



The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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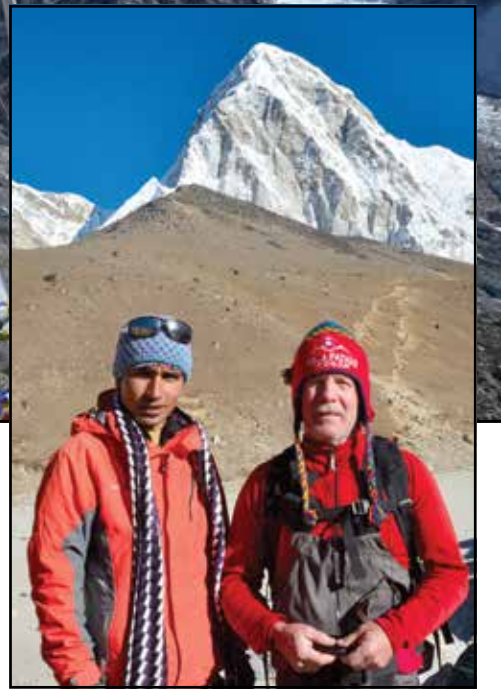
PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com

VOLUME 109 — NO. 14, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2016



From left to right: Himalayan mountains Changste, Mount Everest and Nuptse.



Dean Sell (right) and his porter.

On top of the world A tale of Nepali adventure

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

Hiking in the Himalayas and laying eyes on Mount Everest is often one of the biggest dreams and goals of outdoor enthusiasts and mountain climbers.

Dean Sell, 61, recently acted on these dreams, embarking on a month-long adventure to Nepal, openly embracing the good and the bad aspects that come with traveling across the world and immersing one's self in a new, foreign culture.

Sell began by explaining that he had lived in Pagosa Springs for 12 years, and had been practicing photography for over 40 years.

Sell explained that he had grown up in Wyoming, and that he had been involved in outdoor sports and activities from an early age.

"Growing up where I did, it's so outdoor-oriented up there," said Sell. "So you skied, and you climbed. If you live in Wyoming and you don't do that stuff, it's going to be a pretty boring life."

Sell said that he had been hiking and climbing from a young age, and always had a goal of traveling to the Himalayas.

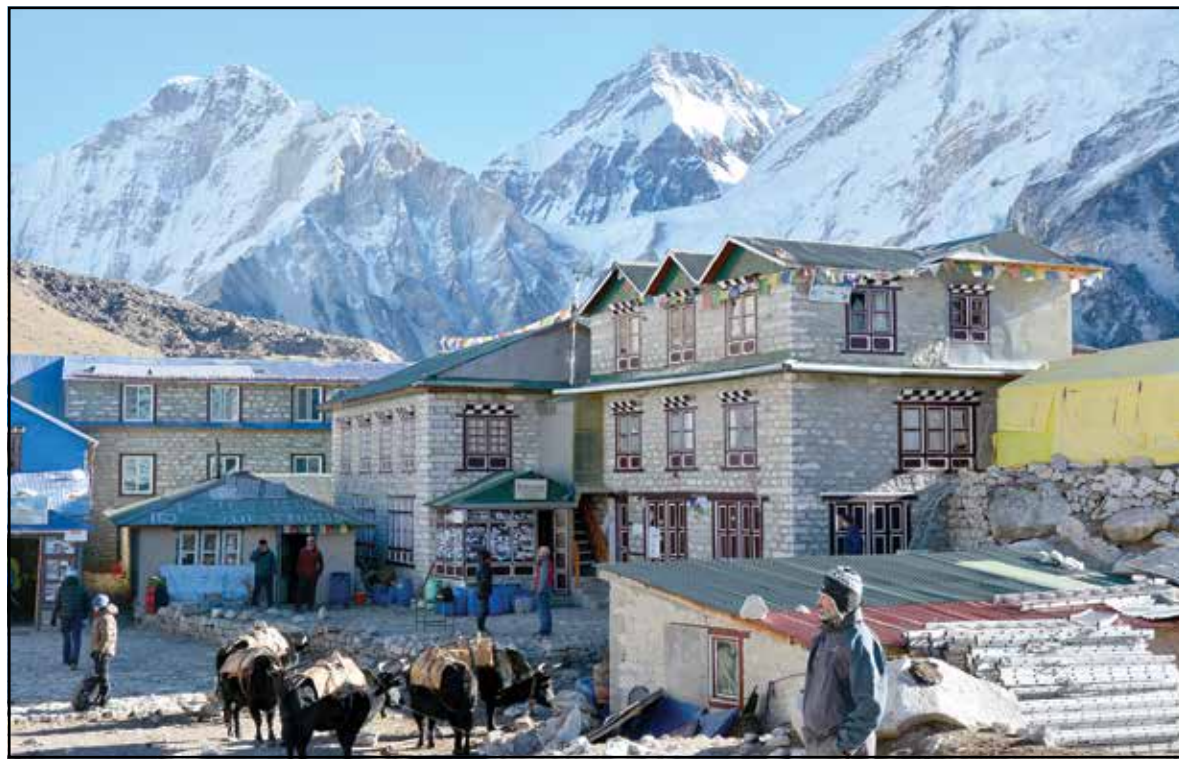
"A friend of mine who'd been there before managed to get us some pretty cheap tickets," said Sell. "So I thought, 'Why not?'"

Sell's trip began on Oct. 23 and came to an end on Nov. 23.

Sell explained that he and his buddy, Tom Proctor, wanted to see the country of Nepal as a whole, but seeing Mount Everest was definitely a top priority for them.

"If you go to the Himalayas, and you don't see Mount Everest, it's kind of like going to Wyoming and not seeing Yellowstone," said Sell.

Along with trekking
■ See Nepal A8



The Himalayas tower over a Nepali village where yaks take a break from hauling supplies. Yaks and other livestock are one of the primary ways that supplies are transported to Nepali villages at higher elevations.

Photos courtesy Dean Sell



Streets bustle with copious amounts of pedestrian and scooter traffic in the Nepali capital of Kathmandu. The city's residents wear a mix of both traditional and modern attire.

Bridge decision could put ball in developer's court

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

The agenda for the Pagosa Springs Town Council's meeting next week, Jan. 3, will include consideration whether or not to exercise the town's option under the terms of a 2012 vested rights agreement with developer Springs Partners LLC, that would allow construction downtown of a new San Juan River bridge at 5th Street.

The scheduled action, reported by The SUN last week as a tentative agenda item for the upcoming meeting, was confirmed by Town Manager Greg Schulte this week, on Dec. 28.

According to Mayor Don Volger, the action to be considered by council next week may "put the ball back in the developer's court" on the potential bridge.

The agreement with the Partners, reached more than four years ago in conjunction with their plan to develop 27 acres south of the San

Juan River and west of Hot Springs Boulevard, includes an option for the town to build a bridge over the river at 5th Street.

The bridge would provide an alternative connection for north/south traffic between Hot Springs Boulevard and U.S. 160, as well as enhance access to the development site. The site was described by consultant Andrew Knudtsen of Economic Planning Systems (EPS) as "embedded" in the absence of a new bridge, during his report at a public meeting on Dec. 5 of the findings of EPS's study of its potential economic impact.

The existing option stipulates that the bridge and connecting roads would be built at the town's expense, while the Partners would contribute only an easement to the land needed within the planned development.

Volger has previously described those terms as "unfair" to the town

■ See Bridge A8

Fighting the Adobe fire: big effort, lessons learned

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

In the collective experience of senior Pagosa Fire Protection District (PPFD) personnel, only the long-ago fire that burned a former Chevrolet dealership comes even close locally to matching the inferno at the Adobe Building downtown.

In an interview with The SUN on Dec. 20, PPFD Chief Randy Larson referred to the Oct. 22 disaster as "a 50-year fire," meaning that, on average, its magnitude would be matched in the community only once in half a century.

The intense fire destroyed The Adobe and displaced 14 businesses including the popular Bear Creek Saloon and Grill. Its intensity was in part attributable, Larson said, to the Adobe Building's age and construction under outmoded design standards, without newer techniques to discourage the spread of fire.

As an example, he noted there were open areas between floors of the building that acted like a flue without any exterior vent and encouraged the rapid expansion of flames from the point of ignition throughout the structure.

Archuleta County Combined Dispatch was notified about the fire at 1:01 a.m., with the first fire page

issued at 1:02 a.m. Firefighters responded to the scene and initially entered the building consistent with usual practice to attempt to fight the flames internally.

But Larson said that, by 2:02 a.m., he realized the building would be lost, and ordered firefighters out for safety.

At that point, he said, the effort became "defensive," to prevent the spread of flames to nearby buildings.

That involved what Larson described as a "surround-and-drown" approach, an attempt to drench the flames in a deluge of water. At peak, two ladder trucks, each capable of pumping up to 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm), and three "hand-held" hoses were put into use.

A total of about 2,500 gpm was drawn by the multiple pieces of equipment from three hydrants to prevent the fire's spread, Larson said.

Nineteen local volunteer firefighters and five paid staff responded to the scene from the PPFD. They were aided by 12 additional personnel from teams contributing to the effort by the Upper Pine Fire Protection District (Bayfield), the Los Pinos Fire Protection District (Ignacio) and South Fork Fire

■ See Fire A8

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

2017: Get involved

The new year is upon us, and in the tradition of a fresh start with the fresh year, we asked readers to share their ideas for the changes they wanted to see in the community during 2017.

Missy Lee Shaw shared that she would like a bike trail from Wolf Creek to Aspen Springs, with Jake Emmets stating, "A path that connects uptown to downtown would be amazing!"

Gary Lattin noted that he would like to see Hot Springs Boulevard completed from the post office to Apache Street.

Nicole Forrest Cotts wrote, "I'd still love a Rec center with a pool that's available for Everyone."

Cindy Scoggin-Ballew added, "Chain restaurants please."

Linda M. Rupell added, "Jersey Mike Sub is a must....Something like Dennys that is open at least to midnight that at least truckers and town people have somewhere else to go...Not everyone wants to only go to bars."

Amanda Melendy spoke out for better accessibility for wheelchairs at local businesses.

Mathew Wolford said, "Let's get a Zia Burrito in the north Pagosa shopping center. I'd also appreciate an uptown to downtown bike path. An indoor climbing gym would be sweet. New elementary school? Regular scheduled public transportation. Pump track. Extend the river path. Build a down hill mountain bike park at Wolf Creek for summer tourism. Turn off the Walmart parking lot lights after 10pm."

Shay Cole shared, "I would like to see a community garden in town and would be happy to help with it."

Gregoria Saucedo De Lark wrote, "A Christmas Parade Down town."

Missy Losee added to that, "That is a great idea! There could also be a fun competition between the small downtown businesses over who could have the best holiday display out front."

Beth Anderson Einig wrote, "Return our double lanes to hwy 160 from the east edge of town!"

Jake Emmets commented, "One lane in east downtown is great, it slows traffic and you can actually get out of your car without feeling like someone is going to run you over."

Krissy Gardikis suggested, "Another cell tower??? C'mon we all know cell device here is horrible."

Alice Jelinek commented, "There should be a ban on decorative plantings or rockwork that blocks sightlines at intersections."

Nora Gutzman Arbutnot would like to have a quilt shop. Norma Santa Cruz wants a bowling alley.

Kristi Holst Smith wants, "An event/conference center (with a TON of parking) for at least 300 attendees so we can promote Pagosa as a destination conference/wedding location all year long."

Clearly, the suggestions are as diverse as our community and some of these ideas are already in the pipeline.

This week's public meetings calendar in The SUN lists a community meeting regarding extending the Riverwalk and an open house for the Town of Pagosa Springs' comprehensive plan update. You will also find information about a public meeting regarding art in our community including topics such as public art displays, creation of an art district, forming an artist organization, etc.

On page one of this week's paper, you will find information about another town council meeting pertaining to the 5th Street bridge and the Springs Partners' vested rights agreement.

There are always plenty of opportunities for involvement in this community.

Space doesn't allow for us to print every idea that we received. If you have something to add to the list, feel free to send a comment or Letter to the Editor by emailing editor@pagosasun.com.

One thing's for certain, we have a lot to look forward to in 2017. Let's all do our part and resolve to get involved to make our community better.

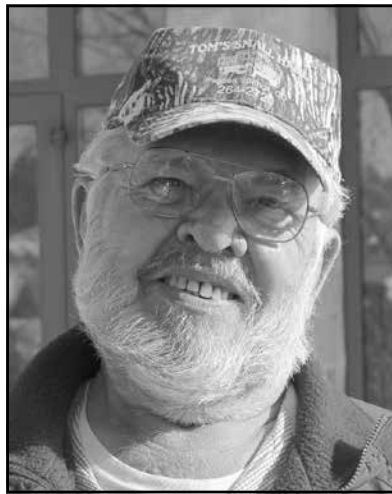
Terri Lynn Oldham House

WHADDYA THINK?

How long will you keep your resolution in the new year?



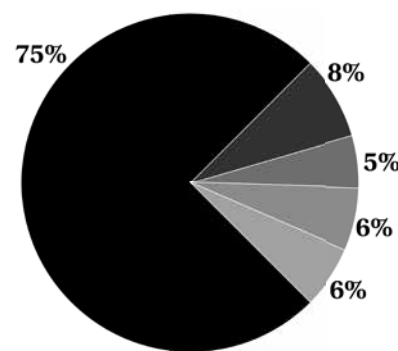
Rebecca James
"Six months. I don't make very many resolutions."



Tom Wood
"All year. I'm gonna keep mine."



Jeanne Marie Soniat
"I don't actually make New Year's resolutions. I quit because I don't keep them."

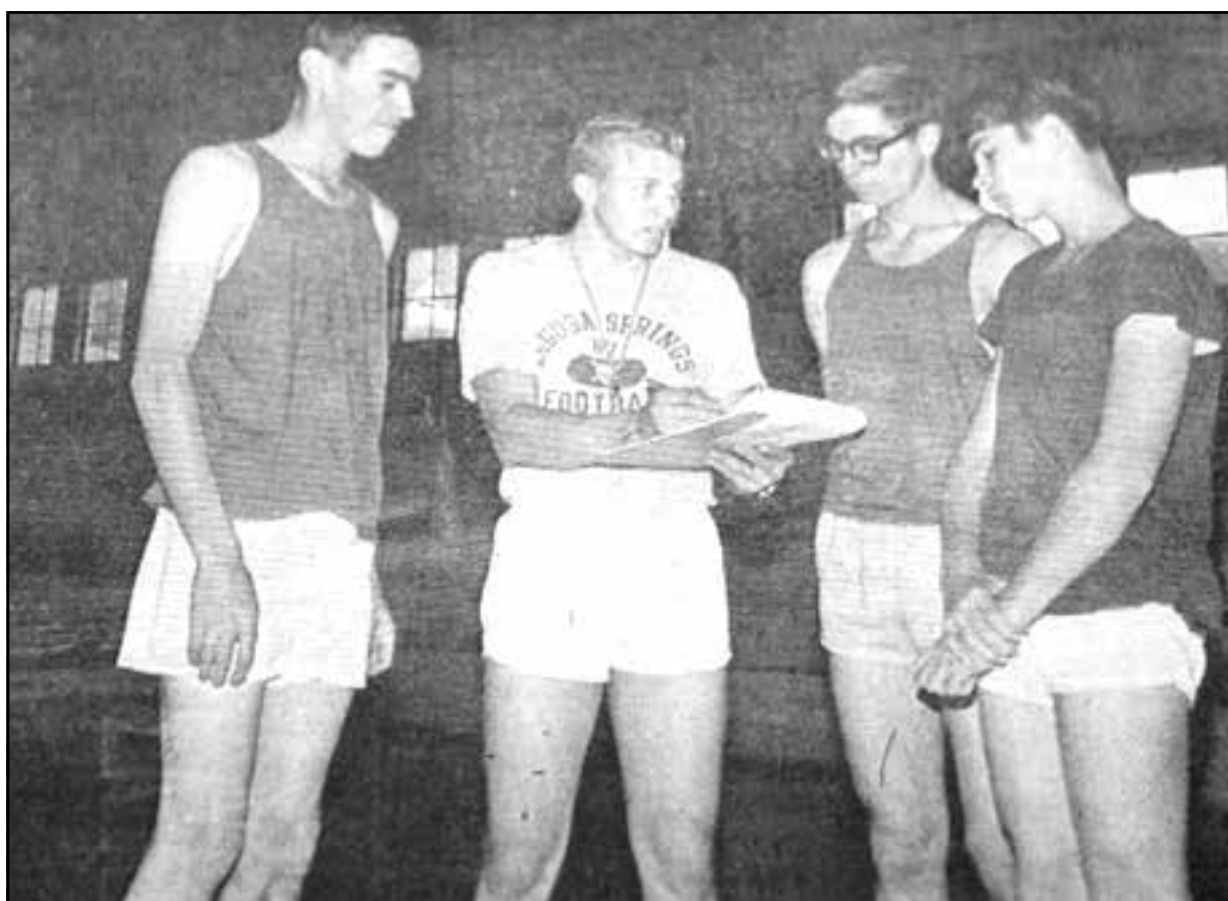


Poll results (103 Votes)

One week. — 8 percent
One month. — 5 percent
Six months. — 6 percent
One year. — 6 percent
I do not make resolutions. — 75 percent

This week online: What would you most support an increase in school funding for?
Vote at www.pagosasun.com

LOOKING BACK



From the Nov. 30, 1967, Pagosa Springs SUN.

PIRATES — Probable starters in games this weekend are shown conferring with Coach Wright. They are, left to right, Schutz, Schick and Diestelkamp. Schutz is a senior, the other two players are juniors. All are returning veterans from last years team and bring height to the squad. They will play their first game Friday.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

90 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 24, 1926

The **Newton & Hersch** company is the title of a new incorporation with its seat of business at Pagosa Springs, incorporation papers having been filed with the secretary of state the past week. Whitney Newton, David Hersch and J.B. Hersch, all of Pagosa Springs, are the incorporators; the capitalization is \$50,000; and the company will handle real estate and investments. One of the first transactions of the new company took place this week with the purchase of the entire real estate holdings in Archuleta county belonging to the Citizens Bank of Pagosa Springs, excepting the banking house in this city. Thirteen ranches and three town properties were involved in the deal, the entire consideration being \$42,791.19 cash.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of January 2, 1942

J.T. Martinez, Paul Wyman and Chas. F. Rumbaugh were notified Tuesday that they had been appointed by Governor Ralph L. Carr as a rationing board for Archuleta county. Their duties will begin Sunday, January 4th. Governor Carr had previously announced the appointment of Wilbur Newton of Pueblo as state tire rationing administrator for Colorado.

Chairman of the board of county commissioners, Dailey Hott, received a telegram from Governor Carr Tuesday asking that the commissioners furnish headquarters at the county clerk's office for the rationing board.

The government froze retail prices of new tires and tubes Tuesday at levels of the standard list prices issued by the manufacturers as of Nov. 25.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 29, 1966

Retail sales for the third quarter of 1966 in Archuleta County were almost half a million dollars over the same period in 1965. The sales figures are arrived at from sales tax reports. The net increase in sales was \$447,000.00. This is a 28 plus per cent increase in sales. The increased retail sales do indicate that the economy of the county is improving. Whether the money went for increased prices or more merchandise doesn't make much difference. The fact remains that there was that much more consumer spendable income available for purchase. The increase in retail sales in the county is indicative of the constant growth here and the ever expanding population. Many of the sales were made to tourists, campers, and hunters. These sales play a very definite part in local economy.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of January 2, 1992

Merits of a proposed landswap involving 545 acres of U.S. Forest Service lands adjoining Snowball Road will be discussed Thurs., Jan. 9 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Pagosa Ranger District office. Proposed by Jake Hershey, owner of Fourmile Ranch, the national forest lands being considered for exchange are located about eight miles north of Pagosa Springs immediately west of Snowball Road. The private lands Hershey has proposed for exchange, total about 592 acres. The parcel is located about half a mile northwest of Snowball Road in the northeastern corner of the ranch. Hershey, a Houston businessman, made the proposal in order to consolidate the boundaries of the ranch, correct present fencing difficulties and develop more coherent land management.

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
12/21	47	16	-	-	-
12/22	34	31	S	2.3"	.2"
12/23	35	32	S	9.2"	1.47"
12/24	43	23	S	T	T
12/25	32	18	S	5.8"	.43"
12/26	24	7	S	.2"	.01"
12/27	37	13	S	T	T

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THIS YEAR, I'M NOT RESOLVIN' TO IMPROVE MYSELF...

.. I'M JUS' GONNA LOWER MY STANDARDS AN' STAY TH' WAY I AM!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Letters

Bridge meeting

Dear Editor:
 "If you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you."

Based on my 22 years of local real estate experience, I believe the traffic study presented to the town on Dec. 5 was based on some very optimistic commercial and residential development scenarios.

I want to complement Andrew Knutson for the very professional economic impact presentation he made to the community on Dec. 5. Andrew was against including a large commercial-retail element in the 27-acre project, suggesting instead the focus should be on residential and a high quality, national brand hotel with a spa. I would not disagree, based on the oversupply of empty commercial space and undeveloped commercial pads available within the town.

I must again seriously question several of the basic assumptions made to derive the financial projections EPS presented.

First, average year-round local hotel room occupancy ranges from 49-54 percent are more realistic, from my studies. However, in the EPS economic impact study it projects occupancy at the new hotel of 78 percent. This is an increase of 24-29 percent above current levels.

Will we attract that many more visitors just from one single hotel being built on the 27 acres owned by Matt Mees and Bill Dawson?

EPS projected an average daily rate of \$266 for the new hotel. That would place us above both Santa Fe, and Durango. When I suggested during his presentation that these projections were grossly overly optimistic, Andrew agreed the figures needed to be reviewed more carefully. So, where did EPS get these figures — from the Springs Partners?

The town council is expected to make an informed decision on whether to move forward on building and paying for the proposed \$7 million 5th Street bridge. How can the town council make good decisions when they are not provided with realistic and verifiable economic information, but instead are handed economic studies that generate rosy results based on unrealistic assumptions?

If the assumptions are highly suspect, does it not follow the resulting projections are highly suspect?

What happens to the projected economic impact when the average occupancy level is reduced to 50 percent and the average daily rate is reduced to \$225 or \$200?

In my opinion, few if any national hotel chains would consider signing a licensing agreement for their brand in a community with the lower rates.

Given the cost of construction, debt service, licensing fees, hotel operating expenses and marketing budgets, it is highly unlikely a community with an overall occupancy rate of less than 65 percent would be an attractive market for a new upper-tier national hotel property.

Perhaps my research is flawed, but I don't think so. Perhaps Springs Partners already has a bona fide national hotel chain ready to build a hotel and spa the minute the town commits to going in debt for \$7 million?

If you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you. Either way, please plan to attend the town council meeting at 5 p.m. on Jan. 3.

Mike Heraty

Town deer

Dear Editor:

Recently, I was minding my own business while crossing U.S. 160, just beyond the Humane Society Thrift Shop. Suddenly, I was run over by a speeding vehicle, which departed the scene with alacrity.

Sad, but true, many of my friends have dragged themselves off from this high density traffic area, to expire down by the river.

A nice person stopped, called the cops, etc. and held my hoof until all of the above arrived. Someone with authority was adamantly insisting on something; and before I knew it, my broken, bleeding, pain ridden body was being dragged across the pavement to an obscure area at the far end of a parking lot. Even in my beat-up condition, this kind of ethics and compassion did not make sense to me.

Aid was then dispatched.

I wonder about my brethren, the deer and bear, who use this unique in-town animal corridor. I don't have to worry about it, myself, anymore. They say I'm in a better place.

I wonder why the humans down there put so many obstacles in the path of just doing what is right.

A sign. A sign?

Sincerely, A former member of the town herd

Lucile Morehouse

Wasting resources

Dear Editor:

The biggest threat to free enterprise isn't coming from Congress, the White House or the courts.

It's coming from federal agencies which wield their regulatory power to act as an unaccountable fourth branch of government.

The department of labor's fiduciary rule will:

1. Choke economic growth. 2. Increase litigation against financial advisors. 3. Make savings more difficult for working Americans.

The Environmental Protection Agency's waters of the U.S. rule places unnecessary restrictions on the use of land that may have water on it.

The current administration knows that many of its regulations are at risk, so it's rushing to pile on nearly 100 additional rules before leaving office.

This is such a waste of resources and time.

John Meyer

From animals

Dear Editor:

A child is born and grows. Eventually becoming a boy or a girl, and then a man or a woman.

But what kind of man or woman? If fortunate, and raised (reared) among animals, the child may learn:

From all species: that intra-species strife (bullying) is common. Be patient, you will fit in and do well.

From the rabbit: Gentleness, but also to be alert to keep from being taken advantage of, for predators come in many forms.

From the fox: to be clever, and quick.

From the coyote: team work and to adapt to his environment, and to adapt his diet and conduct.

From the bear: reliability, strength, diversity of diet and not to lie or brag.

From the wolf: to be aggressive and to go for what you want, but, if the team overindulges the whole team may be persecuted for the offense — don't fall into bad company.

From the cats: precise fastidiousness and cleanliness.

From the elk: the more regal and handsome you are, the more you want to bring you down — lion, coyote, wolf, bear and man.

From the ants and bees: to be responsible and prepare for the future, in their case, each winter.

From the geese: know when it makes sense to move on to a better environment.

From the rooster: how to appreciate each new day. Even without arms, with no ears and with wings, but can't fly, he is happy just to be alive and not too shy to tell the world about it.

Dick Ray

Goodness, love

Dear Editor:

Goodbye, 2016. Fortunately, here in our little town, love and goodness continued despite the hateful political campaigns around our country.

Our people are strong, our people are caring, our people are open-minded, our people strive to see goodness in everyone and our people work to bring that goodness into the open through encouragement, friendship and love.

We strive to be good examples to all of our children and support

■ See Letters A4

Pagosa Springs Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 3
 5 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Town Hall

Town council agenda includes a possible decision on the proposed \$7 million 5th Street Bridge.

YOU need to come to this meeting!

This decision seriously impacts OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

It's OUR COMMUNITY, come listen, learn, participate

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:

PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

e-mail: editor@pagosasun.com

or fax: (970) 264-2103

All letters must:

be 500 words or less

be signed by the author, unless emailed

include the author's phone number and address

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

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Business

County's unemployment rate decreases to 2.9 percent

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The unemployment rate for Archuleta County decreased to 2.9 percent in November, with 6,106 people in the labor force and 180 of those claiming unemployment.

In October, there were 6,235 people in the county's labor force with 188, or three percent, claiming unemployment. The total workforce lost 129 people over the month, while the number of unemployed people decreased by 8, causing the .1 percent decrease in unemployment.

In November 2015, there were 6,043 workers in the county, of which 205, or 3.4 percent, were unemployed. November 2016's rate is down .5 percent by comparison.

Looking at this November's employment situation for the rest of the state, Huerfano and San

Miguel counties had the highest unemployment rate for the month at 5.5 percent, while Baca County had the lowest rate at 1.5 percent.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased three-tenths of a percentage point in November to 3.2 percent.

The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 10,100 over the month to 2,920,100 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 17,300 to 2,826,500. The larger increase in total employment than in labor force caused the number of unemployed to decline 7,200 and the unemployment rate to decrease to 3.2 percent.

In comparison, the national unemployment rate decreased three-tenths of a percentage point in November to 4.6 percent.

The unemployment rate, labor force, labor force participation, to-

tal 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, non-farm payroll jobs increased 55,300 with an increase of 47,800 in the private sector and an increase of 7,500 in government.

The largest private sector job gains were in education and health services, construction, and professional and business services.

Mining and logging, manufacturing, and financial activities 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 workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 34 to 33.4 hours and average hourly earnings decreased from \$27.27 to \$27.03.

marshall@pagosasun.com

CHAMBER NEWS

Important deadlines: Board voting, community awards

By Mary Jo Coulehan
SUN Columnist

The end of 2016 is just days away and with this milestone comes some Chamber year-end due dates. These due dates are preparation for an exciting 2017.

Board voting

Chamber members have until the close of business on Tuesday, Jan. 3, to cast their ballot for three of six candidates running for the Chamber board of directors. These dedicated and talented nominees are running for a three-year term serving the business community.

The candidates this year are: Jenelle Syverson, owner of The Choke Cherry Tree; Christie Spears, co-owner of KWUF/Wolf Creek Broadcasting; Jen Pitcher, lifestyle coordinator for Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA); Dan McPherson, co-owner of

Sunetha Property Management; Jim Hayes, co-owner of The Hub; and Leanne Goebel, manager of Lantern Dancer Gallery and Gift Shop. Their bios are available on any of the "Updates and Reminders" emails that you receive from the Chamber.

Voting for these candidates is also made possible through the link that is included in Chamber emails. You may also vote in person at the Chamber and pick up a hard copy of the candidates' bios.

The selected candidates will be announced at the annual Chamber Membership Gala on Jan. 21.

Community awards

Jan. 3 is also the due date to turn in your nominations for Citizen, Volunteer, Non-profit and Small Business of the Year awards.

You can accomplish this task by downloading the form on the Chamber's website, www.pagosachamber.com or filling the form out directly online. The form is on the homepage of the website under "2016 Community Award Nominations."

There have been suggestions to the Chamber of names of people or organizations for us to nominate. This is not the Chamber's responsibility since it is the person or persons suggesting the nomination that knows the most about the nominee. It is these heartfelt nominations that make all the difference; the person suggesting the nominee has or can find out the most information to make the nomination compelling and effective.

The nominations coming in so far are excellent and worthy. It will be a hard decision this year as all the candidates are well deserving. Please take a few minutes to look at the people you work with, volunteer with, go to church with or have social interaction with and nominate a business, an organization or a person for these yearly kudos.

Please submit the nomination forms to admin@pagosachamber.com, fax to 264-4625 or hand deliver to our office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 3. The nominees will be announced, the finalists notified and the awards extended at the annual Chamber Membership Gala on Jan. 21.

Membership Gala

Tickets will go on sale Jan. 3 for the annual Membership Gala. Members will be receiving their invitations the week of Jan. 3; however, tickets will be available online at www.pagosachamber.com and at the Chamber offices.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Clubhouse. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with food stations, a dessert station and a beverage station. Live music and dancing will also be on hand as will lots of opportunities for network-

■ See Chamber A5

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Letters

■ Continued from A3

them in every way we can. Truly, goodness is contagious.

So, despite all else, Pagosans never change, goodness and love always shine through and I am so proud to have chosen this as our home 40 years ago — never had a regret. We just need to continue being "who we are" and accepting and giving love to all.

Happy New Year, dear ones.
Patty Tillerson

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Community meeting to consider steps to close Riverwalk gap

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

On Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m., the Town of Pagosa Springs will host a community meeting in the South Conference Room of the Ross Aragon Community Center for discussion of possible means to close the gap in the town's Riverwalk trail.

Currently, the popular trail winds along the San Juan River through downtown, over the river on a footbridge at 6th Street and then alongside wetlands.

But, a gap in the trail has been unclosed for years between Town Park on the north/west bank of the river and the section running from the east end of the U.S. 160 1st Street bridge along the south/east bank behind the River Center.

According to Town Special Projects Manager Scott Lewandowski, in an email message to The SUN on Dec. 21, the meeting will provide the occasion "to start conversation on how best to address the gap ... while balancing the needs of the entire community."

The announcement of the community meeting reflects a discussion among members of town council during a work session in October regarding the town's 2017 budget.

In connection with a then-projected allocation for sidewalk construction downtown (recently implemented in the budget ap-

proved on Dec. 6), council's attention turned to the Riverwalk gap.

Town Manager Greg Schulte pointed out that the Riverwalk had not been included in the projected work for 2017 because the means of closing the gap had not been determined, leaving the potential cost unknown.

But, council members expressed strong interest in dealing with the gap. Mayor Don Volger suggested that the easiest means of closing it expeditiously would be to use existing, readily accessible right of way.

Accordingly, he suggested the trail could run east from Town Park along the south side of Hermosa Street, then continue from the end of the street to the north/west river bank, where it could extend along the bank under the 1st Street highway bridge. The town also has an existing right of way along that bank of the river.

Volger added that after going under the bridge, the trail could switchback to rise up to the level of the roadway, and then proceed over the highway bridge to the existing Riverwalk trail junction.

Volger concluded that the possibility of using the town's right of way the full distance from Town Park along the river—a choice likely more expensive and slower to complete—could be considered later.

While Councilor Mat deGraaf expressed support for Volger's suggestion, noting "to have something

is better than nothing," councilor Tracy Bunning pointed out that "it's a Riverwalk trail," inherently linked to the pristine beauty of the wild river through town.

Bunning said he would "hate to spend too much" doing something temporary using right of way along streets, rather than keeping the trail along the river.

And Schulte noted that using the 1st Street bridge as part of the route for the trail could involve difficulties because "it's not our bridge." Any modifications to accommodate a true trail over the bridge would need to meet highway criteria set by the Colorado Department of Transportation and would come at the town's cost.

Therefore, Schulte said, it may be cheaper to install a new pedestrian bridge over the river to connect a new link to Town Park on the north/west bank, with the existing Riverwalk section on the south/east bank.

Council agreed with Schulte's suggestion that community outreach was needed to see what residents thought about the possible options.

Schulte said town staff would formulate some proposals to be discussed at a public meeting. He also suggested that although funds were not specifically provided in the 2017 budget, it could be possible for the council to consider allocating funds as needed from the town's

unrestricted surplus by a budget amendment during the year.

Lewandowski told The SUN on Dec. 20 that the Hermosa Street route and the north/west riverbank route would be presented to the public for consideration at the meeting to occur on Jan. 5, next Thursday.

In addition, he said that another option that would be presented involved running the trail along San Juan Street south of the river as far as 2nd Street, where a new footbridge would be needed to return to the north/west bank.

The possibility of continuing the trail along Reservoir Hill on the south/east bank of the river was discussed by town council during the meeting in October, but was thought to be significantly more expensive and more severely affected by winter snows than the other potential choices.

Lewandowski said that rough estimates of the cost of each option would be provided by town staff during the public meeting next week.

However, he cautioned that professional engineering estimates would be needed before any final selection could be made.

Lewandowski added that all of the options would include a new pedestrian bridge linking the new section of the trail to the existing section running along the south/east bank behind the River Center.
jim@pagosahun.com

Chamber

Continued from A4
ing and mingling.

The annual community awards will culminate the evening's festivities. This event celebrates Pagosa's business community and those organizations that make our community tick.

Come out for an evening of fun, information and insights into the coming business year and attend the annual Chamber Membership Gala.

Membership news

We close out the year with the following business renewals: Pagosa Brewing and Grill, Pagosa Verde, Archuleta School District 50 Joint and

Crossroads Christian Fellowship.

We want to thank the community and the membership for a wonderful 2016. We will be preparing our annual report and these reports will be available at the Membership Gala on Jan. 21. They will also be available at the Chamber at that time.

The staff at the Chamber is really looking forward to some exciting changes and additions. If you have suggestions on changes or improvements, please contact our offices or get involved in the Chamber. We're here to support and collaborate with our business community.

Happy New Year.

Experts examine business and the economy at Southwest Business Forum

By Mitchel Davis
Special to The SUN

The 25th annual Southwest Business Forum returns on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College.


The event is free and runs from 8 a.m. to noon. Parking is free and no registration is required.

The forum offers experts in business and the economy who will present their views on the current status of the economy for the Four Corners region, Colorado and the nation. Their predictions for 2017 will provide valuable information for understanding the economic influ-

ences that affect everyone.

Dr. Tino Sonora, professor of economics and director of the Office of Business and Economic Research at Fort Lewis College, will present his views on the forecast for the Four Corners. Dr. Richard Wobekind, senior dean of academic programs and director of business research at the University of Colorado, Boulder, will discuss the outlook for the state. The global impact will be presented by Tim Quinlan, vice-president, director and senior accountant for Wells Fargo Securities LLC.

For more information, contact Patrick Flores at 247-7294.



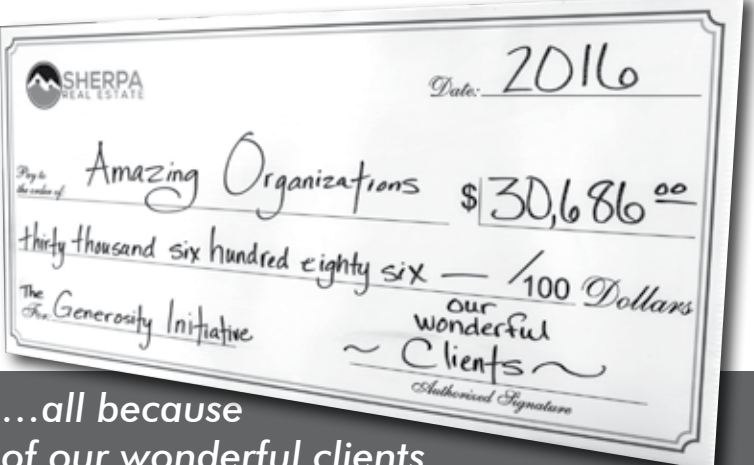
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Two throw hat in the ring to fill Robert's senate seat

By Terri House
Staff writer

The Republican Vacancy Committee will meet on Jan. 7 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Dolores Community Center in Dolores to select an individual to replace Colorado Sen. Ellen Roberts.

Roberts resigned her Senate seat effective Dec. 31.

Two candidates met the Dec. 23 deadline for consideration as a potential replacement for Roberts — House District 58 (HD58) Rep. Don Coram and Montrose County Commissioner David White.

On Nov. 27, Coram submitted a two-paragraph letter of interest to the chairman of the Senate 6 Executive Committee.

"Senator Roberts has been a valued and trusted friend during my time as House District 58 Representative. I believe that I have the institutional knowledge of the General Assembly and background and experience of Senate 6 to serve the people of Colorado with the leadership they deserve," wrote Coram.

In part of his two-page letter of interest that was submitted with a resume on Dec. 23, White said, "As you and some of the other Vacancy

Committee members know, I am currently a sitting Montrose County Commissioner representing District 3. I have held the office of County Commissioner since being elected in November of 2008. I was re-elected in November of 2012, however, due to term limits, I will be leaving office on January 10, 2017 and therefore would have no conflicts with serving in the State Senate should I be chosen by the Vacancy Committee to fulfill the remainder of the term created by Senator Roberts resignation."

"Briefly, I am first and foremost a lifelong, conservative Republican dating back to my youth," continued White, "I served as a member of the leadership team of College Republicans while attending college. I am a fiscal conservative and have a proven track record in business and public office. I believe in limited government and a rolling back of the insane number of regulations that are strangling our small business owners, farmers, ranchers, etc."

"Along those lines and as a side note...if I were the Governor of Colorado, I would tell the legislature to take a year off from passing new legislation (which begets regulations once a bill is in the hands of the respective state entity — PUC, CDOT,

CDPH&E, i.e. Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, etc.) and instead, go through existing regulations and repeal every one of them that didn't serve a logical, legitimate purpose so that as a State, we could unshackle our private sector to grow our economy statewide and not just on the Front Range!"

In an email to The SUN on Dec. 24, Dave Laursen, chairman of the Republican Senate District 6 Central Committee, as well as the Republican House District 58 Central Committee, explained the process to replace Roberts.

There are 153 potential vacancy committee members, comprising the three district officers (Vice Chairman Danny Wilkin from Montezuma County, Secretary Lori Riewaldt from Montrose County, and Laursen, the chairman from Montrose County); the chairman, vice chairman, and secretary of each of the eight counties within Senate District 6 (SD6); the precinct committee persons from each of the eight counties; and Roberts, Coram, and Rep. J. Paul Brown.

"It will take a simple majority of the members present and voting at the Vacancy Committee meeting to be selected as the new senator. Once

the Vacancy Committee makes its selection, the Secretary of State will be informed and the senator-elect will be sworn in on Jan. 11, opening day for the General Assembly," wrote Laursen.

If Coram is selected to fill the Senate seat, an HD58 Vacancy Committee will then need to replace him.

"With that in mind and in an effort to save wintry road travel and to have selections made for the opening day of the General Assembly, Representative Coram has turned in his resignation effective January 10, 2017. If he is not selected on January 7th he will pull his resignation," said Laursen.

If Coram is selected as the senator-elect, the HD58 Vacancy Committee meeting will convene at the same location as the SD6 meeting.

There are three candidates from Montrose for the HD58 position — Charli Oswald, Marc Catlin and White.

Laursen wrote, "At this point it sounds like Senate President Kevin Grantham and Republican State Party Chairman Steve House will be in attendance at the Vacancy Committee meeting on January 7th. The public is welcome to attend and observe."

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 29

Pagosa Springs Town Council special meeting: final 2016 budget adjustments. 7:30 a.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Tuesday, Jan. 3

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 5

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District special meeting. 4 p.m., PAWSD administrative offices, 100 Lyn Ave.

Town of Pagosa Springs community meeting. 5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, Hot Springs Boulevard. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possibility of extending the Riverwalk along Hermosa Street to the 1st Street bridge. This would close the gap in the sidewalk network off of U.S. 160 between 1st Street bridge and Town Park. The potential addition of this segment would allow residents and visitors to go from the River Center all the way to Town Hall without being on the highway for a prolonged period of time.

Monday, Jan. 9

Pagosa Area Geothermal Water and Power Authority meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

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

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners commissioner swearing in. 11 a.m., Archuleta County Courthouse, 449 San Juan St.

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 11

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

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) work session. 11 a.m., Borde Rio, 356 East Pagosa St.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners and Pagosa Springs Town Council joint work session. 8 a.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

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

Archuleta School District Board of Education retreat. 9 a.m., Sunset Ranch, 4186 E Hwy. 160.

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

8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

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

Town of Pagosa Springs public meeting: Art in Pagosa Springs. 5 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Regarding art in our community including topics such as public art displays, creation of an art district, forming an artist organization, etc.

Wednesday, Jan. 18
Upper San Juan Library District board meeting. 4 p.m. Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St.

Thursday, Jan. 19
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District work session. 4 p.m., PAWSD administrative offices, 100 Lyn Ave.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 24
Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St.

Archuleta School District Board of Education regular meeting. 9 a.m., Sunset Ranch, 4186 E Hwy. 160.

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

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PFPD responds to multiple crashes

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) experienced a busy holiday weekend, responding to a plethora of traffic accidents that were almost all related to the weather.

According to Capt. Will Clark of the PFPD, he responded to nine different accidents on Thursday, Dec. 22, with many being somewhat minor.

On Thursday, around 11 a.m., a vehicle slid off the road near Weber Sand and Gravel on U.S. 160.

Clark explained that there were no injuries, and that the vehicle's airbags didn't deploy.

He added that, although the driver was really shaken up, he was able to talk the driver through driving the car back onto the road.

Shortly after that, a two-vehicle accident occurred near mile marker 9 on U.S. 84.

Clark described the accident as a rear-end collision, with damage being minimal.

Because the accident occurred on a corner with limited visibility, Clark had both vehicles moved to a spot that was less hazardous and that had more visibility.

Another accident occurred on U.S. 84 near Holiday Drive later that

afternoon.

Clark said he suspected that this accident also occurred due to the ice on the road and cars following each other too closely.

Clark said the accident was a rear-end collision with minimum damage.

On Saturday, Dec. 24, an accident occurred near 1300 U.S. 160 in the downtown area of Pagosa Springs.

According to Capt. Kelly Robertson of the PFPD, the accident occurred when the female driver of a GMC Suburban was headed west-bound and drove over a patch of ice.

The driver made contact with the guardrail on her side of the road, which in turn caused her to cross the road and also hit the guardrail on the opposite side of the road.

Robertson explained that this blew the vehicle's front left tire, and that the vehicle was directly against the guardrail, so the vehicle only poked into the lane of traffic 1 or 2 feet.

Robertson was headed down U.S. 160 as the dispatch call came in, and she arrived to the scene, essentially, at the same time the call went out.

Upon arriving, Robertson said that the driver was standing near her car and was uninjured, though she was very shaken up.

Robertson added that the driver

had a little dog in the car with her, and the dog was pretty startled as well.

Robertson blocked the front of the scene with her battalion vehicle, and let the passenger and her dog sit in the battalion vehicle because they were cold.

A tow truck driver was already performing traffic control when Robertson arrived, and she explained that he continued to do so while Robertson and the driver waited for authorities to arrive.

A Pagosa Springs Police Department officer arrived to the scene and was followed by the a deputy from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office shortly afterward, said Robertson.

She added that, due to the vehicle having a flat tire, it was loaded on to a flatbed truck and transported out of the area.

Robertson also added that, although there was lane blockage, traffic was never actually stopped.

Clark added that icy road conditions can be hazardous and increase the amount of time required for a vehicle to come to a stop.

Because of this, Clark stated that following cars at greater distances than usual can reduce the risk for an accident.

marshall@pagosasun.com

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Dec. 19 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Cactus Drive.

Dec. 19 — Fraud by check-other method, theft, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 19 — Information only, Ray Court.

Dec. 19 — Information only, San Juan Street.

Dec. 20 — Domestic violence, second-degree assault-aggravated assault-weapon, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, criminal mischief, violation of restraining order, Solomon Drive.

Dec. 20 — Information only, San Juan Street.

Dec. 20 — Information only, Solomon Drive.

Dec. 20 — Failure to appear (bench warrants), warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

Dec. 20 — Trespass warning, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 21 — Information only, Cimarrona Circle.

Dec. 21 — Information only, Meadows Drive.

Dec. 22 — Reckless endangerment, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, domestic violence, obstruction of telephone or telegraph service, second-degree assault-

aggravated assault-weapon, Snow Circle.

Dec. 23 — Information only, San Juan Street.

Dec. 23 — Second-degree assault-aggravated assault-weapon, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, domestic violence, criminal mischief, Beucler Lane.

Dec. 24 — Information only, Dyke Boulevard.

Dec. 24 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 24 — Information only, Big Sky Place.

Dec. 25 — Theft, Ace Court.

Dec. 25 — Information only, Country Road 700.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Dec. 20 — Found property, Country Center Drive.

Dec. 20 — Criminal mischief, Aspen Village Drive.

Dec. 22 — Agency assist, Snow Circle.

Dec. 22 — Agency assist, San Juan Street.

Dec. 22 — Agency assist, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 23 — Traffic/suspended license, U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge William Anderson

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 21 — Steven Michelli, speeding

5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$134.50.

Dec. 22 — Timothy D. Karr, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$98.50.

Dec. 22 — Carleen T. Vigil, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$193.50.

Dec. 22 — Brett R. Watson, dog at large (first offense/no injury), fines and costs — \$76.

Dec. 22 — Marco R. Roybal, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$258.50.

Dec. 22 — Jorene L. Lopez, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$258.50.

Dec. 22 — Brandon Jay Taylor, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$185.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Greg Lyman

Dec. 20 — Brandon Frank, stalking-emotional distress, direct sentence to community corrections: three years, fines and costs — \$501.50.

Dec. 20 — Alberto Salcedo, controlled substance possession schedule 1/2/FL/KT, 18 months probation revoked, 75 hours community service-probation vacated, one year department of corrections, fines and costs — \$2,878.50.

Dec. 20 — Skyler J. Bilazzo, felony menacing, two years probation, 50 hours community service, fines and costs — \$1,804.26.

Dec. 20 — Robert David Brown, weapon-prohibited use-reckless with gun, five days jail, 100 hours community service, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,203.50.

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Nepal

■ Continued from front

amongst the Himalayas, Sell said that he and Proctor also traveled to the jungle climate of Nepal in the hopes of seeing animals and undertook a rafting trip.

Sell explained that he flew into Kathmandu, which is Nepal's capital.

"Nepal is such a poor, poor country, and the airport almost felt like a military installation," said Sell. "You have checkpoints to go through, and it's not very modern at all. It's really rough."

He stated that he encountered a lot of strict military guards, but that he never felt threatened.

Sell explained that most of what he saw in Kathmandu was in the Thamel district.

"Kathmandu is really overpopulated, there's not much infrastructure and it's really crowded," Sell said. "I'd been to Mexico City, and I thought it'd be like Mexico City. Mexico City is like a beautiful paradise compared to Kathmandu."

Sell went on to explain that there wasn't the sense of danger that one feels in places such as

Mexico City.

He also explained that the people of Kathmandu, and Nepal in general, were open and friendly to foreigners.

"I think Nepal has really embraced the tourism money," said Sell. "Most Nepalis are very cordial and very friendly in a service-oriented way, but they're not going to go out and make small talk with you."

Sell stated that he thought Kathmandu had a culture similar to India, and that, once he started getting into the high country, the culture changed to resemble something closer to Tibet.

He said that, as he traveled deeper into the Himalayas, the culture seemed to shift and resemble more of a "Sherpa" culture.

When asked how the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming compare to the Himalayas, Sell explained that the Rocky Mountains don't come close to comparing to the Himalayas.

"The nearest thing that we probably have in this country is the Grand Tetons, but still, you land in

Lukla and you're at 9,300 feet, and these peaks are just towering over you," said Sell. "Those peaks are just foothills to the higher peaks. When you round the corner and finally see Everest, it's like another planet. I wonder how anyone could climb it."

Sell added that the tree line in Nepal is at 15,000 feet, and explained that this has to do with Nepal's latitude.

"The latitude of Nepal is like Florida's," he said. "It's pretty temperate."

He added that while he'd heard others comment on how cold it was, he never felt overly cold during his entire time in Nepal.

Sell described the architecture of Nepal as interesting, explaining how the cities are adorned with temples and prayer flags.

"There's still quite a bit of damage from that earthquake two years ago," said Sell. "In Patan, where we spent a day, there's a lot of posts holding up buildings, and you can see a lot of rubble. Of course, they have two years' worth of clean up, so it's much better than what it was

two years ago."

He added that the earthquake caused a large number of people to move to Kathmandu from other Nepali towns and villages in search of jobs.

Sell explained that the area had many tourists, but most were from places such as China, Japan and Australia.

He said there were some Americans in Nepal, but not many.

Sell explained that, while in a tea house in Namche Bazaar, he ran into esteemed American mountaineer and rock climber Conrad Anker.

Anker was about to begin his second attempt at summiting Lunag Ri, the highest unclimbed peak in Nepal.

Five days after Sell met Anker, Anker suffered a heart attack while attempting the climb and had to be flown to Lukla and eventually to Siddhartha Hospital in Kathmandu.

When asked if there were any social faux pas that Sell had to be conscious of, Sell laughed and said, "None, that I'm aware of."

He added that when approaching a prayer wheel, it's customary to walk around the wheel clockwise.

Although travelers have to approach the food they eat in Nepal with caution, Sell stated that the food was good, saying that a lot of Nepali dishes are rice- and noodle-based.

"There's American food there, too. In the Thamel district ... we ate a couple times at this place called the Northfield Cafe," said Sell. "The guy who owns it, he's from Kathmandu, but he's, for some reason, obsessed with Jesse James. So it's called the Northfield Cafe and looks like Jesse James' Saloon in there."

While many travelers can become sick from ingesting the wrong choice of food, Sell explained that he became sick due to something else.

"I got a serious chest and lung infection from the pollution, and spent two days in the hospital in Pokhara," said Sell, adding that there was a heavy amount of smog and dust in the air.

When asked for examples of hardship that stuck out to him while in Nepal, Sell recalled one event in particular that stuck with him.

Sell explained that he was walking down the street in the early morning in Kathmandu, when it wasn't very crowded.

He came across a boy who had no legs, and was using his hands to walk down the street.

"He looked very skinny and dirty, and he was walking down the street on his two hands," said Sell. "That was the worst."

One of the things that stuck out to Sell was that, although the people of Nepal work very, very hard, they seem to be more laid-back and less strict when it comes to work compared to Americans.

Sell said that the Nepali people struck him as less high-strung and

simpler than Americans in many ways.

After staying in Kathmandu, Sell and Proctor flew to the town of Lukla, which is where the treks to Everest usually start.

Sell explained that, for him and Proctor to begin their trek in the Himalayas, they had to fill out paperwork and get permits.

Sell said that he had to get a trekking permit from the Ministry of Tourism in Kathmandu, which cost him 3,500 Nepalese rupees, which is close to 35 U.S. dollars.

Sell estimated that he spent \$100 in gaining access to Sagarmatha National Park, which is the park that contains Mount Everest.

After leaving Lukla, Sell explained that he almost expected a peaceful and quiet trail leading to the cities in higher elevation, but found that the road was crowded with pack animals and porters, people that make a living by hauling supplies up to the higher villages.

"The path to Everest is dusty and crowded," said Sell. "There's times where you have to get off the trail because there are porters and yaks coming by. It's not exactly a wilderness experience."

Sell stated that he and Proctor hired a porter once they began their trek.

Around halfway through their trek to view Everest, Sell said he began to get sick.

"I made it, but I'd lay awake coughing all night long," said Sell, adding that he chose to wait until he completed the trek before he visited a hospital.

The highest elevation was achieved when Proctor and Sell climbed Kala Patthar, a notable landmark on a ridge that offered captivating views of Everest.

Sell explained that the elevation of Kala Patthar is 18,500 feet, and that he was sick when he climbed it.

"That day, we hiked about 15 miles above 16,000 feet, and that took it out of me," said Sell. "But then we started getting lower and I didn't get any worse."

Sell said that, after climbing Kala Patthar, he and Proctor hiked to a village nearby, and that, upon getting off the crowded road to Everest, the path became much more calm and pristine.

He said that walking the calmer roads was like traveling on the path to Shangri-La.

Sell went on to explain that, after finishing the Himalayan trek, he and Proctor went on a rafting trip and visited the jungle biome of Nepal, riding elephants through the jungle in a safari-esque venture.

Sell embarked on the rafting trip and jungle adventure while still having the same chest infection mentioned earlier.

The raft trip was a bit more of an undertaking than Sell originally expected.

"A lot of times in Nepal, they'll tell you what you want to hear, and maybe it was just a misunderstanding, but we asked if it was just a

nice float down the canyon, and the guide said, 'Oh yeah, yeah,'" explained Sell. "Well, the river was about the size of the Snake River, and I'd say it was running at least 20,000 cubic feet and was class four. My friend flew out of the boat on one of the rapids."

Sell went on to explain how, for two days, he was soaking wet.

He said that the raft trip was probably the scariest part of his whole journey.

"I'm not a great swimmer, and I was sick anyway, and I was thinking, 'Man, if I fall into this river that'll give me pneumonia,'" said Sell. "We had two guys on our raft trip on the first day, and they were from Dubai. After they did the first day, they took a bus back home."

On the elephant ride through the jungle, Sell said that they saw spotted deer as well as rhinos, but that he wasn't a fan of the way the elephants were treated.

"I wouldn't do that again. They would whack them on the head," explained Sell, adding that he spoke to a lodge owner afterwards and learned that the elephant rides were probably going to stop in the next couple years, due to the number of complaints.

"With the elephants, they're so expressive, and so smart. To look in their eyes, with the way they were being treated would tear you up," said Sell. "At the end of the day, you could pet the elephants on the trunk, and their eyes would light up. It would tear your heart out."

Sell went on to explain that elephants were ridden because they didn't disturb wildlife in the same way that humans on foot would.

He also pointed out that the majority of roads in Nepal are like 4x4 roads, explaining that a 140-mile bus ride to Pokhara took eight hours.

After Sell had his fun, he still had to get his chest infection treated.

"They had an international hospital in Pokhara that's staffed by Indian doctors, so I went there for two days, and they gave me IVs and antibiotics," said Sell, explaining, "Two days, in a private room, all the food and the antibiotics and everything was \$300."

Sell admitted that the hospital facility was a bit more rustic than other hospitals, and that some medical equipment wasn't as modern as other hospitals.

"Everything was like it was 30 years ago here," said Sell. "But it was effective, and they did the job."

He added that the bedside manner of his Indian doctor was excellent, explaining that he would often come in and assure Sell that he was receiving the best treatment and care available.

"He really wanted me to know that he was doing the best that he could do," said Sell.

When asked where Sell wanted to travel to next, he said that he wouldn't mind setting his sights on Patagonia.

"I'd like to go there," he said. "I really like Argentina and Chile."

Fire

■ Continued from front

Rescue.

Firefighters continued to remain at the scene around the clock for three days, Larson said.

Not only was the fire intense, it was persistent. Even two days after the alarm, on Oct. 24, flames flared up again from the smoldering ruins.

Larson explained that was because even after the building collapsed, its roof continued to function to shed water. Only when the fire burned through the roof was the continuing flow of water able to penetrate and finally douse the last of the flames.

Larson extolled the effort by the local PFPD volunteers, saying "they did a hell of a job."

Overall, he said, the fire was "a big deal, a terrible loss to the town." Nevertheless, with injuries and the loss of life being avoided, and any spread of flames to neighboring buildings being prevented, "it was a successful operation, in which there was great cooperation" from neighboring fire districts, as well as from emergency personnel from the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

Town Manager Greg Schulte agreed.

Responders, he told The SUN on Dec. 20, "did their job in a timely and effective way" and succeeded in avoiding the catastrophe that might have resulted if the flames had spread beyond the Adobe Building.

Schulte noted that recently, on Dec. 1, the community's responders got together for a debriefing on the fire. In addition to the PFPD, included were dispatch personnel, the Pagosa Springs Police Department, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, Pagosa Springs Medical Center/EMS personnel and the Pagosa Springs Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

Schulte noted that while the loss of the Adobe Building was a terrible blow to the community, there was considerable doubt that anything different might have been done

that could have saved it due to its age and design.

As an example, even if the PFPD employed more paid firefighters, who might have been on duty and able to speed up the initial response by a few minutes; whether the additional cost of expanding paid staff would be worthwhile may be questionable, he said, especially with uncertainty over the value that might accrue in the form of actual improvement of the outcome.

One lesson learned from the Adobe fire relates to the heavy demand for water to prevent the spread of a major fire in a developed area.

The water demand to fight the Adobe fire became great enough to deplete PAWSD's reserve supply in the early morning of Oct. 22, and caused temporary interruption of water service to some customers.

The lesson drawn that more effective communications could have helped has already been acted upon. The PFPD and PAWSD have agreed that whenever the fire district connects to a hydrant at a future fire, it will notify the water agency, which will dispatch a supervisory employee to the scene to evaluate the likely water demand and steps PAWSD may need to take to help meet it.

In the case of the Adobe fire, Larson told The SUN that, initially, the fire district was drawing water at about 600 gpm while it was still attempting to attack the fire internally.

It was only when firefighters moved to the defensive, surround-and-drown approach, he said, that the water usage increased to the 2,500 gpm maximum rate.

Larson said that PFPD had contacted PAWSD about the fire at various points during the firefight, but the anticipated volume of water needed was not specifically discussed.

Since fires of the magnitude experienced on Oct. 22 are rare, the possibility of a problem was not realized until 4:19 a.m., when

Larson said PAWSD notified him that its reserve water levels were getting low.

At 5 a.m., the PFPD was advised by PAWSD that the issue of water supply had become critical. Fortunately, Larson said, by that point the fire was under better control and firefighters were able to cut back from 2,500 gpm to 1,000 gpm.

That level remained sufficient, he said, except for a period of about 20 minutes around 8:30 a.m., when the wind increased, adding to the risk temporarily by fanning the flames. The PFPD was able for that period to increase water flow again to maintain control of the fire.

The SUN discussed the water supply issue with PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey on Dec. 20.

Ramsey said that the downtown area is served by PAWSD's Snowball plant, which can pump water into the system at a rate of 1,100 gpm. He said there is also a storage capacity of between 750,000 to 1 million gallons.

He noted that PAWSD would be unable to supply 2,500 gpm to fight a fire indefinitely. At that rate of demand, 750,000 gallons of stored water would be used up in about five hours.

However, Ramsey pointed out that overnights during the month of October, PAWSD normally dials back production at the Snowball plant to 300 gpm or less due to low demand.

Therefore, if the water district had understood an exceptional demand had arisen on the early morning of Oct. 22, it could have increased production, which would at least have extended the period in which it could meet the maximum need. (At a difference of 800 gpm, additional production would supply water equivalent to nearly 20 more minutes every hour at a usage rate of 2,500 gpm.)

Ramsey commented that PAWSD had no criticism of the PFPD over the inadequate mutual understanding of the exceptional need created by the Adobe fire.

"They did a great job," he said.

bridge and connecting roads at the town's expense."

He added, however, that if the council rejects the option next week, then it appears "there will be no bridge, unless the Partners take additional action to pursue [it], because otherwise they would have the right to go forward" with development under the 2012 agreement without any bridge.

He noted that the developers could seek renegotiation, or propose other options to the town that could provide for a bridge to be constructed.

In discussing the upcoming agenda item with The SUN on Dec. 28, Schulte agreed with Volger that council's action could put the ball on the bridge "in the Springs Partners' court."

If the town rejects its option, Schulte said, either the Partners will proceed as they are entitled and there will be no bridge, or discus-

sions potentially leading to a new agreement on means to fund one will be necessary.

If, on the other hand, council decides on Jan. 3 to proceed under the 2012 option, Schulte noted it "would be a huge deal."

But, he said, any such decision could be implemented only by additional, significant steps approved by council following public hearings.

For example, since the recently approved 2017 budget includes no funding for a new bridge at 5th Street, Schulte said commitment of any funding by the town for that purpose would require a hearing and budget amendment.

Concerning the timing of the agenda item for consideration of town's option next week, Schulte said "either the town fulfills the vested rights agreement or it doesn't, [but] the Partners are due a decision by council."

jim@pagosasun.com

Bridge

■ Continued from front

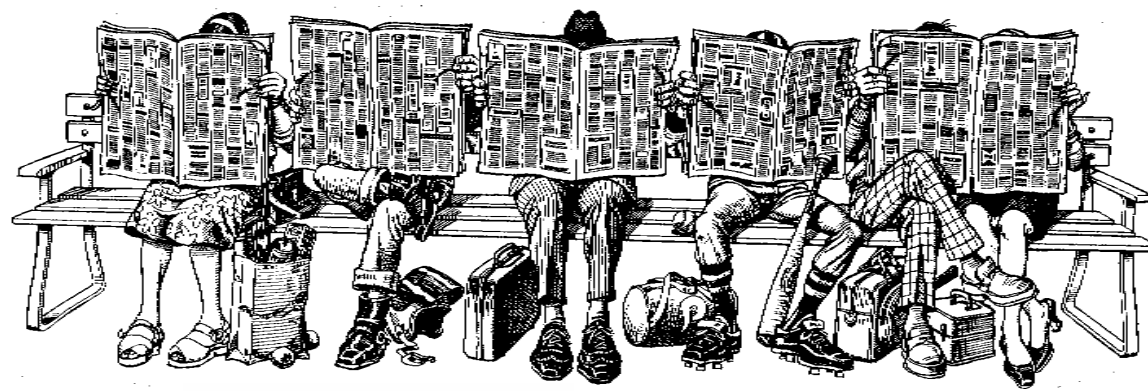
and its taxpayers, and the town's wish to renegotiate the agreement as it relates to a possible bridge has been publicly acknowledged since at least last March.

The 2012 vested rights agreement stipulates that if the town exercises its option for a bridge, it "shall include the costs of constructing the bridge and connection road improvements in its future road and bridge capital improvement plan for funding in year 2017."

With regard to the upcoming agenda item, Volger told The SUN that it was "reasonable for the town to give the developers its decision on the option — they are owed that."

But, Volger said, he couldn't predict the outcome of council's decision next week whether or not to exercise the option, although he doesn't "see any appetite [among council members] to build the

Thursday wouldn't be Thursday without ...



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School board hears audit presentation

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) ended their year with good news, accepting a draft of the district's 2015-2016 financial audit that resulted in an unmodified opinion.

An unmodified opinion means the district's financial statements are consistent with the applicable accounting framework.

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Archuleta School District 50JT, Colorado, as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America," the opinion from auditors Holscher, Mayberry & Company LLC (HMC) states.

The draft audit was presented to the BOE by ASD Finance Director Mike Hodgson during a work session on Dec. 13. The board then accepted the draft audit during the subsequent regular meeting the same evening.

In addition to the Independent Auditors' Report, the audit document also includes a discussion and analysis written by ASD management that includes financial highlights (included below) and a series of financial statements.

Hodgson began his overview of the audit by stating that Tim Mayberry from HMC apologized for not being present, but was available to the BOE to answer any questions.

He then pointed out other things Mayberry had pointed out

in an email.

One thing the auditors were "very pleased with" was ASD spending down some of its fund balance, Hodgson relayed.

The district's General Fund balance is healthy, Hodgson further explained later in the meeting, pointing out that the auditors have been encouraging the district to spend down those reserves for several years.

ASD Superintendent Linda Reed pointed out that those onetime expenditures came for the district's curriculum reset.

Hodgson also noted that Mayberry wanted to assure that while the district has a net deficit financial position, it was due to financial rules about how contributions to the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) are shown, and that ASD was on par with most other districts.

Later discussion also centered on the PERA contributions.

Hodgson said that PERA is going up one-half a percent a year, and will be over 20 percent of a person's pay by 2018.

Beyond that, it is unclear if it will continue to rise or level off.

"The only thing that compensates is we don't pay Social Security," he said.

The district portion will be 19.65 starting in January, he said.

"This is a huge disparate impact on our district because of PERA," board member Jason Peterson said after noting that if the district paid Social Security, it would pay about 7.3 percent, not 20 percent.

Board president Greg Schick noted that PERA is required for public employees.

Board member Bruce Dryburgh noted that a school district in Colorado Springs had filed a lawsuit to get out of PERA.

He also said, "This is the biggest financial problem we have and we tend to say we can't do anything about it, which is very true, and we move on, but ... what are we going to do when the stock market goes to hell?"

Dryburgh noted he has brought the issue up with the Colorado Association of School Boards multiple times.

Schick then questioned if PERA invests in the stock market and limitations on investment, with Hodgson confirming they do invest in the stock market, but does have some limitations.

Dryburgh said other school districts also needed to recognize it as a serious problem.

Hodgson also pointed out a few other things to the board over the course of the discussion:

- Some of the costs related to the re-roofing of the fifth- and sixth-grade building will reflect in next fiscal year's financial statements due to the timing of that project over the summer.

- The Federal Secure Rural Schools funding, roughly \$300,000 for ASD, has not been renewed.

The draft audit presented to the board was still missing the required federal single audit, he noted.

"Even though this is a draft, it appears we're doing OK," Schick noted.

Board member Jason Peterson then asked how many years the district had been served by the same auditing firm, with Hodgson responding it had been at least eight years either with the current firm or its predecessor company.

Peterson suggested it may be nice to have a new company, with Hodgson responding that he previously asked the Colorado Department of Education if there are requirements, and noted that

HMC sent new people this year, who had a different focus than in previous years.

He suggested continuing with HMC for one to two more years, then finding a new firm.

Financial highlights

Financial highlights included in Management's Discussion and Analysis are as follows.

- The district's combined net position as of June 30, 2016, was -\$1,426,162, "an improvement of \$336,494."

"This negative net position is a result of the District's implementation of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 68 which requires all entities contributing to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) to record their share of the state's net pension liability on the District's Statement of Net Position beginning in the 2014-2015 fiscal year."

- Without ASD's "\$23,192,506 share of Colorado's pension liability, the District's total combined net position as of June 30, 2016 would be \$21,766,343. This represents a \$1,900,198 (9.6%) increase over the previous year's net position."

- "The General Fund's annual deficit increased from \$203,396 to \$339,167, largely because of an increased transfer to the Capital Reserve Projects Fund to pay for additional school busses and to pay for the reroofing project at the 5-6 Building."

- "Despite Amendment 23, the State of Colorado continues to implement the Negative factor to balance the state's budget. With the \$1,371,093 withheld in FY2016, the total withheld to date equals \$8,990,821."

- The General Fund had a fund balance of \$7,628,158 as of June 30, equal to 69.1 percent of the district's total General Fund expenditures for fiscal year 2016.

- "The District had long-term debt at June 30, 2016 of \$28,942,609 including general obligation bonds, capital leases, a roof settlement, accrued compensated absences, unamortized bond premiums, and the pension liability. This \$586,370 increase from last year was caused primarily by an increase in the pension liability."

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Free EBT machines available for direct market farmers

By Leslie Wustrack
Special to The SUN

Registration is now open for farmers markets, farm stands and community supported agriculture (CSAs) to receive free — wired or wireless — electronic benefit transfer (EBT) machines at no cost. Interested direct market farmers must attend one of four signup days to be held in January; registration for a signup day must be completed by Friday, Jan. 13.

The EBT machines, supplied at no cost, will allow markets, stands and CSAs to sell their healthy, Colorado-grown foods to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in Colorado.

SNAP, a USDA Food and Nutrition Service program that replaced food stamps, offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities.

The SNAP program, administered in the area by Archuleta County Human Services in Pagosa Springs, is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. EBT is an electronic system that allows state welfare departments to issue benefits via a magnetically encoded payment card.

Signup days will be held at the dates and locations listed below. Markets or farmers can become SNAP-authorized by USDA staff on the spot and complete an order form for the EBT machine that day. Sessions will include an overview of how EBT works, information on signing up for Double Up Food Bucks and how farmers can become authorized to receive Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits. (If you currently have a working EBT, there is no need to attend.)

Interested participants must register to attend one of the following

sessions no later than Friday, Jan. 13. To register, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNAPauth>.

- Jan. 21, Montrose.
- Jan. 23, Alamosa.
- Jan. 24, Lakewood.
- Jan. 25, Ft. Collins/Greeley.

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, please contact Wendy Moschetti, director of food systems, LiveWell Colorado, at wendymoschetti@livewellcolorado.org.

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Working cattle at O'Neal Park

By Shari Pierce
Staff Writer

Editor's note: The Pagosa Springs SUN printed a special presentation of narrative profiles of Pagosa Springs pioneers in celebration of the town's centennial in 1991. The profiles were based on family records, earlier writings and remembered family lore, rather than historical research.

Those profiles have been reprinted over the past year as the town celebrates 125 years of incorporation.

This is the final profile from the centennial.

Brothers John and James O'Neal were born on Jan. 26, 1847, in Dublin, Texas. Their parents were George Washington and Mary (Magers) O'Neal.

Day-to-day life held many struggles in their early years. While living in Texas, and when later journeying west and settling in New Mexico and Colorado, battles with Indians were common. Their bond as twins was quite strong. They married sisters and followed similar paths while sharing many ventures throughout their lives.

John O'Neal's early life

John S. O'Neal had little formal schooling.

He developed a keen interest in the cattle industry early in life and, in time, became very knowledgeable about ranching. He married Louisa Virginia Keith at Dublin, on Oct. 8, 1869. (Louisa Virginia Keith was born on Sept. 25, 1850, in Texas.)

In 1873, the couple moved by wagon from Texas to New Mexico. While they were on the trail, John and his partner, Wilson Keith, were attacked by Comanches.

Mrs. O'Neal's cousin, Wilson, was killed. About 1,000 head of cattle and 80 horses were stolen.

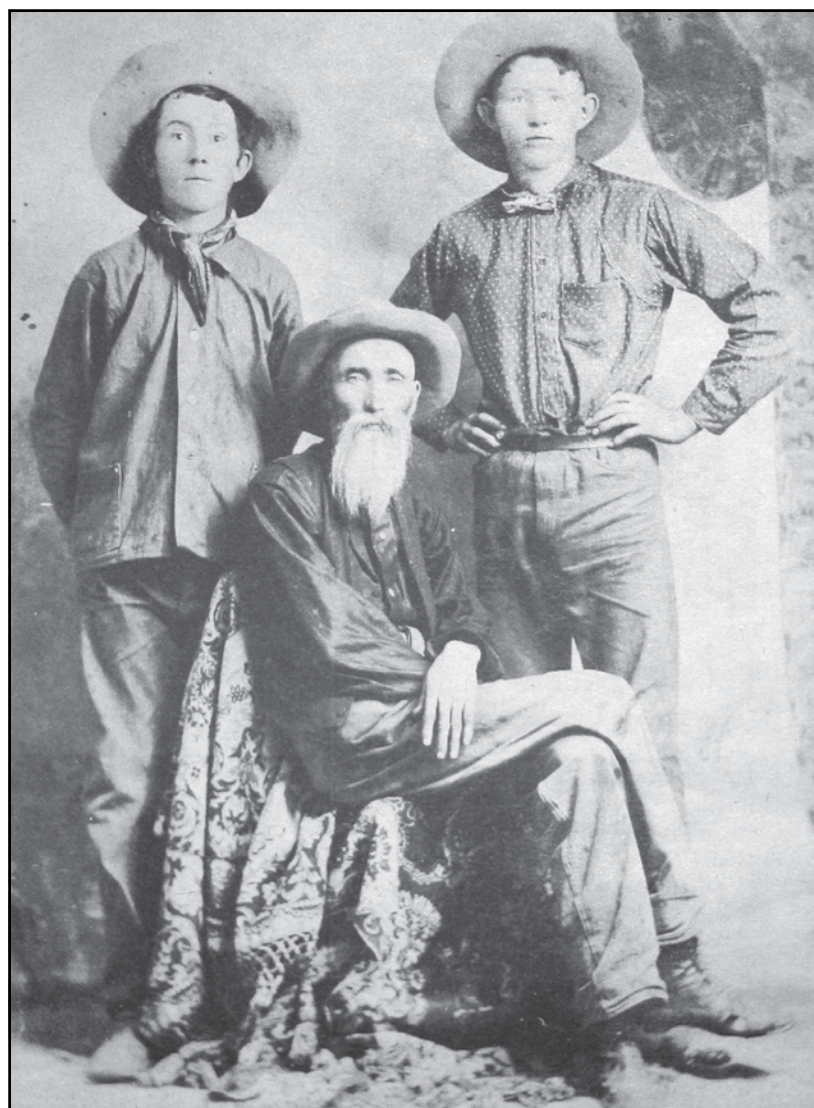
In 1877, the O'Neals again loaded their wagon and moved on to Colorado. The couple settled near the Los Pinos River at La Boca in southeastern La Plata County. The area was a few miles south of present-day Ignacio.

Working together, John and Virginia homesteaded a quarter section of land and raised stock.

While at La Boca, John and Virginia O'Neal had two children. Twins Lucy and John Eben were born July 4, 1885.

Settling in Archuleta County

Two years later, the family of four moved to Archuleta County. They purchased 320 acres in the Piedra Valley about 15 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs. The area is now



Ranch hands Blain Highland and Gerry Sanderson with John O'Neal (seated). The boys worked on the O'Neal ranch in the 1890s.

known as O'Neal Park.

The winters John and Virginia had experienced in Texas and New Mexico were known as being "open" — there wasn't enough snowfall to confine families inside. As a result, the heavy snows encountered in Colorado were real shockers for the O'Neals.

At O'Neal Park, the family would be snowed in for the duration of the winter.

This required the O'Neals to work all summer in order to gather enough supplies to last through the winter. Once the snow fell, trips to town were few and far between.

Even during the warm summer months, trips to town were infrequent.

John O'Neal raised hay and other feed on this ranch. He also specialized in raising shorthorn cattle. Eventually, he and his brother, James, started raising race horses.

In 1895, John built a house on Lewis Street. (Today, the Pagosa Springs Post Office is across the street from the now bluish-gray house.)

This "winter home" enabled the

family to live on the ranch during the summer and move into town for the winter months.

In addition to his farming and ranching, John drove a stagecoach for the Sanderson Brothers stage line. He drove the route from Halfway Canyon (about 15 miles southeast of Pagosa Springs) to Amargo, N.M. John also worked cattle for the Parr brothers and the West Family.

During 1890-91, John O'Neal was active in the incorporation of the Town of Pagosa Springs. He served as a town trustee for three years.

He was elected to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners in 1895 and served as chairman of that board.

He also served on the local school board. Despite lacking a good formal education, as was common with most early settlers, John O'Neal firmly believed in the importance of education.

John O'Neal passed away Feb. 14, 1900. His wife, Virginia, passed away Oct. 14, 1918.

James L. O'Neal

James L. O'Neal joined the Texas Rangers at the age of 14.

During wars the Rangers fought against the Indians. James was promoted to captain. Upon retiring from the Rangers, he received a pension from the state of Texas for the remainder of his life.

James married Missouri Keith on Feb. 2, 1876, at Dublin, Texas.

They immediately left for Cimarron, N.M. They lived in Cimarron a year.

In 1877, they moved by wagon to Animas City, Colo., near present-day Durango.

Within a few years, they moved to the Pine River, at the present site of Bayfield.

In the summer of 1888, James and Missouri O'Neal loaded their wagon and moved to Pagosa Springs to join their respective brother and

sister. They lived in Pagosa Springs for the remainder of their lives.

James entered into a partnership with his brother, John, and with Henry Cooper. The trio operated a livery stable, as well as a blacksmith and wagon shop where they worked as wheelwrights, blacksmiths and farriers. The business was located on Lewis Street.

James O'Neal passed away May 19, 1929. His wife, Missouri Keith O'Neal, passed away Feb. 25, 1928.

The John O'Neal children

John's and Virginia's daughter, Lucy, married U.S. Forest Ranger Paul Irwin. They had two children, Stanton and Lucille. Lucy passed away in 1923.

John Eben O'Neal, Lucy's twin brother, was better known locally as "Buck" O'Neal.

Fishing and hunting were the loves of his life.

He once found himself tangled up with a silver-tip grizzly. Though able to kill the bear, the experienced cured Buck of hunting alone.

In about 1912, Buck O'Neal killed his first elk. It happened to be the first elk he had seen in this country. (Elk are not native to this area of Colorado. The animals were introduced to this area through wildlife management programs.)

Buck also was quite a fisherman. His son, Gordon, enjoys telling about one of Buck's fishing escapades.

It took place, Gordon said, "... in the winter time. Up to a certain month, you could catch suckers anytime you wanted to down the river. But you couldn't catch trout until the regular trout season opened.

"So he was fishing down there and he had a homemade stringer and he had two or three pretty nice trout on it.

"He was fishing and the game warden came up. And he said 'Don't you know the trout season hasn't opened yet?'

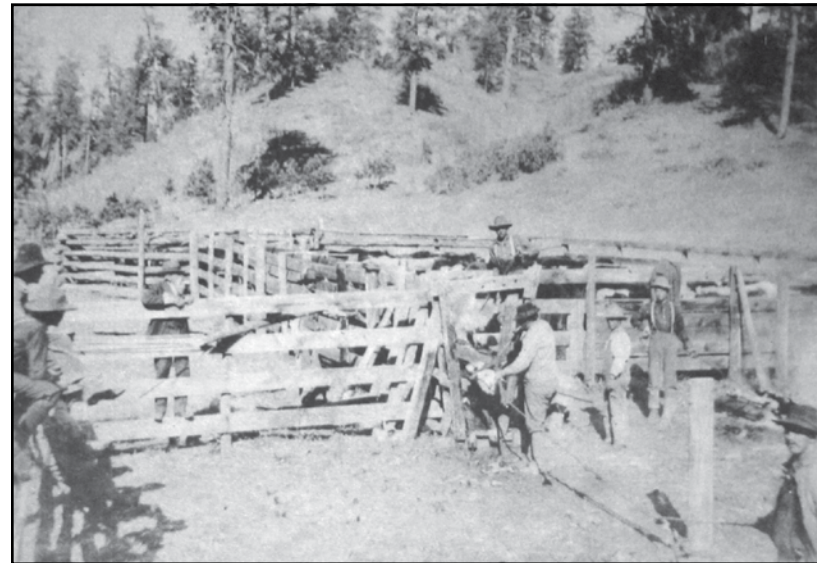
"And he said 'Yea, I know it.' 'The warden said, 'What's them trout doing on that stringer?'

"And he said 'I was fishing for supper and them trout kept getting my bait so I tied them up!'

Buck O'Neal worked at a variety of jobs.

In the 1920s, he was a "trouble-

■ See O'Neal A11



Branding on O'Neal Park Ranch. Hoot Keith is doing the branding. Matt Arnold is holding the branding iron and John O'Neal is standing on the fence in the corral.

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O'Neal

Continued from A10

shooter" for the telephone company — he kept the lines up the East Fork to the Summitville mines in operation even during the heavy winter snows.

He also worked as a powder man on construction work. Much of the work involved clearing the way for roads. At times, Buck did some blasting work in mines.

Buck worked for Henry Born at the fish hatchery at Born's Lake, and for the Huebler Brothers' hatchery at Palisade Lake.

It was only natural that he worked as a hunting and fishing guide.

For several years, Buck served as town marshal.

His widow, Mrs. Nellie O'Neal, remembers, "He didn't quibble around any. If he figured a fellow needed talkin' to, he'd sure give it to him."

Buck O'Neal weds Nellie Tallman

Buck and Nellie H. Tallman were married by Justice of the Peace Archie Toner on Sept. 30, 1930, at the Toner Ranch in Hinsdale County.

Nellie had come to Pagosa Springs from Penn Yan, N.Y. (Nellie H. Tallman was born at Penn Yan, N.Y. on May 18, 1901.)

Buck and Nellie had two sons, Gordon and Vernon.

Mrs. O'Neal traveled back to Penn Yan, where Gordon was born.

Vernon was born in Pagosa Springs at the O'Neal house.

Both sons have families and continue to live in Pagosa Springs.

Nellie Tallman attended school in Penn Yan, N.Y. She then took secretarial training in Rochester.

She came to Pagosa Springs with a friend who was suffering from ill health.

Shortly following her arrival at Pagosa Springs, Buck O'Neal swept Nellie off her feet.

Buck and Nellie lived in several different places in town after they were married.

Then, one day while they were walking, Nellie recalls, "I pointed up here to this hill and I said, 'Buck, that's where I want to live.' And that's when he went to the county commissioners."

The spot Nellie chose for a



The bluish-gray house now located at 4th and Lewis streets was a boarding house in 1902. Left to right: Henry Gordon with dog, J. Keith, unidentified young girl, James O'Neal with beard, Ethel Keith Sparks, Leidy Baker standing behind Ethel, children of Forrest and Ethel Sparks, Forrest Sparks is standing behind the children, Aubrey Cooper, S.M. (Hoot) Keith, Lucy O'Neal, George O'Neal, Henry Cooper, Virginia Keith O'Neal, Tennessee Keith Cooper, unidentified young boy, Missouri Keith O'Neal and seated in front are Buck O'Neal and Virgil Cooper.

homesite was known as "Schoolhouse Hill." At one time, the local schoolhouse was located on the hill just north of the San Juan and 5th streets intersection. The school building burned in the 1920s. (The school was rebuilt on Lewis Street where the present junior high school is located.)

Buck went to the county commissioners and asked them to sell him the hill. He bought 13 lots for \$175 and built Nellie her house. She continued to live there until last year. She now lives with her son, Vernon.

Mrs. O'Neal worked as a telephone operator in Pagosa Springs in the early 1930s. Later she worked nine years for the Office of Price Administration.

In the 1950s, Mrs. O'Neal was county clerk. She later served as clerk of the district court.

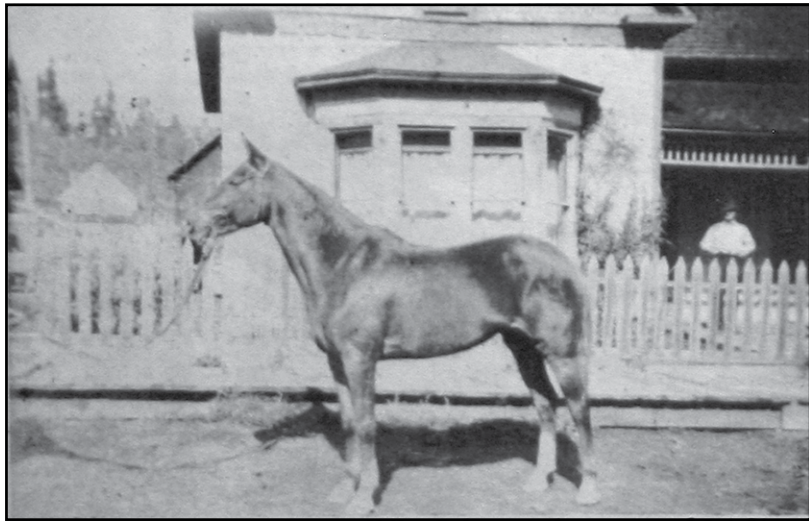
Active in civic matters, Mrs. O'Neal was a member of the Eastern Star and is a life-long member

of the Methodist Church.

Having never taken an active interest in running his father's ranch, Buck O'Neal sold the O'Neal Ranch in 1939.

Buck O'Neal passed away Jan. 8, 1953.

The above information was provided by a January 1989 interview with Mrs. Nellie O'Neal, and from her son Gordon O'Neal.



O'Neal photo collection

John O'Neal's prize racehorse, Shilo. Taken at the corner of 1st Street and U.S. 160. The house was built by E.T. Walker. Circa 1890.

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Sports

SPIRIT

Pirate cheerleaders compete at state championships

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School cheerleading squad participated in the Colorado State Spirit Championships earlier this month, on Dec. 8-10, finishing 14th in the cheer category among 20 competing high schools in Class 3A. Coach Marcie Ham told The SUN on Dec. 21 that the team had planned to enter the co-ed cheer category, but ultimately competed in the girls category due to injury. Ham said in the last two years, the team has finished in the top five in its class in the annual state competition. However, this year's squad is young, with only one senior. Considering its

inexperience, the team did a good job in the competition, she said. The coach credited senior captain Gabby Dennis with great leadership of the young team, saying she is a strong motivator. Ham added that Dennis has worked hard in the high school's strength and conditioning program for students who participate in two or more sports seasons during the school year. In Dennis' four years as a cheerleader, "she has come a long way," Ham said. Ham explained that the state competition is scored by a panel of out-of-state judges based on standard performance elements, which the competing teams must match. Each team has two-and-a-half minutes to perform a three-

section routine: one section consisting of traditional cheerleading, and two consisting of stunts and tumbling set to music. During most of the year, Ham said, the Pagosa Springs team leads cheers at Pirate sports events including football and basketball. Usually, its activities during sports events are limited to traditional cheerleading, since tumbling and stunts require mats for safety. Ham noted that many members of the cheerleading squad also are members of Pirate sports teams. She said that out of the eight who competed at the State Championships, four also participate in volleyball, basketball, soccer and cross country. jim@pagosasun.com

BASKETBALL

Pirates eye improvement to start 2017

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Improvement is key for the Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirates heading into 2017, and the team has been working hard over the holiday season to make that happen. While practices were not mandatory over the holidays, coach Randy Sorenson said the team would be working hard during voluntary practices. "We will have to have great prac-

tices during the break if we are to have a chance against Durango..." Sorenson wrote in a Dec. 20 email to The SUN. Over the break, Sorenson said the team has been going back to the basics. "We will get back to fundamentals and we have a lot of things to work on," he wrote. "We will be working extra hard on defense and scoring the basketball. We really struggle scoring and we need to have more balanced scoring. If we could pick it up defensively

we would be able to get some easy buckets in transition and that would help. We have got to stop putting ourselves in a hole early in games. We need to learn to get leads so that we can dictate how the game is played instead of getting behind early and having to dig ourselves out." That will be put to the test next Tuesday, when the Pirates welcome the 4A Durango Demons to town for a Jan. 3 game that will also serve as the Pirates' home opener. The Pirates are 3-3 on the sea-

son, and the Demons are 6-1 so far. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Jan. 3 in the PSHS gym. "The kids have done a lot of good things so far this season and they have been working hard," Sorenson noted. "They are a good group of kids with good attitudes and they continue to improve." Following the matchup with the Demons, the Pirates won't see game action again until Jan. 13, when they open league play against Monte Vista. randi@pagosasun.com

Lady Pirates to usher in 2017 against Durango Jan. 3

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Lady Pirates will help usher in 2017 on Jan. 3 with their first home game of the season. But, it won't be a walk in the park, with the Lady Pirates facing off against the 4A Durango Demons. The Demons are 6-3 so far this

season, and were 16-8 last season. "They're a good basketball team, so we'll have to be on top of it coming out of the break," said Wes Lewis, the Lady Pirates' coach. The Pirates are 4-1 on the season. "They've got a really good guard" in Katrina Chandler, Lewis said, who will be a "main focal point going into the game." Chandler is averaging 16.6

points per game this season, compared to the Demons' 34.1 points per game as a team. Chandler also has 35 assists on the season. "We're going to have to be really good defensively," Lewis said, as well as taking advantage of scoring opportunities and limiting turnovers. He added later, "We play man-to-man defense, but it's defense by committee ... it's team defense."

The Pirates are led by guard Morgan Lewis, who has 23.6 points per game this season, with the team averaging 4.2 points per game. Action is slated to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 3 in the PSHS gym. Following the matchup with the Demons, the Lady Pirates won't see game action again until Jan. 13, when they open league play against Monte Vista. randi@pagosasun.com

WRESTLING

Pirates to host Rocky Mountain Invitational

By Marshall Dunham
Staff Writer

Upon returning to school from their holiday break, the Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirates wrestling team faces a busy week. On Thursday, Jan. 5, the Pirates will travel to La Jara to battle the Centauri Falcons. The following day, Jan. 6, the Pirates will host the Rocky Mountain Duals. Then, on Jan. 7, the Pirates will host the Rocky Mountain Invitational. Besides the Pirates, 18 other teams will participate in the tournament, including the Del Norte Tigers, the Bayfield Wolverines and the Mancos Bluejays. "The Rocky Mountain Invitational Wrestling Tournament is

wrestled using a modified sixteen-man bracket," reads a letter issued to the participating schools by Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Athletic Director Marcie Ham. "Using this bracket, wrestlers who lose in the championship semi-finals will wrestle for third place, while those who lose in the consolation semi-finals will wrestle for seventh place." In an interview with coach Dan Janowsky, he explained that the team had a couple of voluntary practices over the holiday break, and that he figured the kids who were really into wrestling would attend. "I'd like to have a lot of live wrestling over the holiday," said Janowsky. "I like to have unstructured workouts. We may have a little bit of structured conditioning,

but other than that, the guys come in with a partner and they get to wrestle each other and experiment on things that they want to learn about, their areas of weakness and that kind of stuff." Janowsky said that he tries to keep practices over the holidays from becoming too structured. "Over the holiday, I like to let them wrestle, because that's what they like," said Janowsky. "It's not such a chore to come in. You let them play to the extent that wrestling is play." On the idea that the holidays may figure into weight loss and gain, Janowsky said that he wasn't worried, but "that's always a potential pitfall." "I think these guys are veteran enough to manage that," said Janowsky. "It could be an issue that

first week back, but I don't think it will be a game changer. They need to do stuff on their own during break, and I feel like we have enough guys who are doing that right now." Janowsky stated that although wrestling three days in a row can be tough, he likes to do it several times ■ See Wrestling A13

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Chama to host Chile Ski Classic and Winter Fiesta

By Mary Ann DeBoer
Special to The SUN

Chama, N.M., will be hosting the 44th annual Chama Chile Ski Classic and Winter Fiesta, Jan. 14-16.

The longest-running and largest cross-country skiing event in northern New Mexico, the Ski Classic now puts on 10 races including freestyle (skate skiing) and classic cross-country skiing races, as well as a snowshoe race, combined ski/snowshoe races, snow bike races and rookie races for beginners of all ages.

In addition, there's a wooden ski category, for retro skiers, and team awards for those racers on teams in the 6K classic cross-country skiing race. There's a race for every age and ability level, and a costume contest to ratchet up the fun level for racers and spectators alike.

This year's costume contest theme is "Summer Fun in Winter Sun!"

For more information and race registration, go to SkiChama.com and newmexicosportsonline.com, or email: skichama@gmail.com.

First- and second-place medals for each race are awarded to top male and female racers in 10 age categories for adults and three age categories for those under 18 years old. Ristras are awarded to the top male/female racers in each race. All racers receive a shirt and commemorative pin.

The racecourse includes part of the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad tracks and is located in the

south San Juan Mountains, just north of Chama, off of Highway 17. The course includes rolling hills, aspen groves, open meadows and spruce/fir forests.

After the races, on Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, the groomed course is open for non-competitive skiing, snowshoeing and snow biking. Weather permitting, the course is also tentatively scheduled to be open the weekend before the race (Jan. 9-10) and the weekend after the race (Jan. 21-22) for practice and fun.

For updates on snow conditions and information on the racecourse, visit the Chama Chile Ski Classic and Winter Fiesta on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Updates to the weekend event schedule, directions to the racecourse, maps and other information are posted on the ski classic website at SkiChama.com.

New to the sport? The ski classic will have a 1K, 2K and 3K race during the rookie races for adults and kids alike who want to cross-country ski or snowshoe a shorter course. All participants receive a participant ribbon for completing the race. The motto of the race is, "If you had fun, you won!"

Snow bikes and demos: The latest craze on the snow scene is fat tire snow bikes. Snow bike courses and races have popped up in nearby Colorado. Now the Chama Chile Ski Classic is hosting its third ever Fat Tire Snow Bike Race with two races: 6K and 18K Fat Tire Snow Bike Races on Saturday, Jan. 14, beginning at 12 noon.

It's not just about the races: Also over the

weekend, there will be plenty of events for both racers and non-racers.

There will be ski/snowshoe tours to regionally favorite areas, and skiing techniques clinics for racers and beginners. Freestyle (skate) skiing, and both a beginner and an advanced classic cross-country skiing techniques clinics, are being offered.

In the evenings, there will be awards ceremonies, live music, and beer and wine tasting, open to racers, volunteers and anyone who wants to warm up at the end of a fun day in the snow. For more information on these and other events, go to SkiChama.com.

Film festivals in Chama: The 12th annual Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival will also be showing over the weekend, on Saturday and Sunday nights, Jan. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. at The Brew House in downtown Chama at 587 Terrace Ave. The Film Festival is hosted locally by the Chama Valley Outdoor Club. The Film Festival is free of charge, but a donation of \$5 to \$7 is requested to help cover the cost of the film festival. For complete festival lineup and film program, visit www.backcountryfilmfestival.org.

The Chama Chile Ski Classic and Winter Fiesta is an event of the Rotary Club of Chama Valley and proceeds from the race go to the Rotary Club's community service and youth projects, and to the Chama Chile Ski Classic.

For more information, contact Mary Ann DeBoer, race director, at skichama@gmail.com or (575) 756-2294.

A less 'taxing' New Year: 10 things you can do by Dec. 31 to cut your 2016 tax bill

By Dottie DeHart
Special to The SUN

Here are some simple steps you can take right now to decrease your 2016 tax bill.

(Hurry: These must be done before the ball drops in Times Square.)

The holiday season is in full swing and you're probably in a last-minute, party-planning frenzy right now. The last thing on your mind? Taxes. For most people, sparing a thought for the upcoming tax season is the ultimate "bah humbug." But this mindset could cost you big when April 15 rolls around, warns tax and business attorney Barbara Weltman.

"There are some very simple steps you can take right now, before the end of the year, that can make a big dent in your tax burden," says Weltman, who is the spokesperson for J.K. Lasser's Your Income Tax 2017. "It's crazy that people miss so

many opportunities to save money just because they're disorganized or have procrastination issues."

So, step away from the gift wrap, pour yourself a cup of hot apple cider and start checking off this end-of-the-year tax-relief list:

1. Make charitable contributions if you're an itemizer. Charging gifts by credit card or mailing a check before the end of the year nails down a charitable contribution deduction for 2016.

2. Pay outstanding medical bills. If you itemize, you can deduct amounts charged this year or checks mailed before the end of the year. For those age 65 and older, 2016 is the last year for a 7.5-percent adjusted gross income threshold (it's set to go to 10 percent of AGI next year).

3. Take your required minimum distribution (RMD). Those who are required to take distributions from IRAs and qualified retirement plans but fail to do so face a 50 percent penalty. Those 70 1/2 and older can transfer from an IRA up to \$100,000 directly to a public charity; it satisfies the RMD and is tax-free.

4. Use up your FSAs. If you have a medical FSA or dependent care FSA at work, use up your 2016 contributions. For a medical FSA, check whether you have a grace period or any carryover.

5. Check eligibility for making a contribution to a health savings account. As long as you're covered by a high-deductible health plan for all of December (and continue in such plan), you can make a full year tax-deductible contribution for 2016; no itemizing is required.

6. Take losses on securities. The stock market is open on Dec. 30. Losses can offset gains and then up to \$3,000 of ordinary income; excess losses can be carried over. Watch the wash sale rule.

7. Maximize your retirement savings. Check with your employer about contributing to your company plan (maximum 401(k)

contribution is \$18,000, or \$24,000 if 50 or older).

8. Prepay college tuition for a semester starting in the first three months of 2017. This will allow you to claim an education credit on your 2016 return.

9. Discuss deferred compensation arrangements for year-end bonuses. Lower tax rates in the future can mean big savings.

10. Increase tax payments to cover anticipated taxes. This can be done by asking an employer to take a lump sum from the final paycheck or make/increase the final estimated tax payment in January.

"Do as many of these steps as you can right now," urges Weltman. "When April 15 rolls around — and it will be here before you know it — you'll be glad you took the initiative."

Wrestling —

Continued from A12

throughout the season because that's how the state tournament is structured.

Admission to the tournament will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

Tournament brackets will also be available for \$1 at the concession stand.

The Rocky Mountain Duals will start at 5 p.m. on Jan. 6 in the PSHS gym.

The Rocky Mountain Invitational will begin at 10 a.m. on Jan. 7 in the PSHS gym.

marshall@pagosahun.com

Thanks

Toys For Tots

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program blessed a total of 690 children with over 1,500 gifts of new Christmas toys this holiday season.

The generosity of this community, national corporate donors and the local Walmart store made this year a wonderful success. Many other local sponsors including The Springs Resort, Wyndham Resort, Goodman's Department Store, Rainbow Gifts, Rosie's DSP Pizzeria, The Hub, ReSport, Chow Down Pet Supply, CrossFit Pagosa, Family Dollar, Community United Methodist Church and Justice Ministries of Pagosa Inc. all collaborated in this grand effort.

A special thanks to Pagosa Power Sports owner Michael Bender for lending us their great facility to host the event, to Rosie's DSP Pizzeria for hosting a spectacular toy drive collecting over 230 toys in one evening, and to the Vets For Vets and other volunteers who assisted in distributing the toys to the families in need.

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Anyone who would like to **Explore Other Plans**

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Town capital improvement projects on tap for 2017

By Jim Garrett
Staff Writer

Town of Pagosa Springs Special Projects Manager Scott Lewandowski has a white board behind his desk at Town Hall, tracking a long list of capital improvement projects at various stages of development that will be underway during 2017.

Included among the listed projects are some that are already underway, like completion of the reconstruction of South 8th Street, and the east phase of the Town-to-Lakes Trail running along U.S. 160 south of 10th Street. Work by contractors commenced in 2016 on both, but was interrupted by winter weather and will resume next spring.

According to Lewandowski, the Town-to-Lakes Trail will see progress in 2017 on two other phases.

First is the west phase, from Pinon Causeway to Aspen Village. Bids on construction of that phase were recently rejected by the town, Lewandowski said, because the competing proposals were few and the proposed costs high, perhaps due to relative lateness in the construction season when the bids were solicited.

The town will re-advertise for

new bids in January, Lewandowski reported, hoping for more competition and better results. Construction is then expected to begin in 2017, as soon as weather permits.

The other part of the trail that will see significant progress the upcoming year is the Harman Hill phase, which will run between Aspen Village and Harman Park at the top of the hill across U.S. 160 from Piedra Road. It will be designed in 2017 by an engineering firm Bohannon Houston, and go out for bid next winter.

Construction of the Harman Hill phase, to be primarily funded by a Traffic Alternatives Program (TAP) grant recently announced by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is expected to begin in 2018, according to Lewandowski.

Bohannon Houston is also expected to complete design work on another town project in 2017, the Safe Routes to School sidewalk construction slated for the area on the north side of U.S. 160 including North 5th, North 6th and Florida streets. That work is also to be funded by a grant obtained by the town through CDOT.

Lewandowski observed that the design work for the Safe Routes and Harman Hill projects had been

contracted by the town as a package to Bohannon Houston in order to obtain a lower cost.

Lewandowski said the Safe Routes project would also go out for bid next winter, with an eye toward construction in 2018.

Additional sidewalk work on tap for the town will be done at various sites pursuant to allocations totaling \$290,000 in the 2017 capital improvement budget. The work is expected to be advertised for bid this winter, with construction to be completed during the year.

The specific sites for the work have yet to be selected, Lewandowski said.

But, he added, the work will be packaged for a single bid in the hope also to obtain a better price, and to overcome the reluctance of many contractors to submit proposals on jobs they may consider too small.

Also to be advertised for bid this winter, with construction to be completed during the year, is the repaving of South 5th Street, from Apache Street to the road at the high school. In addition, the parking lot at Town Park will be paved, Lewandowski said.

Also, right of way surveying will be done next year on Crestview Drive, under the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. Ultimately, the roadway is to be paved, which will contribute to air quality by suppressing dust, Lewandowski explained.

Yamaguchi Park will benefit from several improvement projects during 2017, Lewandowski said.

Included will be the addition to the park of a dirt track with hills and jumps for bicyclists, new playground equipment allowing expansion

of the existing playground, a new roof to be put on the picnic pavilion, improvement of fields irrigation, and an upgrade to handicapped access to the baseball field.

Near the park, on land owned by Archuleta School District, the Phase I DUST2 trail will be constructed.

In addition, Lewandowski said that reconstruction of the deteriorating San Juan River Overlook, downtown, may occur in 2017 after the summer tourist season.

The project is currently under design and final elements are not fully determined. But, Lewandowski said, the final project may include expansion of the deck south and west over the embankment running down to the river, plus a partial roof or shade structure.

In addition to the projects discussed with Lewandowski, the town is continuing restoration efforts in connection with the historic Rumbaugh Creek Bridge, and the waterworks building, downtown near 1st Street and U.S. 160.

The town received grants for primary funding of the restoration work from the State Historical Fund, but Town Planning Director James Dickhoff told The SUN on Dec. 28 that contractor's bids for the jobs recently came back high.

In light of the bids, Dickhoff said town staff is reevaluating its options to get the work completed, including possible revision of the scope of the grant application for the more complicated Rumbaugh Creek Bridge restoration, potentially to allow work to be done in stages.

Dickhoff said he hopes to see at least part of the needed work

jim@pagosasun.com

Funding available for agricultural energy projects

By Christi Lightcap
Special to The SUN

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) are seeking applicants for agricultural energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The total amount available for assistance in fiscal year 2017 is \$250,000. The funding is available to Colorado agricultural irrigators, dairies, greenhouses, nurseries and cold storage facilities.

The funding is part of the multi-agency Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The current funding amount includes \$125,000 for energy efficiency projects and \$125,000 for renewable energy projects to provide technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to install and maintain projects that address natural resource concerns in Colorado. The funding is provided by CDA's Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ACRE3) grant program.

The Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program provides a turnkey approach that makes energy efficiency improvements easy for producers. The program provides free energy audits, renewable energy site assessments, and technical support services to about 80 Colorado producers annually. CEO administers the program and funds the energy audits and other technical support services.

Applications must be received by the CDA before 4 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2017.

With the new year comes new changes in Social Security

By Bridget Byerly
Special to The SUN

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will see a slight increase in 2017.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$127,200 from \$118,500. Of the estimated 173 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2017, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Thresholds for benefits will change slightly next year including the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA), SSI Federal Payment Standard and SSI Student Exclusion.

Information about Medicare changes for 2017 are available at www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Act provides for how the cost-of-living adjustment is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Applicants must be enrolled in the agricultural efficiency program and complete either an energy audit to receive funding for energy efficiency projects or complete a preliminary site assessment and technical report to receive funding for renewable energy projects. Applicants may receive up to \$25,000 per project. Eligible renewable energy technologies are limited to thermal systems for hot or chilled water, process heat, or space conditioning. Renewable energy technologies for thermal systems include geothermal and advanced heat pump systems, and solar thermal technologies.

Applications are available online at www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/agricultural-energy-efficiency and at www.colorado.gov/agconservation/acre.

Applications must be received by the CDA before 4 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2017.

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Legal advertising: 5 p.m., Friday

Letters to the editor: Noon, Tuesday
(500 word maximum, email to editor@pagosasun.com)

Cards of thanks: Noon, Tuesday
(200 word maximum, email to editor@pagosasun.com)

Obituaries: Noon, Tuesday
(We accommodate obituaries after this if at all possible.)

Articles: Noon, Monday
(email to editor@pagosasun.com)

**Deadlines are earlier if there is a holiday.*

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caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.
Original Grantor(s) DIANE P. JACKSON AND (ROLAND C. JACKSON)
Original Beneficiary(ies) WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Date of Deed of Trust October 23, 2006
County of Recording Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust October 27, 2006
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 20610495
Original Principal Amount \$589,500.00
Outstanding Principal Balance \$323,288.92
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW¼) SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST, N.M.P.M., ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO.
Also known by street and number as: 777 COUNTY ROAD 977, ARBOLES, CO 81121.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
THEREFORE, Notice is hereby given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 02/09/2017, at 449 San Juan St, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorney's fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication 12/22/2016
Last Publication 1/19/2017
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED; IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH, THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.
DATE: 06/29/2016
Colorado Attorney General 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor Denver, Colorado 80203 (800) 222-4444
www.coloradotorneygeneral.gov
Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau P.O. Box 4503
Iowa City, Iowa 52244 (855) 411-2372
www.consumerfinance.gov
/s/ Betty A. Diller
Betty A. Diller, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369-6122
Attorney File # CO-14-630153-JS
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015
Published December 22, 29, 2016 and January 5, 12 and 19, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of JIMMY WAYNE STANDIFER, also known as Jim Standifer, Deceased
Case No. 2016PR30053
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before April 22, 2017, or the claims may be forever barred.
Barbara E. Drane, Personal Representative
14 Pinion Hills Drive
Arboles, Colorado 81121
(970)883-3127
Published December 22, 29, 2016 and January 5, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

BEFORE THE OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
IN THE MATTER OF THE PROMULGATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FIELD RULES TO GOVERN OPERATIONS FOR THE FRUITLAND COAL SEAMS FORMATION, IGNACIO-BLANCO FIELD, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
CAUSE NO. 112
DOCKET NO. 170100017
TYPE: ADDITIONAL WELLS
NOTICE OF HEARING
TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
APPLICATION LANDS
Township 33 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M.

Archuleta County District Court
449 San Juan Street
P.O. Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
In the Matter of the Determination of Heirs and of Interests in Property, of W. E. Bristol, Cynthia B. Bowmer, John Silvey Bristol, a/k/a S. Bristol, Frances James Bristol, John Robert Bowmer, and Suzanne Bristol, a/k/a Suzanne Bristol Hirschi
Deceased
Attorney for Petitioner:
William E. Zimsky
Abadie & Schill, PC
555 Rivergate Lane, Ste B4-180
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: 970-385-4401
E-mail: bill@abadieschill.com
FAX Number: 970-385-4901
Atty. Reg. #: 25318
Case Number: 2016 PR 30064

NOTICE OF HEARING
To All Interested Persons:
A hearing on PETITION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF HEIRS AND OF INTERESTS IN PROPERTY will be held at the following date, time and location:
Date: February 8, 2017 Time: 9 a.m.
Address: 449 San Juan Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
The names, addresses, and relationship of all interested persons, including Decedent's spouse, partner in a civil union, children, owners by inheritance, heirs and devisees:

Name	Address	Relationship
Pamela Rothfield	33b Rhyll-Newhaven Road Rhyll VIC 3923 Australia	Devisee of Suzanne Bristol, who was a Devisee of W. E. Bristol
Megan Nicole Lucas, f/k/a Megan Nicole Bowmer	708 Southroom Lane Wichita Falls, TX 76302	Devisee of Cynthia Bristol Bowmer, who was a Devisee of W. E. Bristol
John Robert Bowmer, Jr.	2713 Austin Drive Mesquite, TX 75181	Devisee of John Robert Bowmer, who was a devisee of Frances James Bristol, who was a devisee of John Silvey Bristol
Lora Janice Bowmer	3006 McNeil Ave., Apt 222, Wichita Falls, TX 76309-494	Devisee of John Robert Bowmer, who was a devisee of Frances James Bristol, who was a devisee of John Silvey Bristol
EXOK, Inc.	ATTN: Steven A. Muns 6410 B. North Santa Fe Oklahoma City, OK 73116	Lessee of mineral interests now owned by Suzanne Bristol Hirschi, Megan Nicole Bowmer, John Robert Bowmer, Jr., and Lora Janice Bowmer

This Petition concerns the descent or succession of the Decedents' interest in the following property:
Township 33 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M.
Section 15: SW4/4SW4
Section 16: S2/SE4, SE4/4SW4
Section 28: SE1/4NW4, N2/2SW4, Part of the SW4/NW4,
Section 29: SW4/4NE4, NE4/4NE4, NW4/4SE4, Part of SW4/NW4
Section 32: NW4/4NE4 LESS and EXCEPT the South 370 Feet in Section 32, and NE4/4NE4, LESS and EXCEPT that portion of the NE4/4NE4 lying West of the Piedra River; that portion of the following tract of land located in the NE4/4NE4 and the NW4/4NE4, containing 1.00 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at the S/4 corner of said Section 29, said corner being a brass cap; Thence N00°01'25"E a distance of 1316.33 feet along the West line SW4/4SE4 of said Section 29; Thence S89°43'59"E a distance of 1339.63 feet along the North line SW4/4SE4 of said Section 29 to a fence corner, being the true point of beginning. Thence South a distance of 2275.32 feet to the South line of Lot 9 of the riprap of the Dumagan Ranch; Thence West a distance of 36.05 feet. Thence N05°56'57"W a distance of 963.22 feet to a brass cap; Thence N05°53'21"E a distance to 1324.28 feet to the point of beginning, containing 519.14 acres, more or less.

Together with any other mineral interest in the State of Colorado that may have been owned by W. E. Bristol, J. S. Bristol Suzanne Bristol Hirschi, a/k/a Suzanne Bristol and/or Cynthia Bristol Bowmer, as of March 14, 1963, whether or not set forth above and/or accurately described above.
The Petitioner is seeking an order from the Court vesting the mineral interest described above as follows:

Name	Interest
Pamela Rothfield	An undivided one-quarter interest by devise
Megan Nicole Lucas, f/k/a Megan Nicole Bowmer	An undivided one-quarter interest by devise
John Robert Bowmer, Jr.	An undivided one-quarter interest by devise
Lora Janice Bowmer	An undivided one-quarter interest by devise

All persons interested persons must appear and object to the petition on or before the hearing date and time specified above. All objections to the petition must be filed in writing with the Court and be served on the petitioner, through his attorney, and the filing fee must be paid on or before the hearing date and time specified above.
The hearing will be limited to objections timely filed and served. If no objections are timely filed and served, then the Court may enter a decree with a hearing.
Date: February 21, 2016
/s/ William E. Zimsky
By: William E. Zimsky, Attorney for Petitioner
Published December 29, 2016, January 5, 12 and 19, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

Section 21: S1/4 APPLICATION
On November 9, 2016, Petrox Resources, Inc., Operator No. 69805 ("Petrox" or "Applicant") filed a verified application pursuant to §34-60-116, C.R.S., for an order to:
1) Authorize the drilling of an additional two horizontal wells, for a total of three horizontal wells, within the approximate 320-acre drilling and spacing unit established for the Application Lands, for the production of gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Fruitland Coal Seams Formation; and
2) Providing that the productive intervals of the wellbores be located no closer than 300 feet from the unit boundaries, with an inter-well setback of not less than 300 feet from the productive interval of a well producing from the Fruitland Coal Seams Formation, unless an exception is granted by the Director.
APPLICABLE RULES AND ORDERS
(available online at: <http://ogcc.state.co.us>, under "Regulation," then select "Orders" or "Rules")
On August 15, 1988, the Commission entered Order No. 112-61 (amended and corrected on December 17, 1990, under Order No. 112-65), among other things, established 320-acre drilling and spacing units for certain lands, including the Application Lands, as designated lay-down or stand-up by the operator, with authority to drill one well no closer than 300 feet from unit boundary and no closer than 130 feet from any interior quarter section line, for the production of gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Fruitland Coal Seams Formation.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to §§ 34-60-101 to -130, C.R.S. and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 2 C.R. 404-1, that the Commission has scheduled this matter for hearing on:
Date: January 30-31, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Chancery Building
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203
Additional information about the hearing on this Application will be in the Commission's Agenda, which is posted on the Commission website approximately 3 days before the hearing.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if any party requires special accommodations as a result of a disability for this hearing, please contact Margaret Humecki at (303) 894-2100 ext. 5139, prior to the hearing and arrangements will be made.
At hearing, the Commission will consider the Application and enter an order pursuant to its authority under the statute. Any interested party desiring to protest or intervene should file with the Commission a written protest or intervention in accordance with Rule 509., no later than January 13, 2017. Such interested party shall, at the same time, serve a copy of the protest or intervention to the person filing the application. One electronic (ogcc.hearings_unit@state.co.us), one original and two copies shall be filed with the Commission. Anyone who files a protest or intervention must be able to participate in a prehearing conference during the week of January 16, 2017. Pursuant to Rule 511., if the matter is uncontested, it may be approved without a hearing.
OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
By:
Julie Murphy, Secretary
Dated: December 15, 2016
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, Colorado 80203
Website: <http://ogcc.state.co.us>
Phone: (303) 894-2100
Fax: (303) 894-2109
Attorneys for Applicant:
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Published December 29, 2016 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HEARINGS ON January 17th.
Black & Veatch, representing Verizon Wireless, has applied for the Verizon Escobar Telecommunication Facility Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Variances, on property owned by Sydonia Posenish, the N½SE¼NW¼ S6 T35N R2W NMPM, at 3700 County Rd 600 (Piedra Road), Pagosa Springs, CO. The CUP will permit a new Commercial Mobile Radio Systems (CMRS) wireless communication facility with a 65' monopole cell tower and antennas, approximately 1,000 feet west of the road (PLN16-114).
Applicant has also made a concurrent request for Variances from Section 3.1.4 of the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations maximum height of 35' in the Agricultural Estate (AE) zone, and Section 5.4.5.4 of the Land Use Regulations and Section 27.1.7.3 and 27.1.7.4 of the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Design Standards requiring paving of access, which will be heard at the same meeting by the Board of Adjustment (PLN16-115).
Comments may be submitted to the Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners and Board of Adjustment on January 17, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published December 29, 2016 and January 5, 2017 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Proper snow shoveling technique: You can never hear this too many times

By **Roberta Tolan**
SUN Columnist

The Extension office will be closed for the New Year's holiday Dec. 30-Jan. 2.

As I am writing this article, the snow is piling up outside, cars are spinning on Put Hill and snow shovelers and plows are working feverishly to clean out the roads and driveways for holiday visitors. So, even though I have written about proper snow shoveling techniques in the past, let's do a quick review.

If you are doing your own shoveling, you can get quite a bit of exercise as long as you do it properly. Only 15 minutes of snow shoveling counts as moderate physical activity, according to the 1996 Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health. That is half the daily recommendation for physical activity.

Unfortunately, the number of fatal heart attacks among snow shovelers increases after a heavy snowfall. Snow shoveling increases heart rate and blood pressure. In fact, one study showed that after only a couple of minutes of shovel-

ing, sedentary men's heart rates rose to levels higher than those normally recommended during aerobic exercise. Some people should think twice before venturing outside with a shovel. People most at risk of heart attacks are those who already have had a heart attack, those with a history of heart disease, those with high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels and those who smoke.

If you've been sedentary, it's a good idea to consult a healthcare provider before taking off to shovel that driveway. For those in the "at risk" group, it might be time to pass the shovel to someone else or hire a service.

Shoveling can also lead to back injuries, so consider the rules of body mechanics. Warm up your muscles by walking around a few minutes. Stand with your feet about hip width for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Bend from the knees (not the back) and tighten your stomach muscles as you lift the snow. Avoid twisting movements. If you need to move the snow to one side, reposition your feet to face the direction the snow will be going.

Listen to your body and stop if you feel pain.

Drinking a hot cup of coffee may seem like a wise thing to do before venturing into the cold, but it's not suggested. Caffeine is a stimulant, which increases heart rate and causes blood vessels to constrict. This places stress on the heart, especially when followed by snow shoveling.

Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated as dehydration is as great a winter issue as a summer one. Dress in layers, too. That way you can peel off a layer without chilling yourself as you work on the last bit of sidewalk.

Prevention of hypothermia

The best way to prevent hypothermia is to stay warm and dry with the proper combination of preparation, clothing, food and exercise to maintain good circulation. Persons trapped in a blizzard should sleep with caution. You have a lower metabolic rate when you sleep so you produce less body heat. Some sleep is necessary, but do not remain idle or sleep for long periods of time. Stretch and exercise periodically to maintain circulation. Eating before sleeping will help to maintain body heat but avoid medications that may induce sleep.

Hypothermia; Know the symptoms

Hypothermia is a condition where the body temperature, or core temperature, is lowered too far. The blood has cooled and the oxygen carried to the brain has been reduced, dulling the senses. The victim feels fatigued, delirious, and loses the dexterity in his or her arms and legs. When the body's core temperature continues to drop and nears 85 degrees F, the victim will slip into unconsciousness. Treatment must be started immediately to prevent failure of the heart and lungs and possibly death.

Symptoms of hypothermia are relatively easy to identify and treat if done promptly:

1. Uncontrollable shivering is one of the most obvious early signs of hypothermia.

2. As the situation continues to worsen, the victim becomes clumsy, loses dexterity of the limbs, loses reasoning and memory and goes into muscular rigidity.

3. The symptoms are very difficult or impossible to recognize on yourself because of delirium and loss of the ability to think clearly.

4. The loss of body heat must be reversed quickly.

Treatment of hypothermia

1. Prevent further heat loss. Get the victim out of wet or cold clothes. Put the unclothed victim in a sleeping bag with one or two other unclothed persons. Their body heat will transfer quickly to the victim, raising their body temperature.

2. You must add heat to the body in most cases of hypothermia. If the victim is conscious and able, feed warm drinks but no alcoholic beverages. Place a scarf over the victim's mouth to warm the inhaled air.

3. Treat the victim very gently. Do not massage or rub down the victim as it may cause tissue damage.

4. Minimize the victim's movement to conserve his or her energy reserves for body heat.

This information was taken from a series of articles written by Julie Garden-Robinson, food and nutrition specialist, North Dakota State University Extension Service and can be found in its entirety at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/winterstorm/winter-storm-information-family-1/prairie-fare-the>.

CPR and first aid classes

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

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

VETERAN'S CORNER

Veterans Crisis Line improves service with new call center opening

By **Raymond Taylor**
SUN Columnist

The Department of Veteran Affairs cut the ribbon recently for its new Veteran Crisis Line (VCL) satellite office in Atlanta allowing the life-saving hotline to expand capacity by nearly 600 veterans each day essentially doubling VA's ability to help veterans in need.

As a part of the MyVA initiative, the largest restructuring in the department's history, improvements of the VCL are a key priority, with the goal of providing 24/7, world-class suicide prevention and crisis intervention services to veterans, servicemembers and their family members across the globe.

"The addition of the second Veterans Crisis Line facility enhances VA's ability to provide 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention services by trained, dedicated VA employees to veterans, servicemembers and their families," said VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson who joined Veterans Crisis Line responders and partners in the ribbon cutting. "The work at the Veterans Crisis Line is some of the most important work we do in VA. Today we follow through on our commitment to give those who save lives every day at the Crisis Line the training, additional staff and modern call center technology they need to make the Veterans Crisis Line a Gold Standard operation. The veterans of this nation, especially those in most need of our help, deserve no less."

The VCL is critical to connecting veterans with facility-based suicide prevention coordinators (SPCs). SPC teams within each Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) work to engage veterans and communities to raise awareness about VA's suicide prevention and behavioral health resources.

The VCL interfaces with various stakeholders, including the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Suicide Prevention Program Office and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to provide critical

services that ultimately provide a safe haven for veterans and servicemembers.

Since VCL was launched in 2007, the crisis line counselors have:

- Answered nearly 2.6 million calls.
- Dispatched emergency services to callers in imminent crisis more than 67,000 times.
- Engaged nearly 314,000 veterans or concerned family members through the chat option launched in 2009.
- Responded to nearly 62,000 requests since the launch of text services in November 2011.
- Forwarded more than 416,000 referrals to local VA suicide prevention coordinators on behalf of veterans to ensure continuity of care with Veterans' local VA providers.

The VCL staff has grown over the years. Initially housed at Canandaigua VAMC in New York, it began with 14 responders and two health care technicians answering four phone lines. Today, the combined facilities employ more than 500 professionals, and VA is hiring more to handle the growing volume of calls. Atlanta offers 200 call responders and 25 social service assistants and support staff, while Canandaigua houses 310 and 43, respectively.

Callers dial the National Suicide Prevention Hotline number (800) 273-TALK (8255) and veterans choose option 1 to reach a VHA VCL responder. The text number is 838255 or veterans may chat with trained professionals online at Vets.gov. Calls, texts and chats are immediately directed to a VA professional who is specially trained to handle emotional and mental health crises for veterans and servicemembers. VA is also streamlining and standardizing how crisis calls from other locations, such as VAMCs, reach the VCL, including full implementation of the automatic transfer function that directly connects veterans who call their local VAMC to the VCL by pressing a single digit during the initial automated phone greeting.



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SUN photo/Terri House

A herd of elk labors to walk through deep snow north of town last week. Colorado Parks and Wildlife asks residents to avoid disturbing wildlife during winter months.

Avoid disturbing wildlife during winter months

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Special to The SUN

Snow, cold, wind, a lack of food — those are just some of the difficult conditions that Colorado's wildlife faces during the winter.

People may also cause problems for wild critters and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) asks residents to avoid disturbing wildlife during the cold-weather months.

"Wildlife are uniquely adapted to survive the winter and, by understanding the animals' biology, people can help wildlife survive the winter," said Patt Dorsey, Southwest Region manager for CPW in Durango.

All wildlife feel winter's effects, but big game animals — deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep — are often most visible and vulnerable during the winter. During the warm months, big game find abundant high-quality food which allows them to develop the fat stores they need to survive the winter. In winter, food is less available and is of poor quality. Big-game animals burn stored fat and lose weight throughout the cold months.

"They are essentially in a starvation mode and any disturbance means they will burn extra calories they need to survive," Dorsey said.

Throughout Colorado, CPW and other land management agencies restrict access to areas with high

concentrations of wintering big game. These "winter range" areas are critical for the animals' survival.

CPW asks people to understand the demands that winter places on wildlife and to minimize disturbances that stress wintering animals. If animals appear alerted to your presence or start to move away, you are too close and forcing them to burn energy. Big game is very sensitive to disturbances of any kind. Even while engaged in quiet activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking or taking photographs, people will disturb big game if they are nearby.

Another problem during the winter is dogs chasing and killing wildlife. When dogs see deer or elk, some of them react to their natural instincts and give chase. Law enforcement officers are authorized to shoot dogs that are seen harassing wildlife. CPW asks that pet owners keep their dogs secure and not allow them to run unattended.

Some people also are tempted to feed big game. But putting out food for big game is illegal; and because animals are not adapted to foods such as hay, it can kill them.

"We love to see our wildlife in Colorado and I know we can count on Coloradans to give them the space they need to survive the critical winter months," Dorsey said.

For more information, go to: <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/do-not-feed-wildlife.aspx>.

LPEA seeking applicants for Youth Leadership Camp

By Indiana Reed
Special to The SUN

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) invites high school juniors to participate in the Colorado Electric Education Institute Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp — an all-expenses paid educational/leadership camp set for July 15-20, 2017, at Glen Eden Resort outside of Steamboat Springs, Colo.

The deadline for application is Jan. 9, 2017.

"It's not just another camp," said Jeannie Bennett, LPEA public relations coordinator handling the local application process. "This is an experience that will help students build for their future, and help them gain valuable leadership and interpersonal relationship

skills that will benefit them in an increasingly competitive world."

Bennett notes that "fun" is also part of the experience, and scheduled activities include a river trip and dance, a visit to Steamboat Springs and Fish Creek Falls, plus free time at the swimming pool.

For 36 years, the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp has brought together some 100 high school students selected by electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to help build the leadership skills that will assist them in meeting the challenges of the future, plus learn about the organization and operation of a cooperative.

LPEA will sponsor up to four high school juniors, one from each school district within its service territory (Durango, Bayfield, Ignacio

and Pagosa Springs). All area high school juniors who receive their electric power from LPEA are eligible to participate in the 2017 camp, including home-school students.

To be considered, students must complete the Leadership Camp application and submit it to LPEA, along with a 500-word essay reflecting the student's personal perspective on leadership. Applicants should have a strong academic record, be interested in enhancing their leadership potential and have an interest in meeting new people.

Applications are available for download at www.lpea.coop, from high school counselors, or at LPEA's Durango and Pagosa Springs offices. For further camp information or questions, contact Jeannie Bennett, jbennett@lpea.coop or 382-3505.



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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Happy New Year!



PREVIEW photo/Terri House



Photo courtesy Dale Johnson

Trace Gross Sanchez recently graduated Adams State University with a degree in theater. Sanchez focused on acting, directing and costuming in his studies. He was a recipient of the John Graves Memorial Scholarship given by Curtains Up Pagosa. The scholarship supports local students pursuing college degrees in the performing arts. Sanchez has been an ardent volunteer and performer with CUP's productions since he was in high school.

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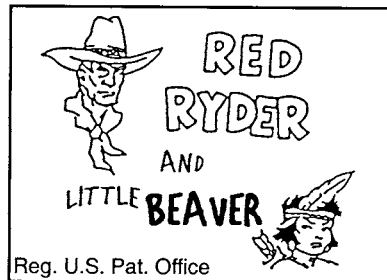
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"BEST APRÈS SPOT" - NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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.

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By Fred Harman





Photo courtesy Dale Johnson

Mary McKeehan, a former Curtains Up Pagosa regular performer, in one of her many past “nun” roles. Auditions for the summer 2017 production of “Sister Act the Musical” are scheduled for Jan. 4.

Auditions set for ‘Sister Act the Musical’

By Dale Johnson
Special to The PREVIEW

Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP) is holding the first of several auditions for its summer 2017 blockbuster production of “Sister Act the Musical.”

First-round auditions are for current college students home for the holiday break and will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 6 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School

music room.

Potentials should be prepared to sing one verse of a Broadway tune of their choice; please bring sheet music as an accompanist will be provided. Reading from script and a group dance will be part of the full audition process.

CUP’s “Sister Act” will be directed by Dale Johnson with musical direction by Sally Neel.

Male and female actors are sought for all roles at college au-

ditions. The well-known musical is full of zany nuns and Las Vegas characters.

Call Johnson with any questions at 946-1500.

Grand results: Toys For Tots local campaign

By Nancy Williams
Special to The PREVIEW

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program blessed a total of 690 children in Archuleta County and Dulce, N.M., with over 1,500 gifts of new Christmas toys this holiday season.

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the cam-

■ See Toys on next page

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When to leave the party

I convinced My Sweet Al to attend a book signing party with me. He didn't want to go, but I insisted. It's the Christmas season. He needed to do some Christmas socializing with me and enjoy doing it.

His response, "How long will we have to stay?"

"Probably 30 minutes. It's a book signing event."

We went. I was with friends and Al was with me. Thirty minutes into the party, he gave me the eye and a nod. We both knew what that meant. It's time to leave. But I wasn't ready to leave the party.

I made my way toward the door. Passing through the crowd, a writer friend said to me, "You were right on target with your last article about the divided house."

Music to my ears; I wanted to hear more. I stopped in my tracks.

Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



Not only did I want to hear more, I wanted to talk about it.

Gregg, my writer friend, said, "I was a football coach back in the day. We had A and B squads on the same team. They played against each other every day in practice. Just like in the NFL, the offense plays against the defense. They compete against each other to make both sides of the ball better."

"Democrats and Republicans compete against each other to make our country better. Which-

ever team is in control is the A team. The teams constantly change. Now the Democrats are the A team. In January, it will be the Republicans.

"There are a lot of tough games to be played against some dirty players in 2017. We need to be on the same team. A team divided can't win."

I agreed and become engrossed in the conversation and forgot about Al waiting for me. Gregg's thoughts were good and I needed another article. Al would have to wait.

I looked up to find Al. He had moved closer to the door. I was still in the throes of hearing about the impact of my article. My Sweet Al was still watching me and he gave me another nod and this time a lift of the eyebrow.

■ See Lane on next page

Toys

■ continued from previous page

paign is conducted. The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable resources — our children; to unite all members of local communi-

ties in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future.

The principal Toys for Tots activity which takes place each year is the collection and distribution of toys in the communities in which a Marine Corps Reserve Unit is located. In communities without a Reserve Unit, the campaign can be conducted by a Marine Corps League Detachment or group of men and women, generally veteran Marines, authorized by Marine

Toys for Tots Foundation to conduct a local Toys for Tots campaign. Nancy Williams, director of Justice Ministries of Pagosa Inc., is the local authorized campaign coordinator. These coordinators conduct an array of activities throughout the year, which may include golf tournaments, foot races, bicycle races and other voluntary events designed to increase interest in Toys for Tots, and concurrently generate toys and monetary donations.

Anyone interested in volunteering in next year's endeavor can contact Nancy at 264-4483.

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Lane

■ continued from previous page

Hank, another writer, entered into our circle of “deep thought” and the conversation became more interesting. I looked up again and Al was standing, facing the glass door and looking into the street.

“Oh, no,” I said to the two writers. “Al is standing at the door, staring outside just like Whiskey does when she needs to go out. I should go. But before I do, tell me about ...”

Finally I said, “I need to leave.” I reluctantly broke away from the writers and joined Al in the car. He had pulled this stunt on me before at my other writers’ socials. I was not a happy person leaving the party. But the car was leaving and I needed to be in it.

He said, “You said, 30 minutes.” “OK, I lied, it was 45. But I was having fun.”

It took 30 minutes on the drive home to the Blanco before the car heater finally warmed up and took the frost out of the air, if you get my drift.

When we got home, I had a call on the answering machine. A man said he read my article about the divided house. He had been married 50 years and eight months and was now alone. His wife left him because of their young teenage son. I felt the pain come through his message. I wanted to cry for him, but he just needed to talk. He said he realized that I didn’t have the same problem, but if I wanted to talk, call him.

I was still upset with Al, but we were both coming around. He took me away from my friends and I made him wait. Kind of childish, wouldn’t you think?

Meanwhile, he started looking at a photo album and was crying. He showed me pictures of our children. My Sweet Al went from naughty to nice.

I asked, “Why are you crying?” “I have so many regrets. I was on the road for 18 years and I wasn’t home to be with our children.” He cried some more.

I said, “I know. But you’re making it up to them now. When they call, you are there. You’ll do anything for them. They know you

Thirty minutes into the party, he gave me the eye and a nod. We both knew what that meant. It’s time to leave.

love them.”

“We did live in a divided house for years, but by God’s grace we were able to keep the walls standing and the roof on top. We didn’t lose the house or the family unit.”

I patted him on the head, “Meanwhile, let me have those pictures, I’ve got to put them on my Throwback Thursday Facebook page. These pictures are priceless.”

Al continued to cry as he walked down memory lane and I was thrilled to have my next article and pictures for Throwback Thursday.

Soon we will be leaving 2016 and moving into a new year. We need to leave those regrets behind. They won’t do us a bit of good un-

less we’ve learned how to treat each other and appreciate what we have together. It’s hard to stay unified, but it’s worth the work of trying.

Final brushstroke: I know it hurts to leave the party when you’re having fun and you’re feeling empowered by your cronies. I know it hurts to be married 50 years, eight months and now be sitting alone. And, I know it hurts for a man to live with so many regrets because he left his family to make a living for them.

So, when do you leave the party? A house divided won’t stand, and we need to be unified for the big game in 2017.

I’ve learned it’s better to leave when I get the nod and the raised eyebrow. When I leave the party, I want a house to go home to.

Readers’ comments

Send your comments to betty@bettyslade.com.

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Photo courtesy Bob Hemenger

The Americana Project class at Pagosa Springs High School presents singer-songwriter Nathaniel Talbot in concert on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the Pagosa Springs High School.

Americana Project presents singer-songwriter Nathaniel Talbot on Wednesday, Jan. 11

By Bob Hemenger
Special to The PREVIEW

The Americana Project class at Pagosa Springs High School has been presenting two concerts each year for the past seven years where professional musicians are brought in to work with the students on songwriting and performing. Students also open the concert and join the artist for the closing song.

This school year, the class is expanding this program to add a third special guest concert with

the extremely talented Nathaniel Talbot.

Talbot has a warm voice reminiscent of James Taylor, writes thought provoking, powerful lyrics and plays the guitar in a way that is both unique and masterful. Talbot grew up on a farm in the foothills southeast of Portland, Ore. He now runs an organic vegetable farm on Whidbey Island in Washington

State's Puget Sound. His music deeply expresses his connection with the land.

The show starts at 7 p.m. at Pagosa Springs High School on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Cost is \$10 (12 and under are free). Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Students from the Americana Project class will open the show. Please mark your calendars.



Nathaniel Talbot

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Photo courtesy Community Concert Hall

Big band/swing/jazz/alternative rock band Squirrel Nut Zippers kicks off 2017 at the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College, with a “Hot” show on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The dance floor will be open.

Squirrel Nut Zippers kicks off 2017 at Durango Community Concert Hall

By Indiana Reed
Special to The PREVIEW

Big band/swing/jazz/alternative rock band Squirrel Nut Zippers kicks off 2017 at the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College,

with a “hot” show on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The dance floor will be open.

As a band, Squirrel Nut Zippers rejoices at the difficulty people have pigeonholing its unmistakable sound. A perpetually evolving,

hybrid-stew of southern roots traditions, blues and jazz, the Zippers has always flirted with a muse most concerned with ghosts, love gone wrong, fever-dreams and stories unearthed from days past.

■ See Zippers on next page

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Want New Year's resolutions that work? Think mini-goals

By John Lough
Special to The PREVIEW

Yes, we all make New Year's resolutions and, yes, we all usually break them almost immediately. But making resolutions that work isn't all that difficult and can pay real benefits. Resolutions usually mean positive changes, and these are good things.

While a broken New Year's resolution might not seem critical to you, for some people it actually

can be. From a mental health perspective, broken resolutions are sometimes harmful because they can have us seeing ourselves as failures, falling short of our goals. A broken New Year's resolution is another example of how weak we are, helping to erode self-confidence and self-esteem.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't make any New Year's resolutions. They offer a wonderful opportunity to examine where you are and to set goals for the things you'd like

to change.

The most important element for good resolutions is to make them realistic. You're not going to lose 25 pounds by the end of January or immediately look like an Olympic athlete if it's been years since you've been near the gym.

One way to make successful resolutions is to set realistic mileposts. This means breaking big tasks into smaller, more manageable units — mini-goals.

If you're resolving to lose weight, forget the number of pounds you want to shed and instead focus on moving to a healthier diet that will naturally lead to weight loss. Maybe your first mini-goal is to cut out one high-calorie food each day or week and to replace it with a healthier fruit or vegetable.

If your resolution is to exercise more, start slowly with an initial goal, say walking 15 minutes each day, that you know you can achieve. Similarly, if it's smoking that you want to stop, maybe your first goal is to cut by 10 percent the number of cigarettes you smoke each day, or to contact your doctor or local hospital to learn about smoking cessation programs and

■ See Goals on next page

Zipper

■ continued from previous page

Aptly tagged "30s punk" by one critic, NPR's "Morning Edition" might have said it best: "It's not easy to categorize the music of the Squirrel Nut Zippers, except that it's hot."

In 2016 the Squirrel Nut Zippers celebrated the 20th anniversary of the revolutionary band's most celebrated and commercially successful album, "Hot." Originally released in the summer of 1996, "Hot" was the follow up to the band's critically acclaimed debut "The Inevitable." By this time, the group had already established a substantial live following across the country thanks to early support from NPR, college radio and noncommercial stations. "Hot" wound up selling in excess of 1.3 million copies.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of "Hot," the band's visionary creator Jimbo Mathus, along with founding member and partner Chris Phillips (drums), have crafted a brand new stage show including several leading musicians from New Orleans to serve up the band's unique musical flavor, which owes its roots to that city. The current tour, launched in July 2016, finds Squirrel Nut Zippers on tour for the first time in almost seven years.

"We are humbled and incredibly

excited by the initial Zipper shows since the re-launch," said band leader Mathus in a press release. "It's not a reunion, it's a revival! The band includes cutting edge talent from New Orleans and the songs have been brought to life in an exciting new way. But most things remain unchanged ... An amazing experience for young and old."

Plans are underway for the band to soon record a new album, which would be the first studio offering in 17 years.

Tickets for the Squirrel Nut Zippers (\$36/\$46) are available online at www.durangoconcerts.com, by calling 247-7657 or visiting the ticket office inside the Durango Welcome Center at 8th Street and Main Avenue, downtown Durango. All sales final.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary season in 2017, the Community Concert Hall is a not-for-profit, multi-use performance venue located on the campus of Fort Lewis College. Its ability to bring a diverse spectrum of shows to southwest Colorado is made possible through a partnership with the college, a state-supported, independent institution of higher education, and through financial and in-kind contributions from generous members of the community.

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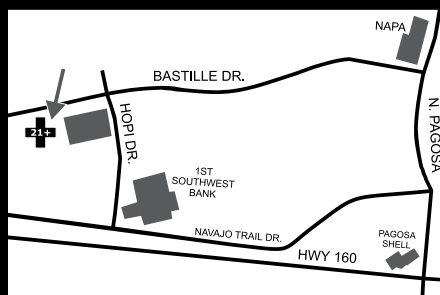


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United Way outlines upcoming Archuleta County happenings

By Bill Hudgins
Special to The PREVIEW

United Way of Southwest Colorado is now accepting applications for nonprofit partners to be funded in 2017-2018.

To review requirements and

Goals

■ continued from previous page
stop-smoking aids.

When you create realistic resolutions with attainable mini-goals, what you're really doing is developing a plan to reach your final goal. Attainable mini-goals toward that bigger overall target are a way to ensure success, to focus on positive behavioral changes and to feel good about the successes you're achieving. This all adds up to positive reinforcement that will help keep you going and increase your chances for successfully fulfilling that resolution.

"Counseling Corner" is provided by the American Counseling Association. Send your comments and questions to ACACorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

download the application, please visit unitedway-swco.org. United Way of Southwest Colorado serves the counties of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan. Application deadline is Jan. 27.

United Way Ski Day

Wolf Creek United Way Ski Day — Jan. 18 — a very special day at Wolf Creek Ski Area. You can ski, save and help Archuleta County residents all at one time.

Purchase adult all-day lift tickets on the mountain for \$55 (regular price \$66) — save \$11 — and Wolf Creek Ski Area donates that \$11 to United Way.

There will also be savings on tickets for children (12 and under) and seniors (65-plus).

It can't get much better than

this — enjoy a day on the slopes, save money and help United Way and its partner nonprofit agencies continue to provide much needed services to our county and our residents young, old and in-between.

Dining certificates

When you buy a dining certificate for \$25, you will receive a credit for that amount toward your tab at any of 22 fine Pagosa Springs restaurants and those restaurants will contribute \$5 for each redeemed certificate to United Way.

If you plan on dining out, this is a great way to help United Way at no cost to you. Certificates are available at the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Visitor

■ See Happenings on next page

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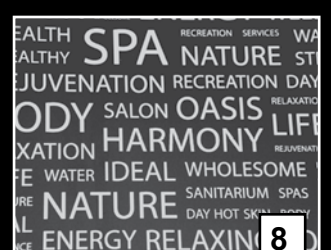
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New beginnings with New Thought

By **Carla Ryan**
Special to The PREVIEW

Pagosa Community of New Thought (PCNT) will host a candle-light prayer and meditation service on Saturday evening, New Year's Eve, at 6:30 p.m. as a way of putting closure to 2016 and welcoming 2017. It is intended to be a time of quiet contemplation and positive anticipation.

This will be followed New Year's Day with Sunday morning's 10:30 a.m. service and an uplifting, joyful message to start off January's theme of "New Beginnings."

PCNT's new format for the first four Sundays of the month, starting Jan. 1, will consist of a topic presentation based on the month's theme. The music will also follow this idea, whether performed by the PCNT music team (Michael and Dianne Killen) or if recorded music is utilized.

The fifth Sunday of each month will feature a variety of presentations options, including a "movie



Photo courtesy Carla Ryan

Pagosa Community of New Thought's new format for the first four Sundays of the month, starting Jan. 1, will consist of a topic presentation based on the month's theme. The music will also follow this idea, whether performed by the PCNT music team or if recorded music is utilized.

message" on Jan. 29 that supports the New Thought philosophy.

On Jan. 1, there also will be a change to the time for the monthly study group meeting. Students and guests are invited to join Rev. Mike Ryan from 1 to 2:30 p.m., when

Chapter 9 will be thoroughly explored and discussed ("Extension Study Course of the Science of Mind" by Ernest Holmes). Workbooks are available for new students to participate.

Pagosa Community of New Thought 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 for a positive, joyful life. Everyone is welcome.

Weekly Sunday gatherings (10:30 a.m.) are held at the PCNT center at 2800 Cornerstone Dr., Unit 3 (across the parking lot from the Sears store).

For information about the church or New Thought in general, attend a Sunday service,

■ See Beginnings on next page

Happenings

■ continued from previous page

Center, Ross Aragon Community Center and the Pagosa Lakes Recreation Center.

'Play for the Way — the Music of Pagosa'

The "Play for the Way — the Music of Pagosa" CD, featuring 19 original songs from 14 talented and well-known local musicians, may be purchased at Goodman's, Where the Buffalo Roam, Hodge Podge, Made in Colorado Shoppe and Rainbow Gift Shop.

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All sale proceeds go to United Way in Archuleta County.

Golf tournament

Don't say you didn't have enough notice for the United Way Golf Tournament set for June 3, 2017.

This will be a four-person scramble tournament with an entry fee of \$80 and \$50,000 hole-in-one and \$25,000 putting contests. As the event draws closer, we will let you know how to reserve your spot for this fun tournament.

Schuss the slopes, enjoy fine dining, hear great music, hit a \$50,000 hole in one or sink a \$25,000 putt (or both) and help United Way support: American Red Cross; Housing Solutions for the Southwest; Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program; Pagosa Outreach Connection; Axis Health Systems ; San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Seeds of Learning; Girl Scouts of Colorado; Southwest Conservation Corps; Habitat for Humanity; and Volunteers of America.

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The gift of friendship

By Richard Gammill
Special to The PREVIEW

My first season of snow and ice in Pagosa Springs began with a thud.

One morning, I walked from our house to my little writer's cabin, when suddenly my feet flew out from under me and I landed hard on the frozen ground. Three broken ribs.

A few weeks later, while I was walking our dog, I slipped and fell again. More pain, but no new damage.

A year later, I suffered a very bad fall. Seven broken ribs led to nearly two weeks in the hospital followed by months of slow, painful recovery.

Last spring, a friend in north Texas urged me to be more careful in the coming winter. I responded, "I guess I need a pair of crampons."

Two weeks later, a large envelope came in the mail containing a pair of crampons. A note said, "Since we moved back here from South Fork, I don't need these any more. Take care of yourself."

Now I keep those crampons in the same drawer with the dog leash. Daisy has to wait — impatiently — while I strap them on before we head out. As we walk together — safely on the compacted snow — I think about my friend's thoughtfulness. And I think about how often over the years I have benefited from gifts of kindness from many friends.

In this season of giving, I realize

A Matter of Faith

that the most meaningful of gifts is the relationships I enjoy. We were made for these relationships and without them, we would experience the deepest of poverty.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (New Living Translation) states: "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."

During my 12 days in the hospital last year, I was given pain medication to ease my discomfort. I experienced the greatest uplift from the family and friends, from church and the writers' group, who came and spent time encouraging me and praying with me.

When I put on my pair of crampons and walk safely with Daisy out over our icy roads, they are symbolic of a lifetime of having friends who have walked with me and steadied me during challeng-

ing times.

I have a friend who "sticks closer than a brother" and I am grateful for all the other friends He has put in my life.

We are blessed, whether it is in the giving or the receiving of our friendships.

Writers' group

You are invited to write for "A Matter of Faith." Send your articles to betty@bettyslade.com.

If you want to learn more about writing, you are invited to become part of an exciting writers' group in Pagosa Springs.

The Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network Writers' Critique Group meets on Monday mornings at 9 am. at CrossRoad Christian Fellowship.

For further details, email betty@bettyslade.com.

Meet the writers' group at http://bettyslade.com/BJS/Writers_Network.html. Visit our website at <http://www.wolfcreekwriters.com/> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wolfcreekchristianwritersnetwork/>.



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Beginnings

■ continued from previous page
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Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1052. You can also find us on Facebook or at our website: www.PagosaNewThought.org.

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Join us during the month of December for our Christmas themed Escape Room! Christopher "Santa Claus" Kringle has come up missing and we need you to figure out where he is and help get him on his way in time to save Christmas. You must hurry...you only have 60 minutes to decipher clues, find codes and complete puzzles in order to "ESCAPE" before time runs out. Anyone ages 8 on up and groups of 2-8 participants are welcome. Do You Have What It Takes?

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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Pilot program expands health and wellness services for seniors

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

The Pagosa Springs Senior Center has initiated a pilot program expanding health and wellness services to Archuleta County seniors.

The program includes wellness, blood pressure monitoring or allows individual area seniors to discuss two subjects of their choice. There is no charge for Medicare enrollees. Participant IDs will include Medicare card, photo ID and, if necessary, any supplemental insurances. No Medicaid is accepted at this time. Participants are encouraged to bring a list of their current medications.

Clinical assessment will be

Senior News

provided by Tabitha Zappone, FNP-C. Zappone has been a nurse practitioner for six years and is a longtime resident of Pagosa Springs. She understands the difficulties obtaining health care in a rural area and how these obstacles can be greater for seniors. The goal of the outreach clinic is to provide care to those who are not able to travel.

Computer center

The Senior Center is now providing computer access to seniors who are members of the Discount Club.

Computer stations are available by the hour. If no one has signed up for the next hour, seniors may continue to use the computer for an additional hour(s). Computer and Internet access is available during business hours when staff is in attendance and classes are not in session.

New volunteer for computer help

A volunteer will be at the com-

■ See Senior on next page

UU topic: 'A Vision for Our Future'

By Julie Loar
Special to The PREVIEW

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) will offer a service after all on New Year's Day and invites you to attend a program titled "A Vision for Our Future," with Julie Loar, this Sunday, Jan. 1.

Last year, PUUF members responded to a questionnaire that was designed to give voice to the Fellowship's mission as well as to capture its vision for the future. For this service, Loar will facilitate a wisdom circle to discuss the strongest vision that emerged from these answers. The most consistent picture expressed was a desire for a part-time minister. The wisdom circle will explore what ministry actually means to individual members of the Fellowship and should provide a forum for rich discussion.

Loar is the author of several award-winning books

and is currently the president of the PUUF steering committee.

This presentation reflects the Unitarian Universalist principle of "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

The PUUF is a caring, inclusive fellowship dedicated to spiritual growth, justice and serving the needs of our larger community. As a welcoming congregation, we invite everyone to share in our faith community. We cherish diversity and foster a safe environment for all.

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, see pagosauu.org or call 731-7900.



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

puter center on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help with your computer issues. Bring your computer or use one of ours.

Medical alert system

Medical alert monitoring systems are available for seniors. We can help you get set up with a system and assist with the monthly service charges or if you already have a system in place, we can help supplement the monthly service fees. Please call 264-2167 for more information or to sign up.

Medicare Mondays

Are you turning 65? Do you need some help with Medicare? The San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging has 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 eight-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 eight-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 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. Ac-

cess to the salad bar is only \$6 for those under 60.

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

Thursday, Dec. 29 — Closed for the holidays.

Friday, Dec. 30 — Closed for the holidays.

Monday, Jan. 2 — Braised pork with lentils, potatoes, glazed carrots and salad bar.

Tuesday, Jan. 3 — Chicken fajitas, rice, charro beans, squash calabacitas and salad bar.

Wednesday, Jan. 4 — Baked catfish, roasted beets, snap peas, salad bar and lemon dessert.

Thursday, Jan. 5 — Ham, black beans, macaroni and cheese, Brussels sprouts, muffin and salad bar.

Reservations and cancellations are required. You can make a reservation at 264-2167 by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you would like to dine in the Community Cafe at the Senior Center.

For your convenience, you can make your reservations in advance or have a standing reservation on days you know you will always attend. Please cancel if you cannot attend on your standing reservation days.

Informative.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2101

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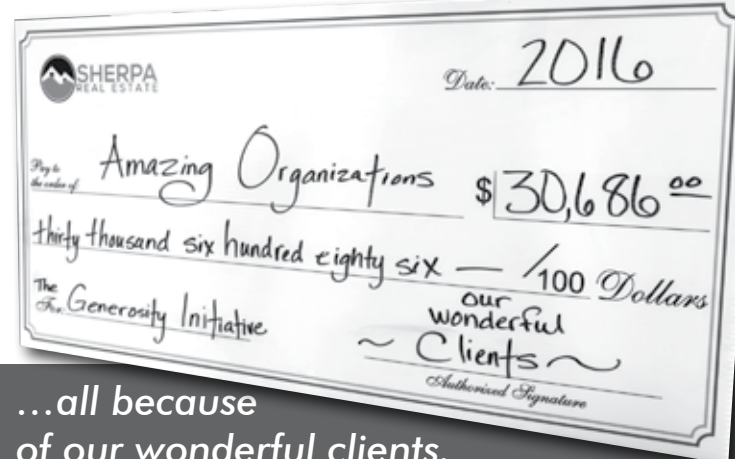
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| Among The Least | Pagosa Valor Academy |
| Compass 31 | Samaritans Purse |
| Grace in Pagosa | Sexual Assault Services of Northwest NM |
| Habitat For Humanity | Sunlight Mission |
| Humane Society of Pagosa Springs | Texas Church Plant |
| Mary Fisher Medical Center | THRIVE |
| Our Savior Lutheran School | United Methodist Church of Pagosa Springs |



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| Kevin and Jenniffer Bruce | Marilyn Falvey | Charles and Jean Russo |
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| Vern and Connie Clark | Brett and Lisa Locke | Dan and Nikki Stephens |
| Phyllis Collier | Aaron Lokey | Myrna Villanueva |
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With the continued growth of Pagosa Springs, we hope everyone has had a productive year, and we look forward to what changes 2017 brings to our community.

Beginning January 1st, **Carpet One** winter hours will be Monday through Friday, 9-5pm, and Saturday by appointment only. Come see our selection, and you'll quickly understand why **Village Interiors Carpet One** is Pagosa's oldest flooring store!

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

THE HERALDS OF CHRISTMAS

Photos courtesy George Hunyadi

Scene Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society celebrates the season at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Dec. 18. The Heralds of Christmas concert, featuring members of the Pagosa Springs Community Band and the Pagosa Brass Quartet, included an array of traditional Christmas carols by Pagosa's talented musicians. Music lovers were also treated to a sprinkling of brass instrument solos and small ensembles, a piano solo and a flute quartet.





Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 29

Paws to Read. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Come and share your favorite book with Penny and Cassia, therapy dogs who love listening to stories. 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.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. When the Herdmans, the worst kids in town, somehow wrangle the leading roles in the local Christmas Pageant, it seems everything that is sacred will be lost; and yet, through this motley crew of rough and tumble kids, the true meaning of Christmas is movingly rediscovered. For tickets and more information go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Friday, Dec. 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.

Cardboard Construction. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. We'll have cardboard galore ready to be transformed into anything you can think up. The sky's the limit. For youngsters in kindergarten

through fifth grade. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Saturday, Dec. 31

Yoga: Laugh and Let Go. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Community Center. This class explores the ancient technique of chi self-massage followed by a lighter yoga asana practice. Call 264-4152 for more information.

Geothermal Greenhouse Open House. 2-4 p.m., Centennial Park. The public is invited to stop by at their leisure, the tours are informal. For more information, go to pagosagreen.org.

Sunday, Jan. 1

Bingo. 6 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Jan. 2

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

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

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. 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.

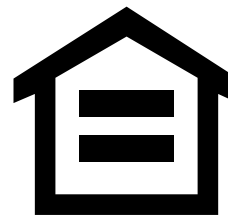
Bingo. 1 p.m., Senior Center.
Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., Dorothy's Restaurant.

■ See Calendar on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU

	5		1		6			
	7			2	5		9	
2	3					7		
			9			8		
		4		7			5	
					3		6	
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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	3	6	1	4	7	9	8	6
1	4	8	6	5	9	2	6	3
8	9	5	3	6	2	1	4	7
9	5	2	6	7	3	4	1	8
3	4	8	2	1	9	7	6	5
6	4	8	5	4	7	1	3	2
5	2	6	1	8	5	9	4	7
4	9	3	7	1	8	5	2	6
7	6	8	2	5	3	9	4	1
2	7	9	8	1	3	5	6	4

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Sweet Water Pagosa

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Drop-in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Men's PTSD Group. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Focusing on resolving anger and conflict. Contact Dr. Kevin Kelly at (505) 699-0824 for more information.

Mahjong. 1 p.m., Senior Center.

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.

Night Yoga: YoGain. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Community Center. YoGain is a fast-paced blend of yoga asana and body weight exercises designed to raise your heart rate and increase strength and flexibility. Open to all levels and abilities. Call 264-4152 for more information.

Terrific Tuesdays. 7-9 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Learn to dance the Night Club Two-Step, a flowing romantic dance. Call Wayne at 264-4792 for more information or go to <http://www.meetup.com/Lets-Dance-Pagosa>.

Wednesday, Jan. 4

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

Library Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. 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., Ross Aragon Community Center. Please bring a mat and a towel. For more information, call Roz at (281) 435-0563.

Free Screenings. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center. San Juan Health Department, screenings on total cholesterol, triglycerides, blood pressure checks, referrals and translations for Spanish speakers.

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.

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

Coed Volleyball. 1-3:30 p.m., Community Center. Friendly, non-competitive games open to all ages.

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

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

The Spouses/Family of Veterans Group. 5:30-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Contact Sharon Carter, Ph.D., at 398-0883 or Charlotte at 731-1025 for further information.

Thursday, Jan. 5

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.

Medicaid and Connect for Health Session. 1-1:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Kevin O'Connor from San Juan Health and Renee Burch from Archuleta County Human Services discuss options and changes to Medicaid and Connect for Health. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in with your technology questions. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

Teen Advisory Board. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For youth in the 7th-12th grades. Bring your fun and innovative ideas to help us plan teen programs. Contact the library at 264-2209 for further information.

■ See Calendar on next page

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Saturdays by appointment only



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

Friday, Jan. 6

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

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Saturday, Jan. 7

Baby Storytime. 9:05-9:25 a.m., Sisson Library. For babies 0-12 months. Twenty minutes of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Toddler Storytime. 9:30-10 a.m., Sisson Library. For toddlers 12-36 months. A half hour of stories, songs and fingerplays for you and your little one. Learn easy tips on how to include literacy skills into everyday family life. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Zumba. 10-11 a.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

Yoga: Laugh and Let Go. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Community Center. This class explores the ancient technique of chi self-

massage followed by a lighter yoga asana practice. Call 264-4152 for more information.

Sunday, Jan. 8

Bingo. 6 p.m., Parish Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Jan. 9

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

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

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Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

Homebrewing Order of Pagosa Springs. 6 p.m., Coyote Moon. Learn about the art of brewing your own beer, wine and mead.

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Seating section
- 5 Air freshener option
- 10 Fuss
- 14 State with conviction
- 15 Photoshop item
- 16 Completely fix
- 17 Renowned
- 19 Newspaper feature
- 20 Put the kibosh on
- 21 Frenzy
- 22 Dermal affliction
- 24 Detergent brand
- 26 Eur. country
- 28 Track event
- 29 One approaching 100
- 33 Oomph
- 34 Soften one's stand
- 35 Rydell hit, "Forget ____"
- 38 Type of room?
- 40 Pull out
- 42 Water tester
- 43 Staff range
- 47 Specialty
- 48 System of government
- 50 Record holders
- 53 Julia Sweeney SNL character
- 54 Big Apple attraction, with "the"
- 55 Out for the night
- 57 Former filly
- 59 Envelope abbr.
- 62 Bygone autocrat
- 63 Loathsome
- 66 "Just Like Heaven" band, with "The"
- 67 Dashboard feature
- 68 Soldering need
- 69 Attention
- 70 Concerning
- 71 Final, for one

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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62						63	64				65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

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DOWN

- 1 Curtain material
- 2 Baker
- 3 Prosperous period
- 4 Flock member
- 5 Turkish currency
- 6 Lennon classic
- 7 Pass to the side
- 8 Sensitive subject, to some
- 9 Let go
- 10 Disney film with a pet reindeer
- 11 Drive away
- 12 Dropsy
- 13 TV show since 1952
- 18 Act the blowhard
- 23 Cargo unit
- 25 Sounded a bell
- 27 Bard's "before"
- 29 Small salamander
- 30 Potpourri
- 31 Not slouching
- 32 Atlas feature
- 35 Type of trait

- 36 It may be big figure
- 37 Bell curve
- 39 Baggy
- 41 Give a hoot
- 44 Draft source
- 45 Pie preference
- 46 Folic acid
- 48 Like most wedding cakes
- 49 "Indeed!"

- 50 Down the ____
- 51 It's debatable
- 52 Danger signal
- 56 Legal prefix
- 58 Funny one
- 60 Calculator button
- 61 Driving no-no
- 64 Blackout
- 65 Toward the stern

Answer to Last Week's Crossword:

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Local events • Classified ads
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Library News • Church events

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
 or just learn more about craft beer and fermentation. Presentations on style, flavor and processes regularly given.
CPR Certification Training. 6-10 p.m., CSU Extension Office. Anyone needing to receive or renew certification can register by calling 264-5931.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Veterans for Veterans. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.
Yoga. 10-11:30 a.m., Community Center.
Archuleta County Republican Women. Noon, Boss Hogg's Restaurant. Mike Le Roux, director of emergency operations of Archuleta County and vice chair for Upper San Juan Search and Rescue will be speaking on how they provide emergency assistance for citizens. Lunch will be offered for \$12. Email acrwpagosa@gmail.com for more information.
Men's PTSD Group. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Focusing on resolving anger and conflict. Contact Dr. Kevin Kelly at (505) 699-0824 for more information.
American Legion Post 108 Ladies Auxiliary. 4 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.

Night Yoga: YoGain. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Community Center. YoGain is a fast-paced blend of yoga asana and body weight exercises designed to raise your heart rate and increase strength and flexibility. Open to all levels and abilities. Call 264-4152 for more information.
Terrific Tuesdays. 7-9 p.m., PLPOA Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Learn to dance the Night Club Two-Step, a flowing romantic dance. Call Wayne at 264-4792 for more information or go to <http://www.meetup.com/Lets-Dance-Pagosa>.

Wednesday, Jan. 11

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.

Coed Volleyball. 1-3:30 p.m., Community Center. Friendly, non-competitive games open to all ages.

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

American Legion Post 108. 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St. Veterans group meeting.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Join us for socializing followed by a brief meeting at 6:30 p.m.

First Aid Certification Training. 6-10 p.m., CSU Extension office. Anyone needing to receive or renew certification can register by calling 264-5931.

Americana Project Presents: Nathaniel Talbot. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Singer-songwriter Nathaniel Talbot concert. Students from the Americana Project class will open the show. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 (12 and under are free).

Thursday, Jan. 12

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

Medicaid and Connect for Health Session. 1-1:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Kevin O'Connor from San Juan Health and Renee Burch from Archuleta County Human Services discuss options and changes to Medicaid and Connect for Health. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center. Open to all abilities and ages.

Friday, Jan. 13

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

Pagosa Stitching Group. 9:30-11:30 a.m., second floor of the Pruitt building, Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Bring your stitching project and enjoy coffee and camaraderie. All stitchers are welcome.

Thingamajig Theatre Presents "Buyer and Cellar." 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Alex More has a story to tell. A struggling actor in L.A., he takes a job working for beloved megastar Barbra Streisand. Streisand does indeed have a mall, with shops and all in her Malibu mansion's basement. One day, the lady herself comes down to play. It feels like real bonding in the basement, but will their relationship ever make it upstairs? For tickets and more information go to www.pagosacenter.org or call 731-SHOW.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosason.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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Photo courtesy John M. Motter

The 1911 flood spread water throughout what was known as The Park, the main residential neighborhood in Pagosa Springs at that time.

‘From a pleasant, smiling stream to an angry, raging, terrific river’

The following headline topped the Oct. 5, 1911, Pagosa Springs SUN: “San Juan Breaks Record ... Gets on Rampage and Leaves Death, Devastation and Ruin in its Path.”

According to the Sun report: “Tuesday morning the sun rose in all its glory and the day was an ideal one. Wednesday morning a



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

drizzling rain set in and kept up until the torrents caused the San

Juan to change from a pleasant, smiling stream to an angry, raging, terrific river. Early yesterday morning the citizens became aware that dire calamity was about to prevail on Hermosa Street and in The Park vicinity. Business, for the time being, was suspended and all rushed to the aid of those in the doomed

■ See Past on next page

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Display advertising: Noon, Monday

Classified line ads (regular categories): 10 a.m., Tuesday

Classified line ads (Too Late to Classify): 3 p.m., Tuesday

Legal advertising: 5 p.m., Friday

Letters to the editor: Noon, Tuesday
 (500 word maximum, email to editor@pagosahun.com)

Cards of thanks: Noon, Tuesday
 (200 word maximum, email to editor@pagosahun.com)

Obituaries: Noon, Tuesday
 (We accommodate obituaries after this if at all possible.)

Articles: Noon, Monday
 (email to editor@pagosahun.com)

*Deadlines are earlier if there is a holiday.

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Therapy dogs and cardboard construction for kids this week

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Kids from K-fifth grade have two special fun events scheduled for this week. Today, Thursday, Dec. 29, from 10 to 11 a.m., therapy dogs Penny and Cassia will be at the library to listen to you read your favorite stories.

Then tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 30, from 2 to 3 p.m. you'll have boxes, tape and scissors — cardboard galore ready to be transformed into any fun or useful thing you can think up.

Holiday closure

Your library will close at noon on New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31. Happy New Year to you and

Library News

your families.

Activities calendars available

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

Medicaid and Connect for Health session

Kevin O'Connor from San Juan Health and Renee Burch from Archuleta County Human Services discuss options and changes to Medicaid and Connect for Health, the Colorado Obamacare health exchange, next Thursday, Jan. 5, and Thursday, Jan. 12, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. No registration required.

Teen advisory board

Next Thursday, Jan. 5, the teen advisory board meets from 4 to 5 p.m. Bring your fun and innovative ideas to help us plan teen programs. Share an idea to pick out a free book.

The board meets once a month, the first Thursday of the month. Teens are always welcome to stop by and share their ideas informally with Claire, teen services librarian.

Teen gaming

Teen gaming happens Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for teen gaming

■ See Library on next page

Past

■ continued from previous page district. All teams available were brought into action, and all goods that could be were hauled."

Every bridge in Archuleta County was washed out. The town jail was washed away and did not stop floating downstream until it reached Trujillo, where it came to rest in Jake Latta's orchard. Not one to waste an opportunity, Latta used it as a granary.

Between 10 and 15 residences in Town Park were totally destroyed and from 40 to 50 others were greatly damaged.

The river changed its course to such an extent that several lots were annihilated. Water reached the edge of main street — the Pagosa Street running through downtown and the parking lot along the river. In truth, before the flood, the parking lot did not exist. The town water works and electrical plant were destroyed. Telephone and telegraph lines were down and railroad tracks and bridges washed away.

Pagosa Springs was isolated

from the outside world. The main road into the community from the east over Elwood Pass and down the West Fork of the San Juan River, especially through the narrow canyon just upstream from the juncture of the East and West forks of that river, was closed. That road was a state road, but as a result of the flood, the state moved the pass to Wolf Creek and abandoned the Elwood Pass Road. For almost five years while Wolf Creek was building, people coming to Pagosa Springs by the old Elwood route turned north just before reaching the Joe Mann Cabin, followed a rocky trail to Windy Pass and struggled down the steepness of that pass to the West Fork of the San Juan and from there into town.

The Edith mill flooded and Pagosa Junction was severely damaged. Every stream in the county flooded: more than that, every stream in the San Juan Mountains and Four Corners country flooded.

Two men drowned in the surging waters of Mill Creek. I'll have that story in next week's column.

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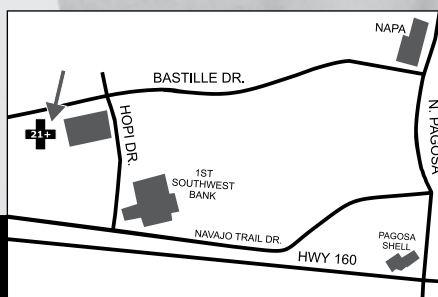
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Library

■ **continued from previous page**
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.

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 Tudors in 100 Objects” by John Matusiak explores this slice of British history through the objects they left behind, from a signet ring that may have belonged to Shakespeare to the first flushing toilet. “The Brain Warrior’s Way” by Daniel G. Amen, M.D., and Tana Amen, BSN, RN, combines science, psychology and spirituality to create a prescription for brain health.

DVDs

“Holiday Collection” contains four films: “A Very Merry Mix-up,” “The Christmas Ornament,” “Hitched for the Holidays” and “Come Dance with Me.” “Small Town Santa” begins when a sheriff arrests a home intruder claiming to be Santa Claus. “The Human Experience” won multiple best-documentary awards.

Thrillers and mysteries

“Underground Airlines” by Ben H. Winters follows a bounty hunter in an America like today’s but with-

out the Civil War having occurred. “City on Edge” by Stefanie Pintoff begins with an attack and kidnapping at Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade. “These are the Names” by Tommy Wieringa tells of two seemingly unconnected stories coming together in a suspenseful crisis.

Other novels

“The Fifth Season” by N. K. Jemisin is book one in a new sci-fi fantasy series. “Ancillary Mercy” by Ann Leckie is the final novel in her Imperial Radch space opera trilogy.

Programmed Nooks

We have nine Nooks and three tablets programmed for your e-reading pleasure. The eight adult content e-readers contain either fiction or nonfiction bestsellers. The four youth e-readers contain books for children, juniors and young adults.

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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.

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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.

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

Thanks to our donors

For books and materials this week, we thank Ron Ashcroft, Medora Bass, Lyn Dryburgh and

Erica Carey. We also are grateful for a generous monetary donation from Rice Reavis.

Quotable quote

“A friend wrote me a note when I left the Today show [in 2006] for the CBS Evening News: ‘A boat is always safe in the harbor, but that’s not what boats are built for.’ I know I would have regretted not seizing this opportunity for the rest of my life. So get out of the harbor. The territory may be uncharted and the water may be pretty choppy at times, but you’ll be amazed at what you learn, especially about yourself. And, through it all, make sure that you have a handful of people you can always depend on to throw you a life preserver when things get really rough.” — Katie Couric, American journalist and author.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, CDs and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <http://pagosa.colibraries.org/>.



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ATKA: Big girl Rottweiler that will be as loyal as the day is long; needs a quiet home to shine. No kitties for me, please. An active 8-year-old that loves to play ball. She's building up hip muscles, as previous owners had her kenneled too long. Adopt from **THE HUMANE SOCIETY**. 731-4771.



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Classifieds

264-2101

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TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY



CARINA: This cute little girl is a German Shepherd/Lab mix that is approximately 4 months old. She is extremely smart and very active, as all puppies are! She will need someone to keep her challenged and teach her all kinds of fun new things. Adopt from **THE HUMANE SOCIETY**. 731-4771.



ETHEL: Don't let the white around the muzzle fool you! This Border Collie mix is only around 4-1/2 years old. She loves playing with her ball! She will need someone who can keep her active. With proper introductions, she could do well with a friend. Adopt from **THE HUMANE SOCIETY**. 731-4771.



GRACE: This beautiful girl was found off Light Plant Road and brought to us by caring citizens. She is quiet, but very sweet and is very thankful for her warm bed here. Adopt from **THE HUMANE SOCIETY**. 731-4771.

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HELP WANTED

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for full-time **Housekeepers**. Must be willing to work nights and some weekends. Applications may be picked up at the human resources office or downloaded at www.pagosapragmedicalcenter.org. Please email applications and resumes to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or fax to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

DELIVERY INSTALLER. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED, but will train the right person. Must be able to lift 75 lbs. Weekday work hours with weekends off. Apply in person at Pagosa Springs Sears, 2800 Cornerstone Dr.

LIFECARE- PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME positions available for Personal Care Providers/ Homemakers. Working phone and reliable transportation required. Training provided to those seeking a rewarding position with our agency. Application/ information (970)516-1234, ext. 1. <http://www.lifecare-inc.com>.

HIRING EXPERIENCED AND LICENSED PLUMBERS, and plumber helpers. (970)946-7096, leave message.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for **Patient Financial Lead**. The lead is responsible for the coordination and supervision of daily activities for staff members responsible for pre-authorization/ certification (excluding observation and in-patient), insurance verification, financial counseling and time of service (TOS) collections. Ensures daily activities are completed to ensure appropriate reimbursement is obtained. Duties include training, accurate and efficient operations monitoring reporting to ensure compliance with contractual agreements, federal regulations and hospital policies and to maximize the hospital and clinic's cash flow. The team leader maintains open communication and works cooperatively with ancillary departments and physician offices. Develop training for staff and ability to improve work flow. 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.

CHOIR INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE: Archuleta School District is accepting applications for part-time Pagosa Family School Choir Instructional Aide. Job description and salary information as well as the application may be viewed/ completed online through www.mypagosaschools.com.

TEACHER SUBSTITUTES: Archuleta School District 50 Joint is in need of substitute teachers. Job description and requirements along with the application may be found at www.mypagosaschools.com or by contacting Robyn Bennett at 264-2228, ext. 401.

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HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for **Call Receptionist**. The receptionist operates clinic telephone switchboards and consoles to connect, hold and transfer telephone calls and provide information to assist callers or refer them to appropriate contacts, either in the organization or elsewhere. The call receptionist performs routine, and some non-routine, continuous work involved primarily with the operation of a telephone switchboard and the operation and maintenance of a computerized database of telephone information. 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.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a Certified Medical Technologist or Med lab Tech. The **Medical Tech** will perform technical analytical procedures requiring knowledge and techniques in areas such as hematology, chemistry, special chemistry, microbiology, blood bank, serology, urinalysis, coagulation and phlebotomy as ordered by the physician. Performs routine maintenance and troubleshooting for laboratory instrumentation, performs, records and participates in evaluation of quality control for tests conducted. Applications may be picked up at hospital registration or downloaded from www.pagosaprimedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

NEW SALON LOOKING for hair stylists, manicurist, esthetician and massage therapists. Great location and opportunity to build your business. (661)312-8295.

HEALTH AIDE/ OFFICE ASSISTANT: Archuleta School District is accepting applications for an Elementary Health Aide. Job descriptions and salary information and applications may be viewed/ completed online through www.mypagosaschools.com.

LOOKING FOR CABINET SHOP foreman. Must have CNC router experience. Must be familiar with 32 mm dowel construction. Email your experience and salary history to tim@tblc.net.

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NOW HIRING! DISTINGUISHED Automotive Mechanic- Lead position. Must have reputable experience. Certifications a plus. Please apply in person at 163 Goldmine Dr. Unit B.

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.pagosaprimedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

REPORTER - THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN is seeking qualified candidates. Must demonstrate aptitude for, and commitment to community newspaper journalism. Candidates must be prepared to handle deadlines, cover breaking news, report on sports and government and write features. Position is up to 30 hours a week. Send cover letter including salary expectations, resume, references and clips to Reporter Position, The Pagosa Springs SUN, PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or hand-deliver them to the paper at 466 Pagosa St. Emailed submissions are acceptable (helpwanted@pagosasun.com). The Pagosa Springs SUN, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for **Nutritional Services Workers** to prepare and cook food for hospital patients, staff and visitors. Must have a flexible schedule and willing to work nights and weekends. Applications may be picked up at the hospital front registration desk, the human resources office or downloaded at www.pagosaprimedicalcenter.org. Please email applications and resumes to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or fax to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER has an opening for **Patient Registration and Pre-Service Supervisor**. The supervisor's primary responsibility is to direct, supervise and coordinate daily activities for patient registration for the hospital and clinics; pre-service for scheduling, insurance verification, pre-authorization/ certification requirements, financial counseling, time of service collections (TOS) for the clinics. The supervisor is responsible to ensure timely quality services in accordance with contractual agreements, federal regulations, hospital policies and procedures while upholding professional standards, high levels of customer service and open communications. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.A. PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP. 234 N. 2nd St./ CR 200- Snowball Rd. Sunday 10a.m. (AM); 5:30p.m. open discussion; Monday 12p.m. (D), 5:30p.m. (BB); Tuesday 12p.m. (D), 5:30p.m. (M); Wednesday 12p.m. (D), 5:30p.m. (W); Thursday 12p.m. (D), 5:30p.m. (BG); Friday 12p.m. (D), 7p.m. (D); Saturday 7:30a.m. (AM), 5:30p.m. (D). (Last Friday of the month, 6p.m. potluck, 7p.m. birthday speaker meeting.) Questions, contact (970)245-9649, www.aa-westerncolorado.org or www.aadistrict18.org, or call: Ed K. 946-2606; Val V. 264-2685; Ben B. 264-0217.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS meets Saturdays at 9a.m. at 234 N. 2nd St., aka CR 200 or Snowball Road. Open meeting, various structure. Call Lyn, 903-0655, or Carl, 903-2346, to confirm we are meeting or for information.

NEW ALANON GROUP: Traditional AlAnon Group meets Fridays, 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Dr. (325)669-9715.

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO is now accepting applications for nonprofit partners to be funded in 2017-2018. To review requirements and download the application, please visit unitedway-swco.org. United Way of Southwest Colorado serves the counties of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan. Application deadline is January, 27, 2017.

A.A. PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP meets at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Tuesday 7p.m. Big Book Study (closed); Thursday 7p.m. Discussion (open); Questions (970)245-9649, www.aa-westerncolorado.org or www.aadistrict18.org; Ken or Charlotte (970)903-9690.

NEW OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meeting Thursdays, 11a.m., at Centerpoint Church, 270 Cornerstone Dr. Leslie, (970)799-0775.

AL-ANON meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Saturday, 10:30a.m., 234 N. 2nd Street (CR200/ Snowball Road). www.al-anon-co.org.

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REPORT KNOWLEDGE OF CRIMINAL ACTS To Crime Stoppers, 264-2131. You may be entitled to a reward. Anonymity guaranteed.

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1999 DODGE RAM 2500. Utility bed, V-8, 4X4, good shape. \$2,500. Call (970)264-2981.

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620 LAKESIDE DR. #2. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, large 2-car garage, furnished, water and sewer included, across from North Village Lake, walking distance to rec center and City Market. Asking \$1,450 plus utilities. Call 731-2262.

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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2-CAR, almost new home downtown. Open design, good neighborhood. \$1,250. Call (970)398-9136.

5 BEDROOM, 4 BATH, 2-CAR GARAGE, 2 story home with heated floors on the first level and large stone fireplace. Partially furnished. Large deck with scenic views off of Mission Drive. Approximately 4,000 sq. ft. Pets negotiable. \$1,950 per month plus utilities. 6 month lease. Available January 1. \$1,950 deposit. Call (760)567-8915 for more information and to set up a showing.

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The relationships: Bob and John

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

My wife, Donna, was new to the orchestra she was playing in and wanted to make friends with everyone. She introduced herself to each person, and most were friendly and chatted with her. But the bassoonist didn't so much as smile when Donna said hello. She just looked up, nodded, and turned back to her instrument.

As the weeks passed, Donna tried repeatedly to engage her in conversation, but to no avail. She eventually asked another member of her clarinet section about the young lady.

"Oh, you mean Susan," the other clarinetist replied. "I doubt you will ever get her to say much. I don't think she has said three words to me in the five years I have been in the orchestra. She usually keeps to herself, and she doesn't seem to want much to do with the rest of us."

Donna didn't want to give up. She knew what it felt like to be in a group, and yet not really feel part of it. She thought that maybe Susan felt that way, so she kept looking for the right subject; something that would get her to open up. Then, one day, she saw it. Susan had a new engagement ring on her finger.

"So, are you in a relationship?" Donna asked.

For the first time Susan looked up and smiled. "Oh, yes! And it's wonderful!"

"How long have you known each other?"

Susan paused for a moment to think. "Let's see. It would be around

10 years now. It is hard to believe it has been that long."

"Wow!" Donna replied. "That's quite a while."

"Yes, but it has been the best 10 years of my life. I wouldn't trade them for anything."

"Is he good to you?" Donna asked.

"Yes, he is the best. In fact, I would have to say he is the best friend I have ever had. He responds to my every whim, and does just what I want him to."

"What's his name?" Donna queried further, wondering if she might know him.

"I call him Bob."

"You call him Bob?"

"Yes. It is short for Robert. Robert is a little too long."

Donna nodded. "Bob is a nice name."

"Yeah, I like it. It is easy to remember. My last one was Theodore. Even shortened to Teddy it was just too long. Bob is much nicer."

"So what do the two of you like to do together?"

"Most of the time we like to play Bach's Sonata in G. But sometimes, when we feel adventurous, we try the minute waltz." Susan laughed. "If you think that is tough on a clarinet, you ought to try it on a bassoon. It's more like the two minute hoedown."

They both laughed. Susan seemed to love to talk about Bob. And Donna wanted to keep her talking, hoping others in the orchestra would join in the conversation and make Susan really feel part of them.

"So where is he from?"
"He's from Brazil."
"Brazil? That is quite a ways away."

"Yes," Susan answered. "But he is definitely worth it." She then hugged her bassoon tightly to her. "Bob is the best bassoon in the world."

Donna's shock must have been evident, because when Susan

quit embracing Bob, she paused. She looked at Donna's face, and realized Donna was looking at the new ring.

Susan's face flushed red. "Oh," she said, holding up her hand with the engagement ring. "You were talking about this, weren't you?"

Donna nodded.
"Well," Susan said, "his name is John, and I guess he's OK."

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