenty of shop and storage space, wrap-around redwood decks, granite countertops in kitchen and bathrooms, well thought out snow country home. Planned finish end of October. 26 Monarch Ct. \$349,000. Call Jim at Pagosa Realty, (970)946-1682.

HOME ON 35 ACRES BORDERING national forest. Gated Elk Park subdivision, 10 minutes from town, includes city water. 3,360 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 3 bath, huge wraparound decks with great southern exposure and beautiful valley and Chimney Rock views. 3-car garage and covered carport, game room with historic bar, great for entertaining. Low maintenance native rock exterior, miles of ATV trails right from home. \$899,000. Call Jim at Pagosa Realty, (970)946-1682.



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88+ ACRES ON THE PIEDRA RIVER with water rights. 4,000+ SF ranch house, 15 acres irrigated, private bridge. \$849,000. Peggy Andrews Independent Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

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RIO BLANCO VALLEY PROPERTY. Several parcels starting at \$19,900. Peggy Andrews Independent Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

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21 ACRES, MEADOWS 4. Mix of slope and meadow. 4 miles from City Market. Awesome neighborhood! Water and electric to property corner. \$184,999. Dave, 903-3423.

.31 ACRES BY OWNER. Must see. Great neighborhood. Utilities to site. Easy building site. Surveyed. Bob (970)903-7876.

EAST AND NORTH MOUNTAIN VIEWS and private lake access in Hidden Valley Ranch. Three 35+ acre tracts. Parcels treated for fire mitigation. \$549,500 each. Call broker J.R. Ford with Pagosa Land Company, (970)264-5000 or visit pagosalandcompany.com.

BUILD TO SUIT. Premier lot with view of Lake Pagosa. .31 acres, big trees, privacy, great neighbors. Bob (970)903-7876.

VISTA LOT 647, 364 Fireside Street. Quiet cul-de-sac, heavily treed, 90 feet on greenbelt. \$8,800. (970)731-4341.

DURANGO, 35 ACRES MOL. 23 gpm well, electric to property line, seasonal creek, awesome La Plata views. \$249K. Fenced, paved on CR 141. Great secret garden spot. (970)903-6407.

RIVER FRONT PROPERTIES. Log cabin home, wells, water rights .5 cfs+, 9 acres. Against national forest, snow capped views of divide. \$479K, (970)769-3588, blanchoret@gmail.com.

3 TO 5 ACRE LOTS with city water and great views starting at \$59,000! Peggy Andrews Independent Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

2 BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT LOTS in Hatcher. Stunning mountain and lake view and stocked lake. Enjoy boating and fishing. Excellent location to build. Close to national forest and hunting. Close to town with paved road. No PLPOA. All utilities are in except for propane. **Price reduced:** Lot #1, 1.15 acres, \$177,500, county approved for up to 2 units (duplex dwelling). Lot #2, .85 acre, \$147,500, county approved for 2 single family structures. Next Home Rocky Mountain Realty and Rentals, Associate Broker. Ask for Norma, (970)507-8655 or (918)282-1956.

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Meet and greet with artist Margot Gedert Friday

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

Save the date: The Pagosa Senior Center will be hosting a meet and greet with local artist Margot Gedert on Friday, Sept. 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Pagosa springs Senior Center dining room.

Gedert's paintings are hanging in

experienced Medicare counselors.

Memberships

Senior Discount Club memberships are offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch. If you are a senior (60 years and older), for only a \$4 suggested donation, you are eligible

for a hot meal, drink and a salad prepared by our kitchen staff.

The guest fee for those 59 and under is \$10 and children 10 years and under can eat for \$5 each. Access to the salad bar is only \$6 for those under 60.

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

Thursday, Sept. 22 — Beef stew, biscuit, salad bar and winter fruit salad.

Friday, Sept. 23 — Tuna and noodles, broccoli with cauliflower and carrots, baked tomatoes, salad bar and lemon bisque.

Monday, Sept. 26 — Pork sausage with peppers and onions, carrots, baked potato, salad bar and vanilla yogurt with fresh fruit cup.

Tuesday, Sept. 27 — Chicken cordon bleu, pasta, broccoli salad, asparagus, cheddar breadstick, salad bar and cantaloupe.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 — Beef lasagna, Italian vegetables, focaccia bread, salad bar and mixed fruit.

Thursday, Sept. 29 — Chicken potpie, Brussels sprouts, mixed berries, salad bar and applesauce cake.

Reservations and cancellations are required. You can make a reservation at 264-2167 by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you would like to dine in the Community Cafe at the Senior Center.

Senior News

the dining room as part of our "Art in Public Places" program. Please come meet Gedert and enjoy her beautiful art. Refreshments will be served.

Bridge times

The Senior Center is pleased to announce the following bridge times.

Bridge for Fun is now meeting on Mondays at 1 p.m. in the dining room.

Duplicate bridge is now meeting on Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the dining room.

Snacks are provided at both.

Medicare Mondays

Are you turning 65? Are you confused about Medicare? We have openings every Monday at the Senior Center to help you with your Medicare enrollment questions.

Here are some quick tips: If you are collecting Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare parts A and B. We can help you pick a Part D prescription drug plan. If you don't enroll in a Part D plan, you could face penalties.

If you are new to Medicare, you have an seven-month Special Enrollment Period to sign up for parts A, B and D around your 65th birthday. Medicare starts after your employment ends or the group health insurance plan based on your current employment ends, whichever happens first. You do not pay late penalties if you enroll within the seven-month Special Enrollment Period. COBRA and retiree health plans are not considered coverage based on current employment.

Important dates: General enrollment runs from Jan. 1 through March 31 each year and coverage starts July 1. Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 is open (or annual) enrollment for switching plans for Part D and a Medicare Cost Plan; coverage starts Jan. 1.

If you would like to talk to a Medicare counselor, please contact the Area Agency on Aging to make an appointment. Please call 264-0501, ext. 2. We will put you in touch with one of our talented and

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