



Third-graders receive dictionaries through Rotary project

By JoAnn Laird
Pagosa Springs Rotary Club

On a sunny, cold, November afternoon, dedicated members of the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club showed up in force at Pagosa Springs Elementary School to deliver the club's annual gift of colorful dictionaries to all third-grade classes.

The students had just returned to class after recess. Their recess consisted of sledding on a school grounds hill. What other school gets to have a recess like this? Those lucky students came back to class with snow-covered boots, rosy cheeks and smiles. Unbeknownst to them, their day was only going to get better.

Their smiles got bigger when almost 100 of these beautiful books were presented to each of them. They quickly endorsed their names on the inside cover and the energy in the rooms was palpable. Word suggestions were made by the Rotarians, but, quickly, the students learned how to use the dictionary and were shouting out their own suggestions of words to be found.

It was a win/win for all involved. This Rotary project is funded by generous donors throughout the year by sponsoring events like the Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance. Along with the Dictionary Project, raised funds also go toward local endeavors such as gifting \$20,000

■ See Dictionaries A9



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

More than a dozen Pagosa Springs Rotary Club representatives introduce third-graders at Pagosa Springs Elementary School to their new illustrated dictionaries. The organization gives dictionaries to third-graders annually, with volunteers teaching the students about Rotary and helping them learn about their new books.

Commissioners appoint county board of health

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At the Nov. 21 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting, the BoCC, acting as the interim board of health (BoH), made appointments to the Archuleta County BoH.

Those appointed were commissioners Warren Brown and Veronica Medina, Jon Bruss, Jessica Cox and Stacy Foss.

Prior to the appointments, the BoCC interviewed six candidates for the BoH at special meetings on Nov. 13 and Nov. 14.

At the Nov. 21 BoCC work session, County Manager Derek Woodman explained that, following the inter-

views, the commissioners, Woodman, Archuleta County Public Health Director Ashley Wilson and Dave Shaeffer, medical director for the Archuleta County Public Health Department, ranked the applicants and that these aggregated rankings were being presented to the commissioners.

Medina commented that she was "very impressed" with the applicants, their knowledge and their willingness to serve the community.

"I don't think we could have went wrong with whoever we chose," Medina said, adding that she was happy with the top-ranked candidates.

Brown expressed his appreciation for the applicants providing their

■ See Board A8

Hospital district receives grant for oxygen generation building

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD) recently learned it has been awarded a grant of up to \$507,581 toward the construction of a building that will house its oxygen generation equipment.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) announced the funding last week, while the USJHSD Board of Directors was told the news Tuesday evening.

In telling the board — which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) — PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb explained that PSMC staff presented to DOLA in October and the district was awarded the full amount

it requested.

According to a press release, DOLA's Division of Local Government awarded a total of \$69,721,151 to 80 projects in 73 communities for Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) grants for the Cycle 23-11.

The EIAF Grant Program, the release explains, "assists political subdivisions facing social and/or economic impacts as an outcome of the development, processing or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels."

The EIAF Grant Fund is funded by state severance tax on energy and mineral production, as well as from a portion of the state's share of royal-

■ See Oxygen A8

PAWSD discusses rate study ahead of potential increases

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Nov. 14 work session, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard and discussed a presentation from Carol Malesky of Stantec as part of the district's ongoing rate study.

This presentation followed another presentation by Malesky at the Aug. 24 PAWSD meeting — which was covered in the Sept. 7 issue of The SUN — and generally provided similar information, although Malesky and Stantec staff member Zac Koch gave additional data on rates for short-term rentals (STRs) and revenues from septic haulers.

The board also had the opportu-

nity during the presentation to request adjustments to the model and to see the real-time impacts of these changes on rates.

Among the topics of discussion at the work session were the proper methods to calculate the impacts of STRs on the PAWSD system and assess additional fees, the potential reduction in the price of upcoming regulatory improvements at the Vista wastewater treatment due to PAWSD using a new engineering approach and the impact of this change on increases in wastewater rates, and whether or not to increase rates for septic haulers in step with rates for PAWSD customers.

Board members also raised con-

■ See Study A8

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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

The season of giving

If you're anything like us, this time of year brings mailboxes — both email and snail mail — full of things to entice giving.

We've received via snail mail numerous toy and gift catalogs to help us pick the perfect gifts to the children in our lives, other catalogs with quirky presents for everyone else in our lives, and appeals letters and seasonal cards from many nonprofits looking to bolster their funding for the upcoming year.

Our email inboxes are full of sales, and we've lost count of how many nonprofits have reached out explaining how and why the community should help them accomplish their worthwhile missions as 2023 winds down.

The Pagosa Springs SUN and The PREVIEW continue to feature ways to give back to organizations bringing services, scholarships and entertainment to the community.

All of this makes a few things clear to us: We need to check and sort through our mail more often. Things are piling up, especially after leaving town for a few days for Thanksgiving.

Going through toy catalogs and ads with a kid brings back memories of doing the same ourselves when we were younger, except several of the catalogs come with games, stickers and activities now.

There are countless people all around

us who are working and volunteering tirelessly to help others, animals, the environment, core services in our community and more.

There are more organizations than we realized contributing to this community, and it makes us thankful.

It's definitely the season of giving. Colorado Gives Day is Dec. 5, though giving under the annual effort is already underway. Visiting swcogives.org gives you the opportunity to contribute to any of more than 150 organizations in the region that serve youth, the arts, animals, the environment, human services and more.

There are also several other options for donating to local projects that will provide you with tax credits, such as through the Enterprise Zone and Opportunity Zone programs. For more information on that, visit <https://www.region9edd.org/>.

Several other giving opportunities can be found throughout this week's SUN and PREVIEW.

But it isn't all about money.

If you're not able to give monetarily due to ever-rising costs of living right now, that's OK. Building a community and its resources takes more than just money, and there are many ways to give.

In addition to monetary donations, the Southwest Colorado Gives website of-

fers other ways to support your favorite nonprofits, such as launching your own fundraising campaign.

You can also reach out to organizations you appreciate and see if there's another way you can help.

You can also do things like donating blood. Blood drives are held periodically to help keep up the blood supply for those facing emergencies or other medical needs, and we hear about critical shortages more often than we would like. To find an upcoming blood drive near you, visit vitalant.org. There is one set in Pagosa Springs on Dec. 14.

All of these efforts combine to truly make a difference in our communities and meet the needs of our friends and neighbors.

The folks at the TARA Community Center in Arboles saw a need to serve those who would be spending Thanksgiving alone and organized a dinner. More than 60 people attended, and the organizers plan to make it an annual gathering because it was so well-received.

We love and applaud the sense of community and care that events like that bring.

We encourage everyone to find a way to experience the joy of giving this holiday season, and year-round.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 30, 1923

The Lester W. Mullins post of the American Legion on Wednesday rented the former Sparks Hdw. Co. store room on Lewis street and plans are now being made to convert the same into a gymnasium and community hall. A basketball court and stage will first be installed and other additions made from time to time.

The Chas. F. Rumbaugh well came in Saturday morning with a heavy flow of hot water having an enormous pressure. The flow is almost sufficient to heat the entire business block in which it is located. It was reached at a depth of 297 feet and has a temperature of 118 degrees. The well was capped the same day and supplies are now being awaited. Mr. Rumbaugh has not yet decided whether he will proceed a few additional feet in the hopes of increasing the temperature.

The water pool is apparently located in an entirely different structure than the other hot water wells in this city, for they apparently have not been affected by this well. Further, the new well has considerably more pressure, being able to easily throw a steam 60 to 75 feet in the air. A quantity of mineral bearing quartz, believed by many to contain gold and silver ore in addition to the iron, came out of the hole when the flow was struck, and samples have been sent away for assay.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 3, 1948

Hey Kids! Santa Claus in person is coming to Pagosa Springs on Saturday, December 18. His visit was arranged by the Pagosa Hardware, the SUN and the Liberty Theatre. He will be at the Pagosa Hardware from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and all youngsters are cordially invited to stop in and make their Christmas wishes known to the jolly old fellow.

In the afternoon Mr. Breedlove, Mr. Petry and Mr. Edmonds will be hosts to all the children in this area at a free movie in the Liberty Theatre. Arrangements have been made to secure the famous comedy "Buck Private," starring Abbott and Costello. This show is free to all the youngsters and will keep them occupied while their parents do Christmas shopping.

The following Pagosans were seen enjoying the fine sport of skiing on Wolf Creek Pass Sunday: David Lou Goodman, George Yamaguchi, Ben Larry Lynch, David and Charles Knowlton, Joan and Leo Wiley.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 29, 1973

The fuel and energy crisis will now be felt here much more than in the past. President Nixon, in a talk last Sunday night, outlined some of the steps being taken to cut down on the use of fuel and of various types of energy.

He requested, among other things, the following steps:

Asked filling stations to stop selling gasoline on Sunday. The ban on sales will be from 9 p.m. Saturday until midnight Sunday. At this time he has requested this as a voluntary action until legislation can be enacted.

Asked for a highway speed limit of 50 miles per hour, except for long distance trucks and buses, with that speed limit to be 55 miles per hour.

Asked for a ban on ornamental residential lighting and on non-essential commercial lighting.

25 years ago

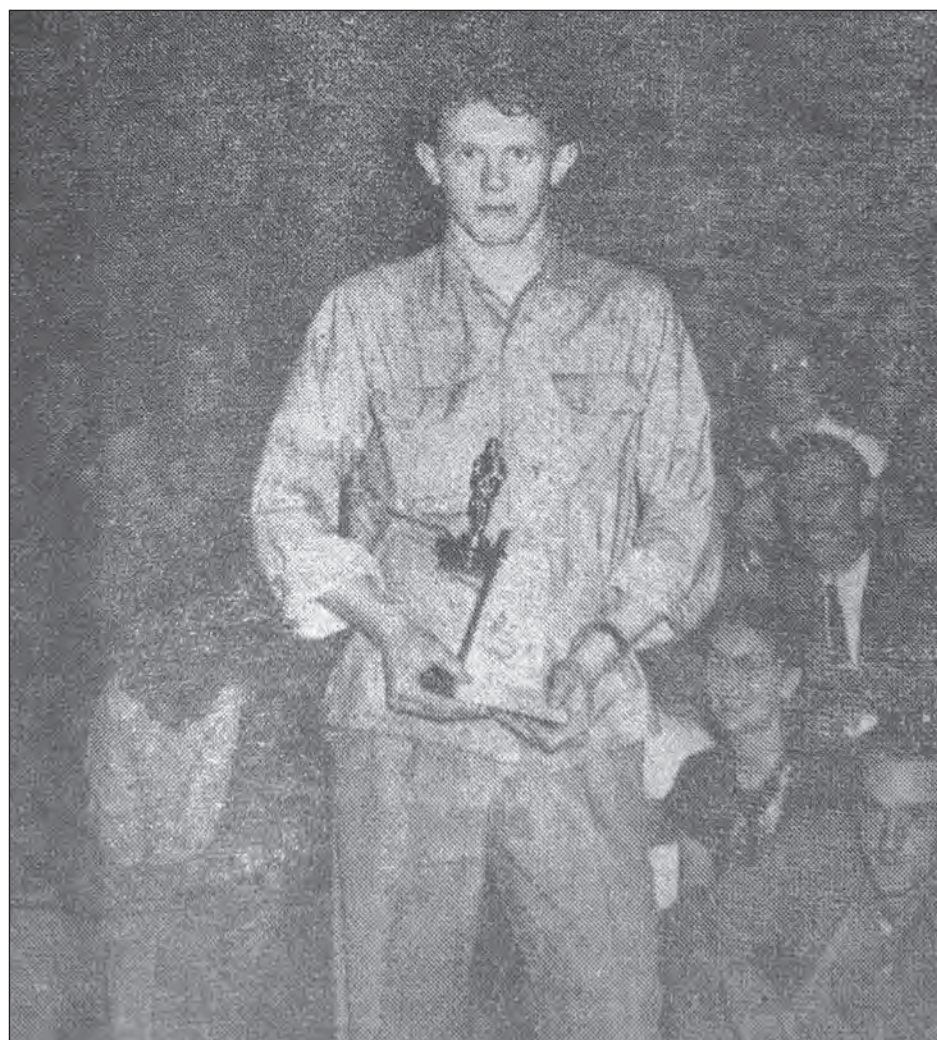
Taken from SUN files of
December 2, 1998

Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church are starting to face the unpleasant conclusion that there is little chance of recovering a statue of the Virgin Mary which was stolen from in front of the church rectory Nov. 11.

About three-feet tall, the statue had been a meaningful fixture in its small stone canopy on Lewis Street for 40 years. A \$500 reward has been offered to anyone providing information that leads to the apprehension and conviction of a suspect and the return of the statue.

Resolved to the prospect that there is little chance the statue will be returned, members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church plan to hold a benefit dance Saturday night to raise funds for replacing the statue.

The benefit dance will be held at the La Cantina on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. The cost of the dance will be \$5 per person with all proceeds going to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Music will be provided by the Regals who are donating their time for the performance.



From the March 19, 1954 Pagosa SUN - CAPTAIN JUNIOR SORENSON is shown after he accepted the trophy won by the Pagosa Springs Pirates at the Basin "B" tournament at Ignacio. The smiling fans in the background could not be immediately identified.
Photo by Ernest Yamaguchi

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HOW'S THE ECONOMY AFFECTING YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTGIVING?

Baldry
©'11



SHORTY SHRIFT
"I'm shoppin' locally for gifts. I can't afford th' gas to go to Big City stores!"



MARY DUZLOTZ
"I'm buying all my stuff in our town to help out the bizness folks around here!"



IMA DOUGHNER
"I'm picking up local homemade items to support our town's arts and crafts!"



SANTA CLAUS
"I'm lettin' my elves & reindeer go — an' sendin' gift certificates by email!"

Letters

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

Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for accuracy.

The opinions of letter writers do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

Religion vs. tribalism

Dear Editor:
Where does any religion come from? It's certainly global in many forms & gods...maybe even before recorded time. It's always present wherever mankind has existed. Does it explain mankind's place in the Universe. And yes, it's also a useful social 'control' mechanism...but that can't be its only value and why do 'believers' disregard its guidelines at will?

And then there's tribalism, it is not peculiar to mankind as generally speaking all forms of life have kind of a herd instinct and seek like companions. So, if tribalism has been with us thru out our evolution to human form...is it good...has to be functional...is it a more powerful force than religion as few members

breaks its rules?

People like order and structure thus tribalism has rules or guidelines, and like tribalism, religions have guidelines, but they differ as they function to promote social kindness and humanitarian actions. Today a lot of 'tribes' espouse religious guidelines. One is 'God (Christians only) & Country; but the same 'tribe' chose a leader who paid for newspaper ads about his ignoring the religious rules; and the tribe said...'Dat's good.' So, if the MAGA Tribe follows someone who trashes religious rules...while waving 'The Book' (he 'briefed') then belonging to the MAGA tribe must be more important than their religion...or...is it a twofold, Donnie is their new God with one rule...loyalty? A wild guess... FOX must have announced that the long-awaited resurrection occurred... you missed it...me too...good for us!

Classically, anyone opposing or even questioning their new Messiah automatically becomes the tried and true scapegoat...a socialist...worse a "useful idiot"...dumb...to be more exact. You know what's really &#%#@#E\$^! supporting a categorically patent false messiah that recently said (recorded) Obama is our current President?

Anybody else worried about the future?

David Blake

Bias response

Dear Editor:
I want to thank Mr Newton for pointing out "Open Secrets" to me. It made for some interesting reading. He's right that all justices take trips and accept transportation and meals, which is perfectly legal. From Open Secrets, I learned that in 2018 The "Liberal" Justices attended dozens of Law Schools to lecture and engage in Q&A sessions with students. The "Conservative" Justices trips were mostly spent speaking to Conservative Organizations and conferences. The Open Secrets' report was based on the Government Financial Disclosure forms submitted by the justices, as required by law. However, Clarence Thomas NEVER reported his many exotic trips, numerous meetings, free housing, son's free tuition and an RV gifted from Harlan Crow. Justice Alito also neglected to report his expensive trips with wealthy conservatives. As a retired Federal Employee, I can tell you there were very strict limits on what we could accept. That is the problem Mr Newton, certain conservative justices act as if they are above the law by failing to report said gifts.

Mr Newton's statement that the major media outlets, CBS, NBC and ABC only report positively on liberals and negatively on conservatives is just plain false. Nonpartisan studies have shown there is no bias toward liberals. Here's a Truth Flash for Mr Newton. Disney's (ABC) major stock-

holders are the Vanguard Group, Blackrock, State Street Corp., and Berkshire Hathaway. All major investment firms, hardly a bastion of liberalism. The same is true of Comcast (NBC) and Paramount Global (CBS). They are all huge media conglomerates, in business to make a profit. Being gay friendly is good for business, not a liberal ideology. The thing that is worrisome though, is the above 3 corporations with the addition of FOX and the Sinclair Group, own most of the media and entertainment world in the U.S., not good for competition. I admit, Mr Newton, I am biased. I'm biased for truth, for the rule of law and for our democratic institutions. Three things conservatives and especially the Republican Party have decided to ignore in their quest for power.

Dave Butcher

Main Street Bethlehem

Dear Editor:
Main Street Bethlehem
On November 30, December 1 and 2, 6-7:30 pm, Centerpoint Church will once again open their doors to Main Street Bethlehem. It is a wonderful start to the Christmas season. As you walk through the gates of this ancient, bustling town, you will witness the sights, smells and sounds of the special night when Christ was born. You will stroll past the merchant stalls of bakers, basket weavers, potters, tent makers, live animals and more. The end of your journey will lead you to the darkened cave and lowly manger where the Christ child was born. It will be a joyous and meaningful experience that you and your family will not want to miss. Admission is free.

Connie Davidson

Bias

Dear Editor:
In the 10/22 issue, a letter complained about bias in the reporting of what he calls the "ordinary" gifting of wildly expensive items to conservative justices, and he states that liberal judges are on an equal footing with the conservatives with regard to the generosity of their donors. What he missed entirely is that the issue is specifically with two justices, Alito and Thomas, accepting these sorts of things and never reporting them. Any judge who has accepted the

kinds of vacations that Alito has, or motorhomes and purchases of homes for a parent and education for a nephew that Thomas has, fails to report them, and hears cases involving these same individuals, has created an environment of suspicion that their ruling might not be entirely unbiased. Reporting things that are received, and appropriately recusing themselves from cases involving the donors, is the right thing to do, and these two have repeatedly not done it.

Cathlynn Groh
Santa Fe, N.M.

Animal welfare

Dear Editor:
Politicians love to pay lip service to animal welfare, and yet so few of them hold the position that would do most to relieve the suffering of our fellow creatures. That would be supporting increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For readers who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

Though the protein is currently sold in a handful of restaurants, it's prohibitively expensive to produce on a mass scale. More government support for cellular-agriculture development will help rectify this. Compassionate politicians, especially those working at the national level, should back efforts to transition away from animal husbandry.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Gas prices

Dear Editor:
Why is Pagosa Springs still lagging behind lower gas prices when most of the state is below \$3.00/gallon? How long will we be subjected to price gauging?

Patricia McMahon

Vermin?

Dear Editor:
In a speech Adolph Hitler said: "Nature is cruel; therefore we are also entitled to be cruel. When I send the flower of German youth into the steel hail of the next war... should I not also have the right to eliminate millions of an inferior race that multiplies like vermin?" He may have been referring to Jews in that speech, but his bloodthirsty beliefs also extended

■ See Letters A4

JIM GARRETT

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All letters must:

be submitted electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted, must not be in all capitals include the author's actual name, phone number and address

be 500 words or less

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

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

If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition up to three weeks prior to the election.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.



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Obituaries

Jenny Bell

Jenny Bell
Born 2/20/1940
Died 11/20/2023
There is not enough room in the paper to say how beautiful and wonderful she is.



So ...
Jenny has gone to be with her loving husband, Bobby.
She is loved and will be greatly missed.

Robert 'Robbie' John Naundorff Jr.

Robert "Robbie" John Naundorff Jr., died unexpectedly on Nov. 17, 2023. He was 40 years old.

Robbie married Michaela in 2005 and they welcomed their son, Robert John Naundorff III, in 2006. Robbie served in the United States Marine Corps from 2001-2005 and the Army 2010-2013. He had done several combat missions. He was medically retired from the Army on Sept. 11, 2013, due to injuries he sustained

in Afghanistan. After retirement, he pursued other interests. He was passionate about snowboarding and felt at "home" while on the mountain at Wolf Creek. He also especially enjoyed hunting with his friend Scott. Robbie loved the outdoors and hiking with his son and their dogs.



He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Robbie is survived by his wife, Michaela Naundorff; son Robert John Naundorff III; stepson Dean Little; his parents: Robert and Joyce Naundorff Sr.; sister Monique Naundorff; and his brothers: David, Dustin and Jonathan Naundorff.

Services for Robbie will be held at a later date.

Paul Carpino

Paul Carpino, 96, long-time resident of Pagosa Springs, passed away on Nov. 10, 2023, with his wife of nearly 74 years, Lorrie, by his side. Paul was born in Hartford, Conn., to

Sicilian immigrant parents. Paul served in the Navy in 1945 and sailed around the Arctic Circle and as far south as Antarctica. He later married Lorraine Colvert on Feb. 16, 1950, and immediately moved to Missoula, Mont., where they raised five children. Paul had just received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Montana, where he attended to receive his MA in social work, in late September for his amazing lifetime commitment for advocating welfare benefits for single mothers, the homeless, poverty-stricken individuals and the Native American population. He was also involved in various human rights organizations throughout Montana, Wyoming, Utah and across Colorado. One of his most amazing feats was to Run for Peace, running across the entire United States promoting peace and raising funds to send diplomats to Russia to promote peace between the



two countries. He also was a leader in the fight against the MX missile projects in Utah. His literary works are now in the University of Utah libraries. His years of activism can be accessed in the archives under the "Paul Carpino Papers" collection.

Later in life, Paul settled in Pagosa, and owned and operated Paul Carpino Realty for more than 25 years, concentrating on land in the Lost Valley of the San Juans. He dearly loved the mountains around Pagosa. Paul had an adventurous spirit and was an avid traveler, incorporating his understanding of other cultures and class structures in his daily lifestyle. He was a Navy veteran, smokejumper in Montana in the '50s, avid reader and swimmer, alpine and Nordic skier, marathon runner and hiker, and is mostly known for his daily fishing in Lake Pagosa.

He is survived by his wife, Lorrie (Yia Yia) and five children: Lynne (Dr. Rick Hutton), Cathy, Paul Jr. (Cinda), Betsy (Dr. Jim Pruitt), John (Luanne), local grandsons Trevor and Tyson Peterson, 13 additional grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

We miss you so much, Papa. Rest in peace. Please plant a tree or donate to your favorite charity in his name.

Medicare Open Enrollment to end Dec. 7

By Caryn Hill
San Juan Area Agency on Aging

The Medicare Open Enrollment period, which began Oct. 15, will end Dec. 7.

This means that Medicare beneficiaries must act soon if they wish to:

- Join, drop or switch to another Medicare Advantage plan or change drug coverage.
- Switch from Original Medicare

to a Medicare Advantage plan.

• Switch from one drug plan to another drug plan.
For those making changes, coverage starts on Jan. 1, 2024. Medicare drug plans (Part D) change every year, so all beneficiaries are encouraged to review their current drug plan to be sure they are enrolled in the most cost-effective plan available.

For those individuals enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, an additional open enrollment period runs

from Jan. 1 to March 31. During this period, Medicare Advantage Plan enrollees can:

- Switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Drop their Medicare Advantage Plan and return to Original Medicare. They will also be able to join a separate Medicare drug plan.

Coverage starts the first of the month after the new plan gets their request.

SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) Medicare coun-

selors are available to meet with beneficiaries and offer no-cost, unbiased assistance. Beneficiaries can also compare health and drug plans on medicare.gov.

SHIP counselors are available by appointment only; walk-ins are not available.

To make an appointment, please call (970) 264-0501, ext. 2. We offer both phone/virtual or in-person appointments. For in-person appointments, we are in the Pagosa Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Letters

Continued from A3

to homosexuals, the disabled, Communists, socialists, theologians, intellectuals, and basically everyone who opposed his regime.

Hitler enforced his barbarism by "weaponizing" the German judiciary and police. He created the "Secret State Police," better known by its German abbreviation, the "Gestapo," as his personal political police force. The Gestapo's mission was to "investigate and combat all attempts to threaten the state," meaning Hitler and the Nazi regime.

In a Veterans' Day speech, Donald Trump promised to "root out the Communists, Marxists, fascists, and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections," echoing his lie about a stolen election. He also encouraged his followers to view their fellow citizens as agents of evil: "Despite the hatred and anger of the radical left lunatics who want to destroy our country, we will make America great again. They'll do anything, whether legally or illegally, to destroy America and to destroy the American Dream. The threat from outside forces is far less sinister, dangerous and grave than the threat from within."

So, how would Trump implement his vengeance against his "enemies?" During an interview on Univision, journalist Enrique Acevedo asked Trump if he would weaponize the FBI and Justice Department on his opponents. "Yeah. If they do this, and they've already done it, but if they follow through on this, yeah, it could certainly happen in reverse," Trump told Acevedo. Trump's personal police force would not be as brutal as Hitler's Gestapo, but its mission is clearly the same.

In addition, a group of right-wing organizations has been tasked by the

Trump campaign to develop a plan for a second Trump term, dubbed "Project 2025," including draft executive orders that would deploy the military domestically under the Insurrection Act. That law authorizes the president to deploy the military for domestic law enforcement. Trump has publicly expressed regret about not deploying more federal force to police the country during his first term and said he would not hesitate to do so in the future.

It is no wonder that Trump idolizes dictators like Putin, Kim, Xi, Orban, and Erdogan, since they represent his dream, an intolerant ruler unrestrained by law, a constitution, the truth, and even basic respect for all citizens. I ask my Republican friends, is Trump's sinister vision for an authoritarian regime based on retribution against his opponents really your vision? Is a nation with a political police force to enforce the leader's impulses really what you want us to become? Is this what really will make America great again?

John Porco

Constitution classes

Dear Editor:

According to an old joke, a patron goes into a library and asks for a copy of the French Constitution, only to be told the library does not stock periodicals. Since the French Revolution Era in 1791, France has had 16 different constitutions with the current being established in 1958. The University of Chicago estimates the average lifespan of written constitutions is 17 years since the time the U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1787. The U.S. Constitution is the oldest written constitution still in use today having lasted more than 236 years.

What then makes the U.S. Constitution so durable? The answer is in the principles drafted into our national documents. George Mason, author of the Bill of Rights said it best, "No free government, nor the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by frequency recurrence to fundamental principles."

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence has the four essential principles the hold our freedoms firmly in place:

1. Self-evident Truths: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal,"
2. Endowed by their Creator: "that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,"
3. The Pursuit of Happiness: "that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;"
4. Consent of the Governed: "that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers for the consent of the governed..."

The American Revolution was liberty with God and it led to the most successful nation in history. The French Revolution was liberty without God and it led to the guillotine, total chaos and no foundation for governmental stability.

The normal model of government in 1776 was based on the idea that power flowed from God to the King to the people. The American model of government reversed the last two so that power flows from God directly to "we the people" and then power is given to government only as "we

the people" deem appropriate. The principles affirmed in the Declaration of Independence are based on the premise that if government does not give us our freedom, then government cannot take it away.

These excerpts were taken from recent Patriots Academy Constitution classes. Mr. Schjolin is planning to start new classes in January in Pagosa. The classes are 2 hours long, one evening a week and I encourage all to attend!

Jamie Scholl

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Business

Pagosa Springs Medical Center approved as Enterprise Zone contribution project

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) was approved in October for an additional Enterprise Zone Contribution Project by the Colorado Economic Development Commission.

Funds raised through the Dr. Mary Fisher Foundation will help support PSMC with the renovation of its newly acquired building to expand the medical center and add new service lines over the next five years, as well as with needed equipment

upgrades.

This designation allows donors of \$250 or more to claim a 25 percent state tax credit and a 12.5 percent state tax credit on in-kind donations. This credit is in addition to the federal tax deduction for contributing to any 501(c)(3) organization.

"Being approved as an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project substantially increases the number of donations that we receive to support the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, the only hospital and ambulance service in rural Archuleta County," said PSMC CEO Rhonda P. Webb, M.D. "We are grateful

for Region 9 and the Colorado Economic Development Commission for their support."

There are currently 32 EZ projects designated in Southwest, including one for PSMC that expires Dec. 31, 2023.

A list of eligible Enterprise Zone projects and program information is available at www.region9edd.org/contribution-tax-credits. For more information about PSMC's Enterprise Zone projects or to donate, please contact Jodi Scarpa, manager of community relations and foundation department, at (970) 507-3811.

Region 9 Economic Development District receives award from National Association of Development Organizations

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado has received a 2023 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the integration of Southwest Colorado regional organizations project.

The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

In January 2022, Region 9 and the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments began their integration to work under one organizational umbrella. Today, all staff are under Region 9, and there is a single board of directors. All this has resulted in improved program delivery and organizational efficiencies, which has led to this national recognition.

"The current leadership on both boards of directors deserves recognition for taking this risk into the unknown and trusting that the result will improve services in our region," said Region 9 Executive Director Laura Lewis Marchino. "It is not every

day that organizations and boards can overcome political concerns and choose collaborate at a genuine level."

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO's 2023 Annual Training Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 7-10. The 2023 class of award recipients consists of 71 organizations spanning 28 states. For more about these projects, visit nado.org/2023-impact-award-recipients.

"NADO's Impact Awards program provides a yearly opportunity for us to publicly commend the indispensable services delivered by our members to their local communities," said 2022-2023 NADO President Chris Fetzter,

executive director of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, located in Flagstaff, Ariz. "These projects not only made positive impacts in their respective regions, but also underscore the incredible diversity of programs and resources offered by regional development organizations that promote vibrant, resilient and thriving communities."

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Wohlbruck, who served as NADO's first executive director for 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

Chamber to co-host public health meeting for restauranteurs on Dec. 5

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area
Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce will co-host a meeting with the new Archuleta County Public Health Department for restaurant and food truck owners on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m. at Rosie's Pizzeria in the Country Center Plaza.

The Chamber has been receiving questions from the restaurants concerning the transition of licensing and facility inspections from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) to the Archuleta County Public Health Department scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 2024.

Although the restaurants should have received guidelines from SJBPH, the Chamber and the new public health department think this a perfect opportunity to gather all the food industry professionals into one meeting so everyone gets the same information at the same time. They can also meet the county's new public health staff.

In addition to the Archuleta County Public Health Department and SJBPH, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will be in attendance.

There will also be time for the businesses to ask questions and find out current protocols and the new

renewal deadlines.

This is also a much-needed opportunity for the food service sector to join together and share any concerns within their industry.

Thanks to the Healthy Archuleta organization, Spanish translators will be on hand to help interpret the meeting or ask questions on behalf of business owners.

The Chamber will be there to facilitate the meeting and note any issues that might lead to future sector gatherings.

If you cannot attend the meeting, notes will be taken and can be provided.

Questions can be directed to Mary Jo Coulehan, Chamber executive director, at (970) 264-2360 or director@pagosachamber.com.

Cast your vote for Holiday Lighting Contest

The annual Holiday Lighting Contest is underway until Dec. 17.

The contest is broken out into three categories: residential, commercial, and store front.

You can cast your vote in each of the categories. The easiest way to access the map of the locations and the voting ballot is to download the Town of Pagosa Springs Visitor app. Once you download the app, go to "Tours" and the "Holiday Lighting Tour." From there, you can get the

addresses of the lighted locations, a map and the voting form. However, you can only vote once from your email address.

This is a fun, inexpensive way to view the beauty of Pagosa Springs as it lights up for the holiday season while seeing the community. Children and adults will love the creativity, color and sparkle that our residents and businesses have put into decorating their facilities and homes.

Upcoming activities

Don't miss two fun activities coming up.

The first is the Festival of Trees slated for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

The public viewing is Nov. 30 from noon until 6 p.m. Santa will be in attendance from 3 to 6 p.m. You will also be able to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate.

For \$1 per vote, you can cast your ballot for your favorite decorated tree. Remember that all proceeds benefit the nonprofit agencies that have entered into the Festival of Trees.

On Friday evening, Dec. 1, starting at 5:30 p.m., come to the Festival of Trees auction. You can still vote for your favorite tree and then will have the opportunity to purchase a tree. While enjoying the voting and spectating process, listen to live music and enjoy delicious food and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30 and available at the

Ross Aragon Community Center.

Two weeks until the adventure raffle

There are only two weeks left until the drawing for the Adventure Raffle prizes, which will be pulled at the Old-Fashioned Christmas on Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

There are a total of five packages including the Kona Mountain e-bike, an Alpaca raft with paddles, air pump and two guided fishing trips, two chances to win Wolf Creek Ski passes and a year pass to The Springs Resort, and \$1,000 shopping spree to Ski and Bow Rack.

Tickets are 1 for \$5, three for \$10 and seven for \$20. They can be purchased at the Chamber or online at www.pagosachamber.com. Winners will be contacted and posted on the Chamber's website within 24 hours of the prizes being pulled.

You can't win if you don't enter. These could be some very nice Christmas presents. Join the excitement.

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County approves septic regulations, agreement with La Plata County

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) regulations and an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with La Plata County for the delivery of public health services at its Nov. 21 meeting.

Water Quality Manager Kevin Torrez presented the OWTS regulations, adding that the county is currently ready to take on land use reviews and will begin accepting applications on Jan. 1, 2024.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked if the regulations "mirror" the regulations implemented by San Juan

Basin Public Health (SJBPH).

Torrez confirmed this, adding that the county will amend the regulations "as we see fit" in the future.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked if the fees are the same as those charged by SJBPH.

Torrez explained that they are the same currently, although the county could potentially revise these fees in the future.

The BoCC then moved to approve the OWTS regulations, with the regulations coming into effect on Jan. 1, 2024, and land use reviews beginning immediately.

At the meeting, the board also approved an IGA with La Plata County, which Public Health Director Ashley Wilson explained is the "first step"

in establishing shared public health programs with La Plata County.

She stated that the programs to be shared with La Plata County currently include a dental health program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), although she added that the number of programs could expand in the future.

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County holds 2024 budget hearings

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

In hearings on Nov. 6, Nov. 9, Nov. 13 and Nov. 15, the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners (BoCC) heard 2024 budget presentations from county departments and offices, and discussed the contents of the 2024 budget.

In an interview with The SUN, County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the changes and requests discussed at the hearings would be compiled and the totals would be presented to the BoCC at its Dec. 5 meeting.

Following this, Woodman indicated that the commissioners will submit their comments on what elements should be cut to make up the approximately \$3 million gap expected between revenues and

expenditures.

The BoCC will then consider a finalized version of the budget at its Dec. 19 meeting, Woodman indicated.

Across the budget hearings, there were several common issues and changes brought up across departments, including the addition of funding for overtime pay in many departments, efforts to right-size budgets for county cellphones and phone allowances, and shifting funds between training and travel line items to recognize the fact that the costs of training are often less than the cost of travel to trainings.

This article covers the hearings from Nov. 13 and Nov. 15 chronologically.

The previous hearings, including discussions of Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and the

public health department budgets, were covered in the Nov. 23 issue of The SUN.

Road and Bridge

The Road and Bridge Department budget was presented by Public Works Director Mike Torres.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$7,647,068, and \$12,072,324 in expenses and capital outlay.

Torres noted the income produced by the application of magnesium chloride to roads in neighborhoods that would not otherwise receive it, as well as the income generated by the county applying gravel for privately funded road improvements, such as the road improvements associated with Sombrilla Springs Events and Escapes on

County Road (CR) 326.

He explained that the cost of magnesium chloride continues to rise and that the average daily traffic (ADT) required for treatment will likely be 200 vehicles this year.

Treating the approximately 100 miles of county roads that would qualify with this ADT threshold would cost approximately \$500,000, Torres explained, while treating all roads would cost about \$1 million.

Following a discussion, the BoCC and Torres agreed that using a 175 ADT threshold might be suitable.

They also discussed that some roads only receive magnesium chloride treatment for part of their length. Commissioner Warren Brown commented that it might be better for "public opinion" to complete full roads.

■ See Budget A7

Initial funding decisions made for Southwest Colorado opioid settlement dollars

SouthWEST Opioid Response District

The SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD), Opioid Region 17, has determined allocations for the first two years of opioid abatement funds.

Opioid Region 17 is the geographic area including Archuleta, Dolores, Montezuma, La Plata and San Juan counties.

On, Nov. 8, the SWORD Council — consisting of 16 members including elected officials and subject matter experts — voted on a resolution to fund four major areas: building a recovery residence, putting aside funds for community and regional project grants, and consulting expenses.

The first funding allocation SWORD passed is to build a recovery

residence, comprising 63 percent of the first two years' total funding. This will be a physical location for individuals in recovery to live while they heal, develop skills and prepare to enter independent sober living.

"The recovery residence will follow guidelines set forth by SAMHSA and the Colorado Agency for Recovery Residences (CARR)," said SWORD Coordinator Clare West. "The goal is to provide a generational solution — one that will endure long after our lifetimes — by creating an immersive recovery ecosystem instead of providing short-term acute services."

At the November meeting, SWORD members also learned that CARR is slated to open four sober-living homes — two for men and two for women — across Montezuma and

La Plata counties by summer 2024. Sober living homes and recovery residences work in tandem to support individuals in recovery as they transition to healthy, independent living.

The second funding allocation SWORD approved shall allocate funds toward regional consulting services. This portion of funds will be used to cover staffing, consulting, travel and evaluation (tracking our impact).

The remaining 20 percent of funds will go directly into our communities, both at the regional and local levels, through a grant application process. Once the application is up and running, local entities will be able to request funding to expand and enrich local recovery needs.

"The goal is to provide our rural

communities with the individualized agency their remote locations require in addressing the opioid crisis," said West.

An additional 10 percent of the funds will be made available to regional entities to invest in strengthening regional infrastructure. Applications are not yet available, but are anticipated to open in early 2024.

For additional information or to learn more about SWORD, contact West by emailing west.claire@outlook.com.

Archuleta County Public Health Department, Chamber to hold restaurateur Q-and-A session on Dec. 5

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) and the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce will host local restaurateurs at Rosie's Pizzeria on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m. to give owners a chance to meet ACPHD's newly appointed environmental health specialist, Angelica Leslie.

Leslie will be handling health inspections for the county upon the department's Jan. 1, 2024, launch.

The meet and greet will include discussion regarding rules, regulations and permits for business owners who serve food in any capacity.

Recent constituent concerns about permit renewals and deadlines have come about, resulting in the scheduled meeting. Any operations associated with the handling of food

and food preparations will not only have the opportunity to meet Leslie, but also to gain insight from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's health inspection trainer, Cody Sprague, and SJBPH's current inspector, Aaron McDowell.

"We are happy to host an opportunity for restaurant owners to meet our new staff and ask questions," ACPHD Director Ashley Wilson stated. "We are glad to have a representative from CDPHE and SJBPH join us to ensure we can answer all questions."

Leslie and McDowell have been working hand in hand throughout the transition process.

ACPHD's health and food safety department's purpose is to train and teach business owners proper protocol and operations in order to follow state statute which includes mandatory sanitation maintenance,

cleanliness in food preparation, water sources and food storage, which are part of the regulatory items the department has to enforce.

In addition to educating business owners on these topics, Leslie will discuss the extended deadline for required yearly permits and their changing renewal deadlines due to the dissolution of SJBPH and subsequent opening of ACPHD.

Leslie comes to ACPHD from Pagosa Springs Medical Center, where she previously worked as a dietary supervisor. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Durango's Fort Lewis College, is Colorado Serv-Safe certified and has completed health-related courses at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in New York City.

For more information on this event, call the ACPHD office, (970) 264-8441 or visit archuletacounty.org.

Paid Family Leave Portal goes live for Colorado workers

Colorado Department
of Labor and Employment

The online portal where workers can start applying for paid family and medical leave under Colorado's new voter-approved insurance program is now up and running.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Division announced recently that the MyFAMLI+ portal will help Colorado workers apply for paid leave when it becomes available in January.

MyFAMLI+ allows workers to apply for partial wage replacement when they need to temporarily step away from their jobs because of life events such as welcoming a new child, facing a serious health condition or caring for a loved one facing a medical condition.

Paid leave becomes available for almost all Colorado workers on Jan. 1, 2024. Opening the application portal more than a month early will help those who know they will need paid leave as soon it becomes available for things like welcoming a new child or because they're planning a major

surgery for early next year.

To help everyone navigate the portal and get their questions answered about applying for FAMLI benefits, the FAMLI Division is putting on three statewide virtual town halls in English and Spanish in December, January and February at the dates and times below:

- Dec. 6:
English: 11 a.m. to noon.
Spanish: 3 to 4 p.m.
- Jan. 10, 2024:
English: 11 a.m. to noon.
Spanish: 3 to 4 p.m.
- February 1, 2024:
English: 11 a.m. to noon.
Spanish: 3 to 4 p.m.

Registration, streaming and dial-in details are available at https://famli.colorado.gov/resources/famli-events?utm_medium=govdelivery&utm_source=email.

The FAMLI Division started collecting premiums and wage reports at the beginning of 2023 to prepare for the release of benefit payments next year.

The division is led by Tracy Marshall, a registered nurse for over 25

years who is board certified as both a case manager and disability management specialist.

"We're proud to give Colorado workers a best-in-class user portal to give them the support they need when facing a major life event," Marshall said. "Not only does MyFAMLI+ provide Colorado workers a stress-free application process, it also allows health care providers to certify their patients' claims all online, reducing the paperwork and processing times."

For more details, check out famli.colorado.gov to find how-to videos, a user guide, webinars and FAQs to help workers, employers and health care providers navigate the program.

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Budget

Continued from A6

Torres agreed, although he emphasized that some roads would still likely only be treated partially due to steep drop-offs in road usage at certain points.

He also pointed out that magnesium chloride application takes a substantial amount of time and that other tasks get delayed while it is applied.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez suggested that Road and Bridge operations are also hindered by the taxes for the Road and Bridge Department not having been recently increased.

Brown proposed that the budget for magnesium chloride application be increased, adding that the county should make efforts to do more extensive public education on why roads are selected for magnesium chloride treatment or not.

He noted the "growing expectation of the public" for additional magnesium chloride treatment and, following more discussion, the group agreed to increase the magnesium chloride budget to \$575,000 from \$550,000 to allow for additional road treatment.

Torres explained that the budget also includes \$150,000 for pothole repair, funding for road line painting — including fog lines on some roads — and \$84,000 for gravel acquisition.

Moving on to the road capital improvement funds, Torres stated that revenues have declined due to lessened sales tax revenues.

He indicated that the budget includes \$135,000 for engineering and \$6 million for construction for paving projects.

Torres then presented the commissioners with the proposed list of road projects, which Woodman indicated in an interview with The SUN focuses on the repair and upkeep of currently paved county roads.

Torres noted that he is using a one-year plan for road improvements this year until the county can "build up" to a five-year plan.

He explained that the budget includes \$250,000 for pavement maintenance as well as \$500,000 for bridge capital outlay, including the replacement of the Pagosa Junction bridge and the potential relocation of the temporary bridge to CR 326 to address culvert problems there.

Fleet

The fleet budget was presented by Fleet Manager Waylon Sutton.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$1,882,735, and \$2,558,498 in expenses and capital outlay.

Sutton explained that the budget includes funding for a new staff member, which Woodman noted could potentially perform repairs at other locations, such as the ACSO offices.

Sutton indicated that the budget includes money for an on-call phone for fleet in addition to funds to add GPS tracking on vehicles.

He also noted that the budget includes a 39 percent increase in costs for new vehicle acquisitions over the 2023 budget (from \$566,000 in 2023 to \$789,000 in 2024), including a replacement truck for the transfer station, an additional motor grader, a replacement small dump truck and various staff vehicles.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department budget was presented by Torres and indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$1,227,500, and \$2,186,397 in expenses and capital outlay.

Torres indicated that the budget contains funds to cover software expenses at the landfill in addition to a new landfill employee.

He added that the budget contains \$1.5 million for the construction of cell 4B at the landfill and \$200,000 to fund the acquisition of a tool barn and the relocation of the Pagosa transfer station from CR 500 to a site on Cloman Boulevard.

Combined Dispatch Center

The dispatch budget was presented by Emergency Communications Director Devin Moffat.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have no revenues and \$1,417,014 in expenses.

Moffat stated that overtime hours in 2023 have been high due to unfilled positions and that the budget includes funding to shift one part-time dispatcher position to full-time.

He added that the budget will support buying uniforms for dispatch center staff, as well as containing \$10,000 in funding for the acquisition of a new vehicle for dispatch.

Buildings and Grounds

This portion of the draft budget was presented by Maintenance Tech-

nician Daniel Matyniak.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$51,440, and \$875,083 in expenses and capital outlay.

Matyniak stated that grant revenues are expected to be up in 2024 and that wages have risen due to the proposed addition of a new supervisor position.

He indicated that he would be moving into the supervisor role and that a new technician would be hired.

He added that the budget added a line item for on-call pay and that Transportation Director Kevin Bruce is working on implementing a tracking system for building maintenance, although the project has encountered delays.

Matyniak stated that the budget includes increased janitorial services funding since the number of county buildings will increase in 2024.

He indicated that the budget contains \$42,000 for the repair of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) roof in addition to funding for repairs for the public works building and potential upgrades to the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension building.

Maez asked which projects are top priority and Matyniak commented that the public works and EOC roofs are most critical.

Woodman pointed out the importance of the county investing in its infrastructure, and Maez commented that he finds infrastructure improvement requests more important than requests by other departments.

Information Technology/ GIS

The information technology (IT)/GIS portion of the draft budget was presented by IT Director Gabe Cersonsky and indicates the department is expected to have revenues totaling \$164,518 and \$864,445 in expenses.

Cersonsky explained that the budget includes funding to promote a GIS staff member to a supervisory position.

He stated that IT professional services expenses are up due to the needs of the new health department and preparations for a new county administration building.

The budget also includes \$70,000 in funding for the potential transfer of the assessor's and treasurer's software to the cloud, Cersonsky noted.

Following Cersonsky highlighting that a three-year renewal on county antivirus software will save the county about \$10,000 over three years, the BoCC and Cersonsky discussed if all county departments should consult with IT when acquiring software, which Cersonsky expressed limited support for.

He then noted that the budget includes increased copier expenses due to the new public health department in addition to an increased training budget.

CSU Extension

The CSU Extension budget was presented by CSU Extension Director Robin Young.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$16,500 and \$236,383 in expenses.

Young noted that the pace of rentals for the Extension building is

increasing.

The group also discussed the potential addition of a fair manager to Young's staff, with Young asking a range of questions about the logistics of such an addition and noting that the addition is not included in the present budget.

Young also indicated that the cost of program materials is budgeted lower in 2024.

Senior services

The senior services portion of the draft budget was presented by Woodman and involves uncertain amounts of revenues and expenditures for 2024 due to the department being new and still in development.

Woodman explained that Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) had \$280,000 in funding from the county included in the 2024 commissioners' budget and that increasing wages for Pagosa Senior Center staff to match county levels and providing benefits would cost approximately \$575,000 in total.

"It's gonna be expensive," Maez commented, adding that he did not see how this would not be "doable."

Commissioner Veronica Medina noted the potential benefits of the department providing meals in Arboles and stated that she still wants answers to questions she previously asked, such as how many meals the center currently serves and the breakdown of the meals for town versus county residents.

The BoCC also stated its desire to involve the Town of Pagosa Springs in funding the Senior Center, such as by not charging the \$37,350 the town is expected to charge the center in 2024 for rental of its building space.

Brown stated that he wants to "give the opportunity to collectively take on this challenge."

Medina highlighted the potential for Senior Center services to expand with the costs of the center's salaries shifting to the county, and Brown noted that the county could potentially secure a favorable food purchasing deal given its bulk food acquisitions for the jail and center.

Woodman said of the budget and integration with ASI, "There's a lot that happens with the seniors that we just don't know."

He stated that he supports moving forward with the transfer and seeking increased collaboration with the town, adding that the transfer would also include extending county Internet to the Senior Center and potentially moving veterans' services to this location.

Maez and Medina also expressed support for moving forward with the transition, although Brown commented that he would find it difficult to cut extensively in other departments and deny requests while the county is taking on this expense and urged the commissioners to be "mindful" of this consideration.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department draft budget was presented by Human Resources Director Mitzi Bowman and indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$90,835 and \$301,739 in expenses.

Bowman pointed out that some county employees were "disap-

pointed" that the commissioners did not attend the employee picnic.

Maez responded by stating that the picnic is "for them," referring to county staff, and not for the commissioners.

Bowman replied that staff would "appreciate" commissioners going.

The commissioners then noted the range of commitments that made them miss the picnic and that staff must understand that commissioners have other engagements.

Bowman also pointed out that spending for human resources software will be lower in 2024 due to the elimination of the Rippling software the county attempted to transfer to.

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Board

Continued from front
knowledge and skills to the county and community.

"I think that anyone on the list could have done very well for us and been an asset on the board," Brown said. "I'm just so pleased and continually humbled... at the willingness of our citizenry to help us collectively."

Commissioner Ronnie Maez stated that all the applicants were "top notch," but added, "There's some things that set some off a little different from the other but ... what we gotta look at as commissioners is what's gonna be the best to get this started for Archuleta County."

He noted that BoH members are term-limited and that those who applied but were not selected could potentially have a seat on the board in the future.

"I am proud of this community," Maez said. "I really am. I'm proud of the people that have stepped up. I knew we could do it once we put our minds to it and get it goin', and I really am excited that Archuleta County has all these qualities and all these abilities in it to make this happen. Grateful

to the community."

Medina highlighted that Wilson stated that there might be other volunteer opportunities available for those not selected to serve on the BoH.

Wilson stated that the knowledge of the people who applied would continue to be helpful to the department whether they are on a formal committee or not.

She added that she looks forward to reaching out to the people who applied to ask for their assistance or knowledge as needed in the first year of the health department.

"I think it was a great turnout," Wilson said. "I was excited."

Medina noted that the BoCC decided to have a smaller board initially, but that this could change.

She then asked County Attorney Todd Weaver if the board having two commissioners on it at present would mean this would have to be true in the future.

Weaver stated that this could change and that there do not have to be any commissioners on the BoH.

He added that the primary restric-

tion on BoH structure in state law is that no organization or business entity can have a majority on the BoH.

Brown commented that he had heard constituent concerns on the makeup of the BoH and that, from his perspective, the primary goal of the BoH in its first year is to ensure that the department meets all requirements to "successfully get this off the ground."

"I think this first year is definitely gonna need a lot of hands on deck to get it done," Maez said. "Next year's another story."

"I feel like we're going to be off to a good start, and I think that the BoH will be a great supportive mechanism in the first year given all the people who applied," Wilson commented. "I mean, there's so much knowledge sitting there that ... I've never really had doubts, but now I know that we will do a great job because we will have the people needed and also back us up on decision making and conversation."

At the BoCC meeting later in the day, Brown moved to appoint himself and Medina to the BoH for the

remainder of their terms as commissioners and Bruss for a five-year term on the BoH, Foss for a four-year term and Cox for a three-year term.

Medina seconded the motion and Brown thanked all the applicants before the BoCC unanimously voted to approve the appointments.

In her interview, Cox highlighted her focus on improving access to care and her background in radiology.

She also noted her view that public health's primary role is managing and integrating health resources for the broader community.

In his interview, Bruss outlined his extensive background in public health and drug development, noting his belief that the initial BoH will be critical in guiding and assisting the new public health department.

In her interview, Foss highlighted her desire to be involved in public health in the community, as well as her background in substance abuse treatment and behavioral health.

She also highlighted her desire to create a health department that is supported by the community.

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Oxygen

Continued from front
generation as a need prior to the COVID pandemic, but had times during the pandemic where the facility had to keep a close eye on oxygen supply due to increased demand.

Webb explained to the board the grant is for up to \$507,581 and PSMC will receive the grant funds as it spends money on the project.

It was also noted during the meeting by PSMC staff that the grant requires a 50 percent match and PSMC can use a \$224,000 federal grant it previously received toward the matching amount.

The building will house equipment that will allow PSMC to generate oxygen to ensure that medical oxygen is immediately available to patients at the facility.

Webb and Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese previously explained that PSMC identified oxygen

generation as a need prior to the COVID pandemic, but had times during the pandemic where the facility had to keep a close eye on oxygen supply due to increased demand.

Webb and Bruzzese also previously explained that oxygen generation at a hospital is rare, pointing out that it occurs only in isolated areas like Alaska and Guam.

"The current source for oxygen is over 100 miles away with travel over a significant mountain pass that may pose a risk of delivery delay due to snowstorms and wildfires," DOLA's press release states.

"Our medical center is in a rural area and as a result, we face challenges to the timely delivery of tanked oxygen especially during harsh winter months," said Webb and Jodi Scarpa, manager of Community Relations and the Foundation De-

partment, via the press release. "The generous DOLA grant funding will allow us to construct a building and operationalize our oxygen generation equipment to provide a sustainable, steady supply of oxygen for patient care."

The district previously put the construction of the project out to bid, but received only one bid that was above budget.

On Tuesday, Bruzzese and Webb noted the district again put the project out for bid and is opting to go with Nunn Construction, who will also be the contractor for PSMC's Medical Wellness Building next summer, lowering the cost.

Webb noted that the bid was 60 percent of what the previous bid received was, and Bruzzese indicated Nunn's bid was \$518,000, not including possible add-ons like backup

generation. The facilities report presented at the meeting states the timeline of construction for the building will be late spring or summer of 2024.

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Study

Continued from front
cerns about if the 2 percent customer growth projections included in the study would be met in future years

They further noted their desires to find options to reduce the impact of the increased costs on the district's ratepayers by distributing increases across all users of the district and by limiting increases to only what is necessary to maintain the district's financial health.

Following a wide-ranging two-hour discussion, District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey summarized the changes requested by the board and solicited their opinions on potential changes to prepare for the December meeting, where the board will hold a vote on the rate increases.

Ramsey began with the rate multiplier for STRs.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson expressed support for moving forward with the 1.4-times wastewater rate multiplier (meaning that an STR would pay 1.4 times the rate that a non-STR customer with the same amount of equivalent units pays) based on winter water use that Malesky proposed.

He added that the board could examine changes in this rate next year, such as a multiplier based on AirDNA occupancy data that PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh proposed during the preceding discussion.

PAWSD board chair Jim Smith and board member Gene Tautges expressed support for this proposal.

Walsh stated that he would support this as well, although he added that he would want a 1.4 multiplier applied to STR capital contributions as well.

He suggested that this arrangement would mirror what the Upper

Blue Sanitation District in Breckenridge, which has implemented a multiplier for STRs, does.

Ramsey then covered septic hauler increases, with Hudson, Walsh and Smith expressing support for the increases occurring at the same rate as fees for PAWSD ratepayers and Tautges expressing opposition to this proposal due to differences in what PAWSD services septic haulers benefit from.

Tautges added that, in addition to not benefiting from all PAWSD services, septic haulers would also likely be the first to be "cut out" of the PAWSD system if it becomes overloaded.

In response to a question from Hudson, Tautges indicated that septic hauler rates increasing in step with rates for customers would be "not equitable."

Earlier in the meeting, during discussion on this issue, Tautges advocated for septic hauler rate increases being lower than those for customers.

"So, that'll be a debate issue that you guys will have to decide on," Ramsey said, adding that Tautges should be prepared to debate the matter in December.

Walsh proposed that the ideal rate for waste haulers might consider the amount of wastewater treatment expenses that the district will face in upcoming years while factoring out increases in wastewater collection expenses.

He added that he felt this number would be "very close" to the base rate increase, stating that the majority of the cost increases are driven by regulatorily mandated treatment upgrades, not by wastewater collection issues.

Ramsey and Hudson pointed out that the district is mandated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to spend

approximately \$1 million a year addressing inflow and infiltration problems in the system, which fall under collection expenses.

Walsh commented that using the same increase for all customers seems "really fair to me."

Ramsey then covered increases in availability fees, with Walsh and Hudson indicating support for increasing wastewater availability fees in step with rate increases.

Walsh added that increases in availability fees for water might be "more complicated" due to the water rates increasing more slowly than the water capital investment fees and debt in the water fund.

Ramsey and Business Manager Aaron Burns recommended that General Manager Renee Lewis perform additional research on what availability fee increases could be justified and share those results with Stantec to guide their final rate study presentation at the December meeting.

Ramsey added that the board would have the opportunity to "tweak" the rate study at that meeting prior to voting on it.

The rate study will be considered further at the PAWSD board's Dec. 14 regular meeting, which will be followed by a public hearing on the rate increases in January 2024.

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Town nears finish line on 2024 budget

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Nov. 16, Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte presented the latest version of the 2024 budget to the Pagosa Springs Town Council with incoming Town Manager David Harris by his side.

It was the first public hearing of this year's budget season.

The biggest change in the document reflects the council's desire to raise the pay rates of town employees to above the median pay rate, to 105 percent of the market median.

Schulte explained that the intent for the presentation at the

meeting was to give the council "an updated document and provide for public comment" on the proposed budget.

He added that the updated numbers in the General Fund are the product of bringing pay rates up to the 105 percent level and raising the cost-of-living adjustment up to 4.5 percent. The numbers also show that the town would need to spend \$173,000 into reserves in order to put into action the council's desire to support attracting and retaining employees.

He explained that this reserve level of spending comes even after the council decided, earlier in the

meeting, to do away with the Pagosa Springs Police Department's "step-pay program" since pay rates would be raised up front in the new budget proposal.

As far as the Capital Improvement Fund, Schulte explained that the town would be spending less into reserves than it did last year.

In the current 2024 budget draft, the fund shows reserve spending at the \$138,000 level, whereas in the 2023 budget the town spent \$182,000 into reserves, he noted.

This latest version of the budget reflected "the priority changes" that the council wanted to see, Schulte explained.

He added that his staff "sent this out to all departments one last time, and we made a few tweaks, here and there, but what you are seeing is consistent with the direction we got from the town council."

Nobody from the public signed up to make comments on the proposed budget during the public hearing.

The next public hearing on the new budget is slated for Dec. 5.

The latest budget draft can be found on the town's website, pagosaprices.co.gov, under the "2024 Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan" tab on the site's main page.

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Town council OKs grant application to reconstruct sidewalk near middle school

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At a Nov. 16 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved a resolution to submit a Revitalizing Main Street Grant application. If awarded, the town would use the grant funding for sidewalk reconstruction along Pagosa Street, adjacent to the Pagosa Springs Middle School building.

The Pagosa Springs Main Street Advisory Board (PSMSB) spearheaded the idea to revitalize this section of sidewalk, but since the PSMSB acts as an advisory board for the town, the town will need to be the official applicant for the grant, as well as the fiscal sponsor for the grant application, states agenda documentation on the matter.

The town stands to receive up to \$250,000 for the project, but the grant would require a 10 percent match obligation if awarded.

The PSMSB has already promised to put \$7,500 toward the 10 percent match, which it received from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in the form of a mini-grant for becoming an official member of the state's Main Street program earlier in the year.

If awarded the full amount, the

total match obligation would be \$27,700, which would leave the town on the hook for \$20,200 after PSMSB's \$7,500 is applied.

This money "would be expensed from the Town's main street reconstruction budget" and "would result in \$190,000 in savings for the expected improvement items" if incorporated into Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) main street reconstruction project slated for 2024 and 2025, states agenda documentation.

CDOT's main street reconstruction project plans to improve only about 8 percent of this sidewalk section, but if the town pays for the remainder, which the grant would enable, then the entire section near the school could be revitalized, according to agenda documentation.

The plans include complete sidewalk reconstruction in the area; new street lights with hanging flower baskets; replacement of planters and trees along the corridor; bear-proof trash cans; and the installation of new benches, a bus shelter and a bike service station with a bike rack.

PSMSB members expressed concern with the current state of this section of sidewalk, citing trip hazards, like the square concrete planters,

an uneven sidewalk surface and the drainage that sends runoff toward the school building, rather than away.

"A portion of the sidewalk is located on the School District property, and this portion of the sidewalk slopes towards the school building, which needs to be corrected for better drainage," states agenda documentation.

The Archuleta School District superintendent has provided a letter of support for the grant application and the proposed improvements on their property and has agreed to irrigate the new trees and street light planter baskets, according to agenda documentation.

At the meeting, Community Development Director James Dickhoff said that "the entire sidewalk really does need to be replaced."

"Right now, it's in poor shape. It drains all towards the school building," he said, explaining how the town hopes to incorporate this into the larger main street reconstruction.

Dickhoff explained that the new trees would have tree wells "with flush iron grates, so that there's no longer trip hazards on those tree wells."

He also noted the town is looking at a "solar-powered bike service station" with an air compressor for

"blowing up tires" and some "chained down" bike tools. He explained the bike racks for bicycle storage as "those hooped bike racks that we have in the parks."

He explained that the engineering estimate for the grant application was prepared by local firm Davis Engineering, saying "the grant requires it to be a shovel-ready project."

He added that the town is comfortable making the case that it has "plenty of time to finish the engineering for the design of the sidewalk" since it hopes to align the project with CDOT's plans for the area, breaking ground in the spring of 2024.

Mayor Shari Pierce said, "I just want to say that this is a perfect example of what a Main Street project can be, and just taking this little area and making it more vibrant."

She gave a nod to Main Street board member Rosanna Dufour, who spearheaded the idea, for her efforts to "help the kids feel better about their school," saying, "It's just gonna make that area of main street look really nice, so I'm excited for this."

When a motion was made to approve the submittal of the grant, it was approved unanimously by the council.

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Commissioners approve animal shelter agreement, raise concerns about costs

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 21 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved an animal shelter management and services agreement with the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs.

The agreement was previously discussed at the Nov. 8 BoCC work session, where the board raised concerns about the overall cost increase in the new agreement and certain provisions of the agreement.

At the Nov. 21 meeting, County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the agreement provides terms

and conditions for providing shelter for stray, impounded or surrendered animals in the county.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez noted that the agreement contains a "considerable increase" in costs compared to last year and that he hoped the county would not see another similar increase next year.

Woodman explained that the cost of the agreement to the county increased by \$20,000 to \$90,000.

Commissioner Veronica Medina added that the agreement also contains increased fees and suggested that the county should put the shelter agreement out to bid next year.

Commissioner Warren Brown

expressed agreement, commenting, "I strongly support the Humane Society. What I do not support are large incremental requests for additional funding one year after the next. Potentially, possibly they did not ask for enough funding in the past, but we can't make it up all at once and there has to be some understanding."

Brown added that he would like to put the contract out to bid next year to ensure "we're keeping this competitive and the price in check for the citizens."

Maez commented that he agreed with Medina and Brown.

The board then unanimously approved the agreement.

Dictionaries

Continued from front plus annually for high school scholarships, providing manpower and resources for the needed Backpack Program, picking up highway trash, placing benches for those awaiting public transportation, endowing teacher mini-grants to defray their expenses, donating monies and items to the Food Pantry, helping fund the Geothermal Greenhouse Project, hosting foreign students for the Student Exchange Program, plus send-

ing local students to study abroad, funding expenses for high school students to attend leadership training program and assisting the town with the Fourth of July Parade. It is rewarding, fun and, in some cases, life-changing.

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Outdoors

BLM to hold public meetings for proposed changes to Big Game Habitat Conservation Resource Management Plan

Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado State Office is seeking public input on a resource management plan amendment and draft environmental impact statement to consider an amendment to oil and gas decisions in existing BLM Colorado resource management plans to promote conservation of big game high-priority habitat.

Big game is an essential ingredient in the Colorado way of life, and BLM Colorado recognizes the need to ensure productive wildlife habitat on public lands.

A notice of action was published on Nov. 9, beginning a 90-day public scoping period (<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-welcomes-comments-draft-plan-big-game-habitat-conservation-colorado>).

The BLM will hold two virtual meetings and three in-person meetings in Colorado to provide information and answer questions regarding this amendment. The public meetings will help attendees learn about the plan amendment and formulate written submissions for the BLM before the comment period ends on Feb. 7, 2024.

The in-person meetings will feature a brief presentation and an open-house format, with BLM specialists available at information stations to interact with meeting attendees to provide answers or additional information.

Oral comments will not be accepted at the in-person meetings, but laptops and printed comment cards will be available for submitting comments on-site.

The virtual meetings will include a presentation from the BLM, a question-and-answer session, and an oral public comment session.

To register for a virtual or in-person public meeting, please visit the project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xzXxY>.

The virtual public meetings are scheduled to occur on the dates and times below:

- Dec. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The in-person meetings will be:

- Durango: Dec. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Durango Public Library, 1900 E. 3rd Ave.
- Craig: Dec. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Pavilion, 750 E. 4th St.
- Rifle: Dec. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, 715 Megan Ave.

For comments to be considered, the BLM must receive them by Feb. 7, 2024. Comments can be provided in the following ways:

- Attend a public meeting. Virtual meetings will include an oral comment session and in-person meetings will have laptops and comment cards available for written comments.
- Submit your comments electronically via the project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xzXxY>.
- Mail your comments to: BLM Colorado State Office, Attn: Big Game Corridor Amendment/EIS, Denver Federal Center, Building 40, Lakewood, CO, 80225.

Peyton Jackson earns Eagle Scout rank

By Jennifer Walterscheid
Scout Troop 807

Peyton Jackson, 16, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on Nov. 1. Peyton is the son of West and Sarah Jackson and has three sisters: Emma, Bella and Cora.

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout is an honor that will be carried with him throughout his life and is just another example of where he has applied dedication and hard work. He is gracious with his knowledge and skills to help those around him and demonstrates the Scout Law and Scout Oath in every aspect of his life. In looking for the next challenge and approaching everything with a positive attitude, he serves as an example to those around him.

He is a member of Troop 807 of the Great Southwest Council, located in Pagosa Springs. Troop 807 is chartered with Grace in Pagosa Church and supported by the Community United Methodist Church.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must complete requirements for six prior ranks and earn at least 21 merit badges. Of those, 14 are required to achieve Eagle Scout rank, then the scout must earn an additional seven (or more) badges of his or her choosing. Learning leadership skills and performing acts of community service prepares the scout to conduct a community service project, known as the Eagle Project.

Peyton has earned 24 merit badges so far and completed his Eagle Project in May 2023.

Over the course of multiple build days, he managed volunteers who built 162 bird houses for the community. Of those, 82 were placed on Reservoir Hill and locations around the San Juan River in Pagosa Springs. The remaining 80 bird houses were donated to members of the community.

Through the support of his family, friends, community members and his fellow scouts, along with his own dedication, Peyton joins an elite group of scouts.



Photo courtesy Jennifer Walterscheid

Peyton Jackson achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on Nov. 1.

BLM Southwest District offering permits to cut your own Christmas tree

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southwest District is offering Christmas tree cutting permits for sale online at <https://forestproducts.blm.gov/> and at BLM Southwest District offices Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The BLM accepts cash, credit card, or check. Permits are valid for piñon pines or junipers. Information regarding authorized cutting areas is provided upon purchase.

"The BLM is excited to once again offer the opportunity for families and friends to get outside on their public lands and select their own Christmas tree," said Southwest District Manager Stephanie Connolly. "Please remember to follow BLM cutting

guidelines and safety precautions when harvesting your tree."

Permits can be purchased online or from any of these BLM Southwest District offices:

- BLM Gunnison Field Office: \$10 (Nov. 20 through Dec. 25). The office is located at 2500 E. New York Ave. in Gunnison and can be reached by calling (970) 642-4940.

- Dolores Public Lands Office, BLM Tres Rios Field Office: \$8 (Nov. 20 through Dec. 24). The office is located at 29211 Highway 184 in Dolores and can be reached by calling (970) 882-7296.

- Montrose Public Lands Center, BLM Uncompahgre Field Office: \$8 (Nov. 18 through Dec. 24). The office is located at 2505 S. Townsend Ave. in Montrose and can be reached by

calling (970) 240-5300.

Permit holders are required to keep their permit with them while cutting and attach it to their tree prior to transporting. The BLM recommends bringing along a hand saw, eye protection, rope or twine, food, water, and blankets when you cut your tree. Tire chains, a shovel and emergency supplies are also recommended. Remember to monitor weather conditions and let someone know where you will be and when to expect you back.

For more information on cutting a Christmas tree on BLM-managed public lands, please visit <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/forests-and-woodlands/forest-product-permits/colorado-christmas-trees>.



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Education

Wings Early Childhood Center celebrates Thanksgiving

By Donna Mosher
Wings Early Childhood Center

"What are you thankful for?" sang the children of Wings Early Childhood Center on Wednesday, Nov. 22, as a sort of grace before a pre-Thanksgiving feast with their parents. "I am thankful for my family. I'm thankful for my friends. I'm thankful for the things I have. The thankfuls never end," concluded the youngsters between 3 and 5. The centerpiece on the table was a long paper chain, which their preschool teacher Gabbi called a gratitude chain. All month, she explained, the children shared things they were grateful for, and they were written on the chain along with their names. Their gratitudes included mommies and daddies, grandmas and grand-

pas, dogs, cats and even a dinosaur. After singing their grace, the kids tucked into a lunch of turkey sliders with green beans and apple slices. Some of the more adventurous ones sampled turkey meatballs with cranberry sauce. (Parents polished off the meatballs.) Younger children in the toddler and wobbler classes celebrated Thanksgiving with their parents in their classrooms. The gratitude chain also shows how something long can be made from many small pieces. The children pasted together the ends of strips of paper to make circles in a way that formed a long chain reaching across their classroom. Maybe, just maybe, they will someday see how the chain of paper circles symbolizes the chain of friends who make up their social network.



Photo courtesy Wings Early Childhood Center
Students and their families celebrated Thanksgiving with gratitude and a meal on Nov. 22.

Middle school announces first-quarter honor roll

By Anjelica Gallegos
Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School has announced that the following students made the honor roll for the first quarter.

Fifth grade

A Honor Roll: Jacob Adams, Grant Bliss, Kiley Braun, Wynnona Buchner, Wyatt Buck, Chauncey Forster, Cora Jackson, Colle Looper, Dylan Luna, Sage Merrill-Exton, Kiara Patel and Delilah Powell.

Honor Roll: Victor Alcon, Ariah Archuleta, Emmary Brewer, Cole Taylor, Julian Court, Mayley Evans, Dekklyn Fiorenza, Keylee Granger, Savannah Graves, Merick Halterman, Kadence Hanley-Nicely, Houston Hoerth, Russell Hudler, Tenley Keegan, Felix Long, Christopher Martinez, Easton Miller, Jose Moreno-Echavarría, Chase Osborn, Lyla Reynolds, Koda Rice, Hannah Richards, Ana Romero-Gallegos, Rystle Ross,

Eustolio Ruelas, Samuel Sanchez, Riley Sanders, Tyson Sewell, Jaxon Sherman, Kaiden Srely, Nathannuel Tucker, Damien Turk, Lillyan Vega, Maheyla Witting, Michael Worrall and Kadence Zander.

Sixth grade

A Honor Roll: Brody Baillio, Adam Candelaria, Lucy Modern, Karlie Rose, Asher Smith, Livia Souza and Tuff Terrazas.

Honor Roll: Elias Becker-Sweeden, Camellia Bellina, Kiana Bennett, Kenzy Bowdridge, Carlie Bridges, Zander Campbell, Kyleah Coss, Shiloh Degelman, Olivia Difey, Kayleen Gonzalez, Elijah Hanto, Miles Harris, Kadence Inez, Cooper Laner, Avitt Lee-Shaw, Dayn Leiker, Eduardo Marinelarena, Derek Mendez-Cordova, Oliver Mendoza, Ty Mitchell, Finley Renner, Eloise Ridley, Sofia Sauzameda, Neitzey Shepherd, Trent Tator, Maelie Thomas, Micah Tyler, Jaycee Wallace and Francis Witting.

Seventh grade

A Honor Roll: Avery Book, Kylie Coleman, Alexander Forster, Quinn Howard, Raleigh Iverson, Ember Liverett, Lily Peck, Valeria Pereyra, Laken Pitcher and Evelyn Rohwer.

Honor Roll: Rylan Ash, Brooklyn Baillio, Marcela Barnas, Charlie Barraza-Haymaker, Abigail Bareraz, Brailon Bowman, Treyson Cotts, Jayce Davidson, Veda Deitemeyer, Samson Dennis, Fox Dietsch, Corinna Galabota, Lilly Gallegos, Ward Halterman, Cole Hancey, Aliana Hoffschneider, Derek Johnson, Brandt Kerns, Elisa King, Delaney Kirkham, Bruce Kubelka, Logan Lamoreaux, Paisley Lister, Brynn Looper, Ahrianna Martinez, Kelsey Matyniak, Olivia Moody, Jimena Moreno-Echavarría, Desmond Murphy, Arya Patel, Alan Renteria, Lily Rogacki, Sofia Souza, Wayne Sutherland, Ashton Tully, Avery White and Briggs Wilson.

Eighth grade

A Honor Roll: Mikaila Anderson,

Noah Bellina, Vivy DavRem, Tyler Diamond, Bella Jackson, Reese Jenkins, Hawkin Kofke, Aubrey Ledford, Mila Miller, Sydney Plake, Luke Reynolds, Colby Ross, Gage Sams, Oliver Samu, Gianna Shaeffer, Leela Simpson, Carington Smith, Weston Sweet, Nicolas Tator, Ellie Vining and River Wilson. Honor Roll: Lorelei Abramson, Zaiden Adams, Cartier Antonez, Leilani Archuleta, Ethan Bracken, Avea Bruce, Tacen Carter, Ramona Casper, Edgar Castillo, Elmer Castillo, Quintin Cheykaychi, Riley Culligan, Darría Fiorenza, Allyson Firestone, Ava Grayson Tristin Harper, Laurence LeftHandBull, Kasen Limebrook, Gage Lister, Katie Lucero, Hunter Martinez, Xavier Martinez, Sara Morse, Ashton Ortega, Peyton Pfeiffer, Angel Ramirez, Malakai Rardin, Isabelle Ratcliff, Layla Rivas, Liam Sherman, Audrina Smith, Tyler Sottek, Liana Vega, Molly Washburn and Blakely Woodard.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County facility, 95 County Road 973, Arboles. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 a.m., Archuleta County facility, 95 County Road 973, Arboles. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for

participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.
Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District special meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation work session. 5 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Join the meeting on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82506618987?pwd=dmdrUGF2U3J1K2N1ZmJMnVaaklxQT09>, meeting ID: 825 0661 8987, passcode: 860971.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Main Street work group session. 4 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.
Combined Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Monday, Dec. 11

CSU Advisory Committee meeting. Noon, CSU Extension building. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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WRESTLING

Pirate boys' season to open Dec. 1 in Bayfield

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team will open its season on Dec. 1 with a tri meet in Bayfield against Bayfield and Ignacio, followed by an event in Buena Vista on Dec. 2 where the Pirates will face six teams.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained that the team includes two previous state medalists — sophomore Colton Lucero and senior Luke Tressler — in addition to two previous state qualifiers — seniors Connor Kelly and Derek Carter.

"Whenever you have state placers on your team, it gives your team a stamp of legitimacy amongst your own kids as well as the opposition," Janowsky commented, noting that the team did not have this "veteran leadership" last year, when it included no state medalists.

He explained that, overall, the team has a number of younger freshman and sophomore wrestlers in the lower weight classes with the more experienced members of the team concentrated in the higher weight classes.

On the younger wrestlers, Janowsky said, "They're good [junior

varsity] wrestlers and we're hoping they can make the transition up to varsity quickly. But, that's going to be the challenge with those lower weights, is they're a little bit young and they need to make that ... step up to the varsity stage. That's a fun challenge, and I think we've got some great guys to work with there who can do that."

Janowsky added that training for the younger wrestlers will focus on developing core skills, while the older wrestlers will be focused on developing strategy and rules knowledge to help advance their effectiveness beyond the basic skills they have already learned.

He stated that the upcoming meets in Bayfield and Buena Vista will help the team gain experience and finalize its lineup.

He noted that the team may have difficulties early in the season due to the shifting lineup, but that he expected the team to "steadily improve" over the season.

"By mid-January, we're going to have a pretty solid dual meet lineup," Janowsky commented.

He stated that the team is currently a "low top-10 team" in terms of seeding, but that he believes the team can rise above this position over

the season.

"When we finally get everything put together, we believe we can get a top 10, maybe a top five, finish and, more importantly, we want to have some state champions at the end of the year," Janowsky said. "That's what we're going to fight for. ... You don't always get it and ... when you say it, you're putting a risk out there, but we believe our guys are up to it and we believe as coaches we're up to it, as well. We'll take on the challenge and we'll smile as we win and we'll adjust if we don't."

Schedule

The schedule was accurate as of print date, but is subject to change.

The Pirates will open their season with the Bayfield Tri in Bayfield on Dec. 1 at 4 p.m., where the Pirates will face Bayfield and Ignacio.

On Dec. 2, Pagosa will participate in a duals event involving 12 teams in Buena Vista starting at 8 a.m., according to Janowsky.

This will be followed by the Columbine Tournament in Littleton on Dec. 9 beginning at 9 a.m. and the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction starting at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 8 a.m. on Dec. 16.

The Durango Quad will take place

on Dec. 20 in Durango at 10 a.m. and will be followed by the Pirates' first home meet at the Rocky Mountain Duals event against Nucla at 5 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2024.

The Rocky Mountain Invitational home tournament will take place on Jan. 6, 2024, starting at 8 a.m. It will be followed by the Mel Smith Invitational in Florence beginning at noon on Jan. 12, 2024, and 9 a.m. on Jan. 13, 2024.

Pagosa will host a dual against Bayfield on Jan. 18, 2024, at 6 p.m., then will participate in the Randy and Naomi Keys Tri hosted by Centauri in La Jara on Jan. 20, 2024.

The Pirates will participate in a dual against Montezuma-Cortez on Jan. 25, 2024, in Cortez at 5 p.m. and the Butch Melton Invitational in Ignacio at 9 a.m. on Jan. 27, 2024.

The league championship dual will take place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2024, with the location to be announced.

The regional tournament will occur on Feb. 9 and 10, 2024, starting at 8 a.m. both days, with the location to be announced.

The state tournament will occur Feb. 15-17, 2024, in Denver at the Ball Arena, beginning at noon on Feb. 15, and 9 a.m. on Feb 16 and Feb. 17.

RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for youth basketball, arts and crafts

By Amanda Gadomski
Town of Pagosa Springs

Registration is now open for the 9- to 12-year-old basketball league.

The registration fee is \$45 for the first child and \$25 for the second child. The registration deadline is Dec. 31.

Practices will start Jan. 8, 2024, with games starting late January and running through February.

Practices and games will be Mondays through Thursdays at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Recreation holiday arts and crafts

Arts and crafts registration for ages 7-12 is now open. This week is the last to sign up.

Classes will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center and will run Dec. 4-20.

Online registration is available through our town website at pagosasprings.co.gov, or stop by the Community Center.

Youth strength and conditioning class

Youth strength and conditioning for ages 7-12 is now open. This week is the last chance to sign up.

Classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center and will run

Dec. 5-21.

These classes aim to mitigate risks of athletic injury and improve components of athletic performance as well as introduce fundamental movement patterns and exercises.

Online registration is available through our town at pagosasprings.co.gov, or stop by the Community Center.

Please call the Recreation Department with any questions at (970) 264-4151, ext. 524.

Guidelines

Continued from A14

the road during major snowstorms.

Ask permission before moving snow onto a neighbor's property, snow should remain on your property in almost every case.

Town residents with questions concerning snow removal can contact Debbie Allen at 264-4151, ext. 400.

Archuleta County

The county plows approximately 340 miles of roads in the winter.

County roads are categorized on a priority basis and the roads with higher priorities are plowed first, such as school bus routes. Remaining roads are plowed based on priority and route efficiencies.

Snow-removal crews normally begin clearing roads at 2 a.m. if necessary, but crews may not clear lower-priority roads the day of the storm. Weekend and extended-shift plowing may take place under the direction of the public works director when deemed appropriate.

Hills are sanded for safety as required.

Typically, plowing operations begin when there is snowfall accumulation in excess of 4 inches. On days without snow, crews will clean up and push back snowbanks as needed.

Under extreme circumstances, county roads may not receive same-day snow removal. Only first-priority roads will be plowed and kept open on excessive snow days.

Schedules may be interrupted or postponed due to unpredictable or unusual weather conditions, emergency situations, safety and resources.

Types of plowing operations

There are usually two types of snow-removal operations.

The first occurs during the storm and consists of passes with the plows to keep the roads open. This includes clearing a path sufficient for two vehicles to pass and clearing cul-de-sacs enough to allow a vehicle to turn around.

The second performs cleanup and preparation for the next snowfall.

Secondary work begins when the

storm subsides and consists of widening the traveled portion of the road, pushing snow back and plowing out wider areas on the roadways.

It may be several days between the first and second plowing.

Driveway and access road snow berms

Snowplowing operations may result in a berm across private driveways or encroachments to county roads. Reasonable efforts will be made to minimize the snow that is deposited in front of driveways, but berm removal is the responsibility of individual property owners.

County personnel also caution property owners to avoid piling snow on the left side of their driveway (as looking from your garage toward the road) to avoid having a larger berm.

Instead, he suggested cutting a notch 3 feet wide from the edge of the road by 30 feet long to minimize the size of the berm left behind by the plow.

Safety concerns

Children playing in the snowbanks left by the plow equipment is a major safety concern. Machines can be pushing back snowbanks at any time. Avoid tragedies and inform your children that building snow caves and playing on the berms is dangerous.

Other information

Property owners who create hazards in a public right of way, such as plowing snow off private drives, piling construction materials or timber, or placing trash carts, may be subject to prosecution per state statute.

A property owner may also be liable for any injury attributable to a hazard they have created in a public right of way.

Parking on county roads during winter inhibits plowing and is prohibited along all county roads and within any county right of way. Vehicles in the roadway during snow-removal operations will be towed at the owner's expense.

The county's Model Traffic Code, adopted in recent years, makes it

easier to have vehicles towed that are parked on county roads, with the county announcing last year it would more strictly enforce the prohibition.

Homeowners and contractors are cautioned that pushing snow across a county road at any time can create hazards and are advised not to do so. Per statute, it is unlawful for any person to deposit snow plowed from a private driveway, road or other source onto county road rights of way.

Trash carts should be placed in the driveway a minimum of 5 feet behind the front of the snow berm to minimize the possibility of being knocked over. The county is not responsible for trash carts that are knocked over.

Driving safety around snow equipment

Slow down and use caution around snow-removal equipment.

Follow at a safe distance to avoid flying snow and sanding material.

Stay out of the equipment's blind spots.

Turn your headlights on. Flashing blue lights on a truck indicate an emergency vehicle and it is illegal to pass.

Use extreme caution when passing snow-removal equipment. Before you pass, honk your horn and flash your lights to alert the operator you intend to pass.

Equipment operators often work long hours under trying conditions; be a courteous and friendly driver around them.

Helpful phone numbers

Emergencies: 911.
Archuleta County Combined Dispatch: (970) 731-2160.

Archuleta County Road and Bridge: (970) 264-5660.

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office: (970) 264-8430.

Pagosa Springs Police Department: (970) 264-4151, ext. 228.

Town of Pagosa Springs: (970) 264-4151.

Road and weather information: (970) 264-5555.

randi@pagosasun.com

Santa Sleigh Ride Event

Take a horse-drawn ride to meet Santa & Mrs. Claus, plus cookies and cocoa by the bonfire!

December 9th starting at 4pm
Reservations required

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Town and county snow removal guidelines

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

With more snow in the forecast for Pagosa County, local officials are gearing up to remove that snow to allow for safer travel.

Following are snow removal guidelines for residents and business owners in the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, as provided by each entity.

More information can be found on each entity's website.

Town of Pagosa Springs

The Town plows about 30 miles of streets and roads in the winter. Snow plowing begins when there are 2 inches of accumulation or road safety concerns.

The time required to clear snow and ice from roads varies depending on the conditions, including the storm intensity and duration, water content of the snow, temperature, traffic conditions and time of day. Because of those reasons, the Town may not be able to plow or sand roads at the same time each day or on the day of the storm.

The town has adopted designated snow routes with signage, and parking along designated snow route streets is prohibited during and immediately after snow events. Violators will be fined and/or towed at the owner's expense. The snow route is effective through the last snow event of the season.

Other than streets, the town removes snow from pedestrian infrastructure around town facilities and abutting or adjoining parks and trails owned or leased by the town, provided that such areas are designated by the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

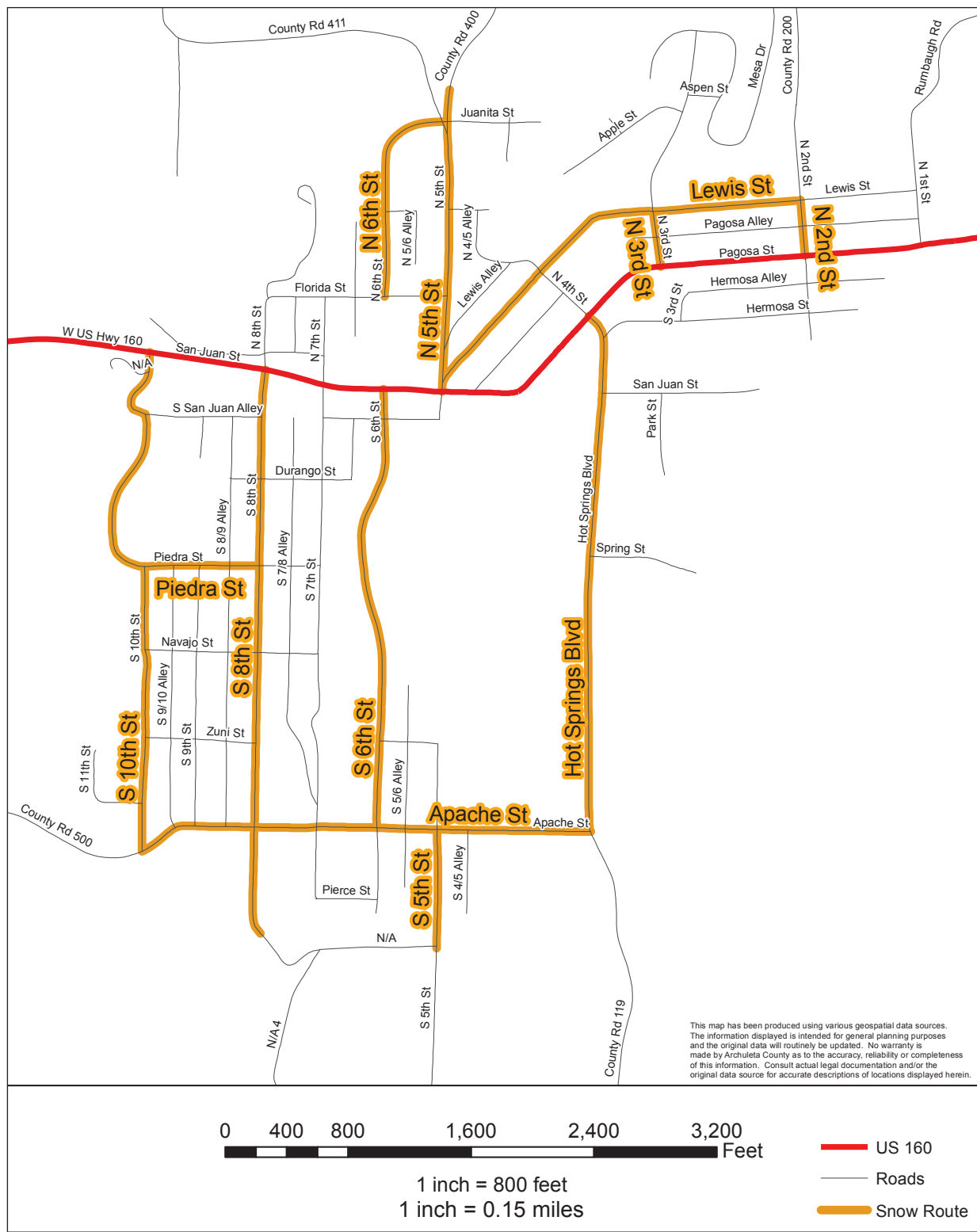
Resident, business owner, and snowplowing contractor responsibilities

It is unlawful to push or throw snow onto or across streets or alleys, or to put snow on any public property or right of way; plowed, shoveled or blown snow must be disposed of on your own property.

It is the property owner's or business owner's responsibility to provide snow and ice removal on sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of the end of snowfall. This applies when there is an accumulation of 1 inch or more.

Do not use ice melt on concrete. Damage from chemical or mechanical removal of snow is the responsibility of the property owner.

Consistent snow removal and mitigating slip hazards without the use of chemicals is the best for the concrete and roads. Add grit for traction if necessary.



The above map shows designated snow routes. Parking along designated snow route streets is prohibited during snow events. Violators will be fined and/or towed at the owner's expense.

Trash carts should be placed in the driveway, a minimum of 5 feet behind the front of the snow berm to minimize the possibility of being knocked over. Trash carts knocked over by snow removal efforts are the resident's responsibility.

It is the resident's responsibility to remove the snow berm left from street plowing and trail plowing. Reasonable efforts will be made to minimize the berm left behind.

Other information
Do not park along snow routes.

Parking problems are compounded by winter snow.

Parking along U.S. 160 between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. is prohibited. This includes through downtown.

Do not attempt to stop a snowplow or obstruct its path. Plows must maintain speed for maximum efficiency.

When approaching a snowplow from the rear, follow at a minimum distance of 100 feet, allowing for the scattering of sand and for abrupt movements.

Be patient. Every reasonable effort will be made to keep roadways open, and all available personnel will be on site.

■ See Guidelines A13

2nd Annual
Family Arts & Crafts Sale
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8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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10-punch pass \$135! Regularly \$150.**

<p>A Gift for You ...</p> <p><i>Christmas</i> Massage Special</p> <p>Can be added to any 60 or 90-minute massage treatment for add-on fee of Only \$20!</p> <p><i>Warm Peppermint or Ginger Spice</i> Foot Therapy!</p> <p>Feet are massage with your choice of peppermint or ginger-spice salt scrub then wrapped in warm towels.</p> <p><i>A sensational treat for the feet!</i> Massage services start at \$105 for 60-minute therapeutic massage. Limited time special!</p>	<p>Gift of Relaxation Massage Gift Certificates</p> <p>Buy 2 Get 3rd for \$25 Off!</p> <p>Every massage includes a FREE Soak at time of massage. <i>It's like 2 gifts in 1!*</i></p> <p>Special offers end 1/3/24.</p> <p>*Frequency cards, massage gift certificates & single-soak passes expire one year from purchase date. **Punch passes expire 4 months from purchase date.</p> <p>See website for more details and restrictions.</p>
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Letters to Santa

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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole! Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN. Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 15th

You can also email your letter to editor@pagosasun.com or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

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Santa will be here Saturday!

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Christmas in Pagosa



Humane Society Thrift Store



Pagosa Baking Company



Healing Waters Resort & Spa



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Photos courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Robert Neel, Gus Palma, and Keenan Pasqua are among the 10 actors portraying World War I soldiers in “All is Calm,” being performed at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Dec. 15-29.

Exploring history’s echoes: Thingamajig Theatre Company to present ‘All is Calm’

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

In the serene embrace of the holiday season, Thingamajig Theatre Company is unveiling its latest production, “All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914,” an arresting theatrical retelling that beckons audiences to delve into the resonant echoes of history.

Amidst the seasonal fervor, this production offers a poignant, thought-provoking respite, delving into a remarkable moment of humanity amidst the turmoil of war.

Based on a true testament etched into the annals of World War I, this production is a gripping mosaic, weaving together letters, songs and accounts of soldiers who partook in an unprecedented ceasefire during the infamous trench warfare.

The narrative moves beyond mere dramatization, fostering an intimate connection with the past, allowing audiences to tread upon the sacred ground where enemies became brethren, if only for a fleeting moment under the aegis of Christmas.

The genesis of this compelling portrayal originates from the fertile collaboration between writer Peter Rothstein and vocal arrangers Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach.

Drawing upon actual letters exchanged by soldiers and the stirring harmonies of European Christmas carols, the production resonates with authenticity, eclipsing conventions of typical storytelling.

Having garnered acclaim across diverse platforms, “All Is Calm” achieved a notable milestone with a compelling run on PBS. Its transition to the off-Broadway

■ See Echoes on next page

Live Performers



- Friday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Steve Blechschmidt, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Annual Christmas celebration to be held Dec. 3 in Arboles

By Susan Halkin
TARA Community Center

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the TARA Community Center will host its annual Christmas in Arboles.

This event will be held at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles from noon to 4 p.m.

The public is invited to bring four to eight dozen cookies or holiday treats for the contest. Prizes will be awarded. A silent auction will be held also, and there will be vendor booths.

The TARA Community Center will be selling plates of holiday treats for \$5. Come and sample some holiday treats and do your Christmas shopping.

Echoes

continued from previous page
stage further solidified its impact, drawing critical acclaim and garnering widespread recognition for its evocative storytelling and the ability to resonate deeply with diverse audiences.

What makes this rendition particularly compelling is its universal appeal. While history aficionados will relish its meticulous portrayal of a pivotal moment in wartime history, the production offers a narrative that resonates with the human spirit irrespective of generational divides.

A unique seasonal offering that is sure to be memorable, "All is Calm" is an invitation to not just witness, but to introspect and reflect upon the essence of compassion and unity amid tumultuous times — a narrative both timeless and timely.

Thingamajig Theatre Company presents "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," rated PG. It is playing at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Dec. 15-29. For tickets and show information, call (970) 731-SHOW (7469) or visit pagosa-center.org



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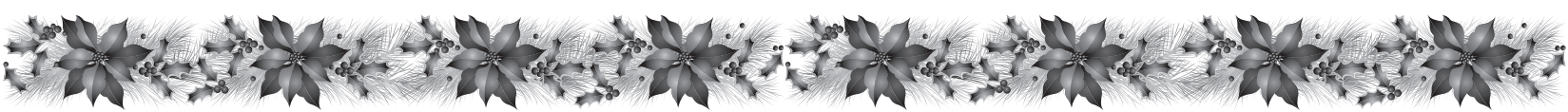


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WHIPS to hold holiday luncheon

By Nancy Ford
 Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their holiday luncheon on Tuesday, Dec.

5, at 11:30 a.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center.

The cost is \$15 and all women are welcome. Dress festively. Reservations are a must by Sunday, Dec. 3. RSVP to (970) 946-1895.



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Meet & Greet, & Holiday Shopping

With Beloved Local Authors

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- Jan Meyer-Karn
- Lynn Moffett
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We wish you a Merry Christmas!

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Doing the most good: Annual Archuleta County Salvation Army Red Kettle fundraising begins

Archuleta County Salvation Army

On your next trip to City Market, you will find a hearty crew of volunteers next to our well-known “Red Kettle,” cheerfully ringing a bell in hopes of enticing busy shoppers to deposit some spare change or bills. Our bell-ringers will be out every day, through 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Your donation can make a huge difference. Every penny helps, and all of the funds deposited in that kettle during our Red Kettle drive stay right here in Archuleta County, being deployed to serve one of the most important aspects of the Salvation Army mission: to meet human needs.

In Archuleta County, the Salvation Army operates as an all-volunteer organization. And although we operate under the umbrella of the regional office in Denver, it is local volunteers here in Pagosa Springs that work with other local charitable organizations to identify needs and help with financial support. Importantly, decision-making is local, and because the needs in Archuleta County are ever-changing, our support can be flexible and fluid to help where it's needed most.

In the past couple of years the Archuleta Salvation Army has helped support local food pantries, provided emergency shelter needs, provided assistance with prescription medications, assisted with alcohol and drug-rehabilitation programs, and assisted with newborn- and family-oriented programs, among so many more things.

We are blessed that each year 20 or so local organizations, churches and businesses pledge their members to staff the kettle. We also have many individuals that volunteer on their own. Bell ringing runs from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. each weekday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

■ See Good on page 8

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PUNCH PASS SPECIAL
10-punch pass \$135! Regularly \$150.**

A Gift for You ...	Gift of Relaxation
Christmas Massage Special Can be added to any 60 or 90-minute massage treatment for add-on fee of Only \$20!	Massage Gift Certificates Buy 2 Get 3rd for \$25 Off!
Foot Therapy! Feet are massage with your choice of peppermint or ginger-spice salt scrub then wrapped in warm towels. <i>A sensational treat for the feet!</i> Massage services start at \$105 for 60-minute therapeutic massage. Limited time special!	Every massage includes a FREE Soak at time of massage. <i>It's like 2 gifts in 1!*</i>

Special offers end 1/3/24.
*Frequency cards, massage gift certificates & single-soak passes expire one year from purchase date.
**Punch passes expire 4 months from purchase date.
See website for more details and restrictions.

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Family Arts & Crafts Sale
Saturday, Dec. 2
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Shop a wide variety of gently used and new donated items.

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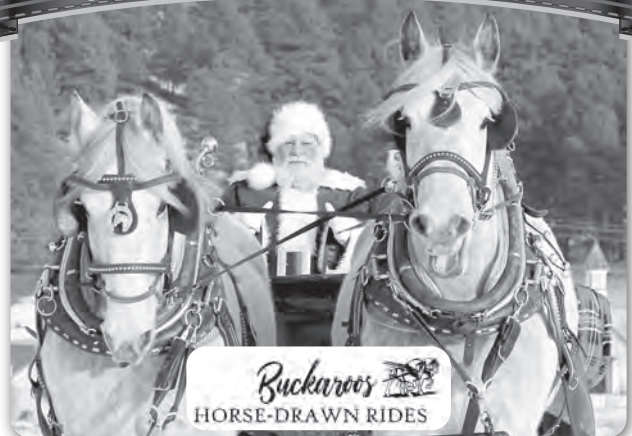
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Santa Sleigh Ride Event



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December 9th starting at 4pm

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Pagosa Springs Community Choir's Christmas concerts set for Dec. 8-10

By Heidi Tanner
Pagosa Springs Community Choir

"Sounds of the Season" is the Pagosa Springs Community Choir's theme this year, and beautiful choral sounds you will indeed soon hear.

The Community Choir's annual Christmas concerts will be presented on Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

You will hear familiar sounds of the season such as "Here We Come A-Caroling" and "Come All Ye

Faithful," and some not-so-familiar sounds such as our theme for the year, "Sounds of the Season," in which the choir's voices mimic bell tones. The song sparkles with energy and joy in celebration of Christmas.

Dan Burch has been the music director of the Pagosa Springs Community Choir for many years now, and one of his special signatures is coaching the choir to sing a capella in the round. A capella singing is when a group sings with no instrumental accompaniment

■ See Concert on next page

Pagosa packs 2,656 boxes for Operation Christmas Child

By Linda George
Operation Christmas Child

Thank you, Pagosa Springs. Together we filled 2,656 boxes of joy and hope for Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project. We surpassed our 2023 goal of 2,600, and your generosity is going to put smiles on little faces around the world this Christmas.

A big thank you goes to 10 business owners that made displays that provided their customers opportunity to pick up red and green boxes.. These brought in lots of gifts to the drop-off center at Grace in Pagosa.

This year four youth clubs also filled boxes for kids. They were the Shady Pines and Wolf Creek Wonders 4-H clubs, Colorado Kids and the Pagosa Springs High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Many churches under the lead-

ership of enthusiastic project leaders gave generously this season to help us reach our goal. They were Amazing Grace Church, Calvary Way Fellowship, Centerpoint Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Community United Methodist Church, Grace in Pagosa, Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church, Open Door Church, Our Savior Lutheran, Pagosa Bible Church and Restoration Fellowship.

We also had 38 wonderful volunteers from the churches come to our drop-off center. Under the leadership of Linda George, they worked as a team to unload, pack, count, fill large cartons for shipping, make cookies and load the 26-foot truck donated by a local business to transport our boxes.

Together, your gifts of love, financial donations and time will bring joy to the world this Christmas.

Good

■ continued from page 6

If you have an interest in serving as a volunteer bell ringer — just an

hour would be a big help — please call or text Tom Bruin at (224) 730-7910.

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

The “Jersey Boys” musical and its director Dennis Elkins are among the Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers who received a record 28 nominations for awards in the prestigious 2023 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver. Voting is underway.

BroadwayWorld honors Thingamajig with 28 nominations, voting underway

By Carole Howard

Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers received a record 28 nominations for awards in the prestigious 2023 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver.

Voting is underway now, providing you the opportunity to help the talented artists who make our live professional theater so remarkable receive the recognition they deserve.

Thingamajig Theatre is located in the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Note that both designations are used on the ballot.

Thingamajig nominees

Here are the Thingamajig people and productions that made it to the final ballot in this respected competition:

Best cabaret/concert/solo performance: Dan Morrison, Trevor Brown and Samantha Luck, all for the 2023 gala.

Best choreography of a play or musical: Dani Loewen, “Jersey Boys.”

Best costume design of a play or musical: Alexandra Saeger, “Jersey Boys.”

Best direction of a musical: Den-

nis Elkins, “Jersey Boys.”

Best direction of a play: Melissa Firlit, “Last Call at the Riptide.”

Best ensemble: “Godspell.”

Best lighting design of a play or musical: Mackenzie Lowe, “Godspell.”

Best music direction: Boni McIntyre.

Best musical: “Jersey Boys,” “The Great American Trailer Park Musical” and “Godspell.”

Best new play or musical: “Last Call at the Riptide.”

Best performer in a musical: Trevor Brown, “Jersey Boys”; Samantha Luck, “The Great American Trailer Park Musical”; Trevor Brown, “Godspell.”

Best performer in a play: Ivy King, “Last Call at the Riptide.”

■ See Nominations on next page



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Nominations

■ continued from previous page

Best play: "Last Call at the Rip-tide."

Best scenic design of a play or musical: JD Madsen, "Great American Trailer Park Musical."

Best sound design of a play or musical: Tim Moore, "Great American Trailer Park Musical."

Best supporting performer in a musical: Nadia Belaouchi, "Great American Trailer Park Musical"; Samantha Luck, "Jersey Boys" and "Godspell"; Trevor Brown, "Great American Trailer Park Musical."

Best supporting performer in a play: Karissa Bruin, "Last Call at the Rip-tide."

Best theater for young audiences production: "Newsies Jr."

Favorite local theater: Thingamajig Theatre.

How to vote

If you want to vote in this awards contest, go to <https://www.broadwayworld.com/denver/article/Latest-Standings-Announced-For-The-2023-BroadwayWorld-Denver-Awards>.

Online voting is underway now. Voting runs through Dec. 31, and winners will be announced in January.

Here are three tips to make your vote count:

- Be sure to fill out the required information boxes at the end of the ballot or your vote will not be counted. Note that not all the information they request is required.

- Very quickly after you finish voting you will receive an email confirming your vote. You need to click on the "Click Here to Confirm Your Vote" line. If you don't do this,

your ballot will be discarded.

- If you do not see that email in your new mail, check your spam folder to ensure your vote is counted.

High-caliber competition

BroadwayWorld oversees the largest theater audience awards on the globe, covering Broadway in New York, the West End in London, and many other key artistic locations in the U.S. and worldwide including in Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and South Africa.

Thingamajig competes in the impressive Denver regional professional theater market, with this year's nominees also coming from Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, Vintage Theatre, Merely Players, Front Range Theatre Company, Arvada Center, Boulder Dinner Theatre, Cherry Creek Theatre and many more.

This means that the caliber of the competition is extremely high.

Reaction from Thingamajig

"These BroadwayWorld nominations give us an opportunity to celebrate the impressive talents of the actors, directors and production experts who helped us put on so many amazing live-theater shows in 2023," said Tim Moore, artistic director and co-founder of Thingamajig with his wife, Laura. "It was a joy for our audiences to experience the skills of some of our most popular favorites from previous years as well as be introduced to talented new performers who came to Pagosa for the first time."

Thingamajig Theatre Company was co-founded in 2011. It is an award-winning professional non-profit 501(c)(3) theater in residence within the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Its talented actors, directors and designers come from across the U.S. and around the world to produce musicals, comedies and dramas year-round.

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Stargazers announce calendar sale, visit from Santa Claus

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

Our spectacular 2024 Deep Space Mysteries Calendars have arrived and are ready for you to purchase.

We are doing something special this year. If you purchase a calendar for a child or teenager, you only pay \$10. This calendar is a fundraising opportunity for the San Juan Stargazers, so we greatly appreciate when you pay the regular price of \$15, but these calendars are such a great learning opportunity for young people that we want to make them more easily available to them.

They are great gifts for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, etc. A person never knows when they plant a seed what it might grow into. This seed only costs \$10 and is worth so much more.

There are several features of these calendars that make them so worthwhile. Each month has a fabulous photo of what is considered a deep space mystery. There is usually one amazing and incredibly unique planet photo, several unusual galaxies are featured and there are various nebula either at the explosion (supernova) stage or when in a star-forming stage. Beneath each beautiful photo is a detailed explanation of the object.

Another great feature of the calendar is that each day notes unique visible night-sky objects so you will know when to go out to see special sights.

If you want to order a calendar, call (303) 995-2888 to leave a message including your name, phone number and number of calendars. You will get a call back so we can figure out the easiest way to get the calendars to you.

December meeting to feature visit from Santa

Thursday, Dec. 7, is the monthly educational meeting of the San Juan Stargazers at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St. Use the parking lot and nearby side door.

At this meeting we are getting a visit from none other than Santa Claus. He has a helper named Dena Laterza who is going to help everyone at the meeting understand their Christmas gift, the likes of which we haven't gotten since we were teenagers. Here is a hint: It is a computer app that you may be playing with for years.

Laterza explained it to me and I kept playing with it until I almost

fell asleep. You will be getting written directions so you will know every step to take.

I don't know how much more I should tell you, but it fits with our notebook called "Tours of the Night Sky" and adds an unbelievable dimension to the entire idea. I am so excited to have this shared with our club. I'm not telling you to bring your laptop because I don't want to lose everyone from the task we have at hand.

We will be adding missing months with maps and narratives with additional information for the "Tours of the Night Sky" blue notebook. We will also be adding information about each of the visible planets.

Judith Jubb has been working very hard gathering material from several sources and, most importantly, leaving out extraneous material. She did this work for the presentations she gave during the summer months for the Chimney Rock night sky programs. Ann Marie Kemp is contributing an entire section of information about the six visible planets.

I don't think there is anything quite like this booklet. It is concise, easy to read, direct and uncomplicated. Of course, you have to do some preparation, but we've tried to make it as simple as possible to use.

Since there is material for each month, you can study a few pages and then forget it until next year, when you can look it up again. If there is interest, we can start a study group for those who want to develop expertise. Then you can become substitutes for Judith when she cannot attend the night sky programs.

You must find the notebook that you were given when you joined the club or were given in 2022 and bring it with you to work on.

After completing the notebook, we will go over how to use this fabulous tool. You will go home one step closer to achieving being "the astronomer of your dreams" with the only step left — get out and do it.

You may want to practice before you put on a show and get a red-light flashlight and a green laser pointer. Get a good laser pointer because a cheap one is not strong enough to point into the night sky.

Please look for the notebook you were given because it is too expensive to give people a second notebook. This is a priceless tool to use for the rest of your life and pass down to your grandchildren. We

■ See Stargazers on next page

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						3	1	6
	4							
6			8			2		
	8	5	7					
3		9						7
	9						4	
2		7	9		5			
		8	1					

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Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	6	8	1	3	7	5	2	9
2	1	7	9	4	5	6	3	8
5	9	3	2	8	6	7	4	1
3	2	9	5	6	4	1	8	7
1	8	5	7	2	9	4	6	3
6	7	4	8	1	3	2	9	5
8	4	6	3	5	1	9	7	2
7	5	2	4	9	8	3	1	6
9	3	1	6	7	2	8	5	4

ANSWER:

New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure

New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. will feature Dr. Elaine Harding.

“You can then use this knowledge to make more conscious decisions about everything from careers to relationships, avoiding common pitfalls of your personality type while playing up your strengths. The result is a happier, more authentic you.” — Caroline Myss, author, “Archetypes: Who

Are You?”

Upcoming events

SpiritHeart Band practice is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join the SpiritHeart band. Please text Bruce at (970) 507-0739 for band information.

Dec. 3, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Harding.

Dec. 10, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Stephanie Morrow.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve celebration on Zoom. Join White Eagle

McClure for a beautiful ceremony.

Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve celebration with the Retrocats at Vallecito Lake. There will be a burning bowl ceremony on New Year’s Day. Call/text (970) 510-0309 for reservations.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available).



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Stargazers

■ continued from previous page

need everyone working together to complete this great project. Thank you for your help.

More about the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine. It is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family.

You can join the club at any of our events or now you can join using PayPal at sanjuanstargazers.org. Check out our recently improved website with much more information and fabulous pictures. Joining at our December meeting will be the last chance to get a copy of this very special notebook.

A look ahead

Looking ahead to 2024, we will be having several guest speakers and lots of information on the April 8 solar eclipse, which is the last one to be visible in North America until 2033.

We will also soon be adding Zoom to our monthly meetings, and we will be adding many additional educational programs using Zoom.

We have had Stargazers leave Pagosa but not find another astronomy club. They can stay members by using Zoom. Since we don’t know what this winter will be like, and we may be able to hold Zoom meetings when the weather is bad.

There is a real hunger in our membership to be learning more and more, so we want to respond with the best new tool possible.

We invite you to learn about and appreciate our unbelievable universe and some unbelievable club members, too.



DECEMBER IS BUCKS FOR BIKES MONTH

The Pagosa Springs Area Association of REALTORS® holds a special fundraiser during the holiday season to provide bikes to the children of our community.

These children are nominated by local business owners, first responders and agencies that are involved in caring for our youth.

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Santa Claus is coming to town!



& he is stopping by
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Saturday, Dec. 2nd
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Have a photo taken with Santa and tell him what you are wishing to get for Christmas. Enjoy some Hot chocolate and cookies!

Food drive!

Donate one of the items below or give a cash donation and be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Gift Certificate to Wolf Creek Ski Area

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- Crackers, Saltine
- Dried Pinto Beans
- Dry Breakfast Cereal (such as cheerios or corn flakes)
- Dry Milk Powder
- Jelly
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Noodles, dry
- Peanut Butter (crunchy or creamy)
- Spaghetti Noodles, dry



We wish you a Merry Christmas!



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

Music will fill St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Sunday afternoon as the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society presents the Heralds of Christmas concert. The event is set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3.

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Heralds of Christmas slated for Sunday

By Rick Artis
Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Heralds of Christmas concert series will be held this coming Sunday, Dec. 3, at 3 p.m.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is again hosting the event. The church is located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., just south of the hospital.

This year's event promises to be better than ever. A wide variety of musical numbers, featuring many of Pagosa's favorite performers, will fill the hall. Seasonal favorites combined with less-traditional arrangements promise to delight the audience.

The Heralds of Christmas is presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society. The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music

Society is dedicated to music education in Pagosa Springs, providing equipment, instrument repair, private lessons and more to the various schools in town. This year, the schools have a variety of needs. From providing pairs of drumsticks or a series of lessons to a set of chimes and many items in between, there are many ways that you can help. Your generous donations will help to meet these needs.

The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your donations may be tax-deductible.

The Heralds of Christmas is a free gift to the community. Find your seats early as the church will begin to fill well ahead of time.

Plan to join us this Sunday at 3 p.m. for the Heralds of Christmas.

UUs beginning season of reflection as light wanes

By Pauline Benetti
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship in-person services are normally on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. The availability of Zoom services will vary depending on the service. In-person meditation practice is on the second and fourth Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

This Sunday's message, "Just Be Still," will be delivered by De Anna Hoyle. All are welcome to join in-person or on Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, use <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8991941305>.

The liturgy for the lighting of the

advent candles in the UU tradition by the Rev. Rosemary Morrison is as follows: "The placing of candles upon a circle of evergreens is an age-old tradition. Lighting additional candles each day or week as the light wanes, has been part of human rituals for centuries upon centuries. We are warmed by the glow, we are reminded that the wheel of the season will turn, and brilliant lengthening days will return."

As we begin this advent season, we turn our focus to the waiting aspect of the season. Join us as we gather in community to honor the darkening days and look inward for ways to hold hope, peace, joy and

■ See UU on next page

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Main Street Bethlehem returning to Centerpoint Church

By Jon Duncan
Centerpoint Church

Main Street Bethlehem is returning to Centerpoint Church Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. from Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

It is free to the public, appropriate for all ages, and a great way to begin your Christmas season with family and friends.

“Come, let us adore Him ...”: The lyrics of one of our beloved Christmas carols invites us to come and gaze upon the baby in the manger, reminding us that He is Christ the Lord.

The time of year for reflection is here, the calendar screams once again that 2023 is quickly running out. The snow helps confirm that another calendar year is almost over. As we prepare to look forward we must also look back, considering the events — both on the world stage and in our own personal lives — that have impacted us and will continue to do so. What have we learned? What needs to change? What do we need to do differently in the next 12 months if we hope to see different results? Do we even want to see different results? Is everything exactly as we would like it to be — relationships, marriage, family, finances, personal peace, mental health?

If not, where do we turn? Who do we ask? Where do we go for answers that are trusted, true and proven to offer the results we are looking for? How can we know for sure that the path we choose will end up where we had hoped it would end up, with the results that we are looking for?

Like most other important deci-

sions that we make, we gather as much data as we can, read as many reviews as possible, compare, contrast, look for truth in the abundance of words, and then come to that place where we make a decision based on all the research we did. We often don't have complete confidence that our choice is going to end up being the best one — but it seemed to be the best one at the time we made it. If it turns out to be a dud, we can always return it.

You are invited to try that same process on examining the Bible to see what answers it holds for the questions that keep you up at night. Forget all the religion stuff, and don't get all hung up with all the bad examples that are out there of what a follower of Jesus Christ is supposed to look like and act like.

Start your research quietly, on your own, without anyone knowing, if that approach appeals to you, and ask God to reveal Himself to you if He is real. Pick up His book and begin your research.

I recommend the gospel written by the apostle John, the fourth book of the New Testament. Leave your prejudice, bias, bad experiences, hurts, frustrations with pastors, churches and church people behind, and simply read. Begin your research with an open mind. Ask God to show you that He is real.

Don't worry about what might happen or where this research might lead; don't make any decisions before your research has even started. This is a difficult step for many — many times because of the bad examples and myriad mistakes made by others — but don't let any of that change your determination to find the truth that you are searching for.

This is extremely personal. It is between you and the Creator of the universe who desires to establish a one-on-one relationship with you. He is the Good Shepherd of

■ See Bethlehem on page 18

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TOP 10 HEALTH MISTAKES:

Many of the choices we make about our health are ill informed and just plain wrong. Some choices can actually make us sick. What's more, we repeat them! So let's look at a few of the more common mistaken choices:

PART 6. NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP

Sleep is vital for your well-being. Adults need between seven and eight hours of sleep per night, and children and teens need more. The best restorative sleep occurs during the hours before midnight. Unfortunately, many get far less. Sleep is often sacrificed when people are busy. In addition to making you feel tired, lack of sleep is associated with obesity, heart disease, insulin resistance, mental health disorders, and an increased risk of being involved in an accident.



What you can do: Keep your bedroom cool, quiet, and dark. Establish a regular time to go to bed and wake up. Eliminate caffeinated beverages and alcohol (at least don't consume these several hours before going to bed). Avoid large meals in the evening. Regular exercise and stress management will also make it easier for you to fall asleep.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” I Corinthians 6:19, 20

Fun Bible Facts: “Thus saith the Lord” and “God said” and similar expressions are said to be found more than 5000 times in the first 5 books of the Bible.

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UU

■ continued from previous page
love within, and in the wider world.

Through song and story, Hoyle will share a bit about her journey of becoming a spiritual companion and share the litany of lighting the advent wreath.

Hoyle served as the coordinator of religious education for the Pagosa UU Fellowship from 2007-2011. She went on to serve as credentialed director of religious education for Unitarian Universalist congregations in New Mexico and the Denver area. As a lifelong learner, Hoyle engages in a deep longing for peace building, along with working toward a more sustainable earth. She practices meditation and dances whenever and wherever she can to embody all of it.

Regarding COVID-19 protocol:

masking continues to be optional and social distancing is encouraged; however, please be aware that CDC tracking of the COVID-19 hospital admissions level in Archuleta County has been increased to medium. The maximum capacity of the fellowship has been reduced to 25, a very good reason for arriving a few minutes early.

Our fellowship offers each individual support in our unique spiritual path and an opportunity to participate in positive social and environmental action. We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community.

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza 301 N. Pagosa Blvd. on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. Join us. For more information about the fellowship, please visit www.pagosauu.org.

PAGOSA SCENE . . .

CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

Photos courtesy Susan Halkin/TARA Community Center

Scene ... celebrating Thanksgiving at the TARA Community Center in Arboles. The center offered a free Thanksgiving meal to the community, complete with turkey, ham and a potluck for side dishes. More than 60 people attended the event, and organizers plan to make it an annual event.



Holiday lights

Residential

- 601 Stevens Circle
- 506 Morro Circle
- 585 Shenandoah Drive
- 305 Snow Circle
- 344 Capricho Circle
- 385 Stagecoach Lane
- 150 Lassen Drive
- 83 Grey Rock Court

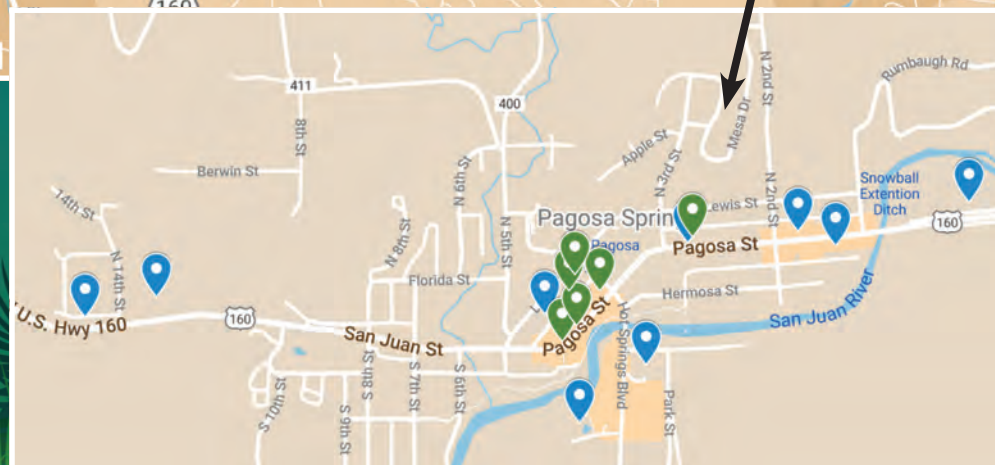
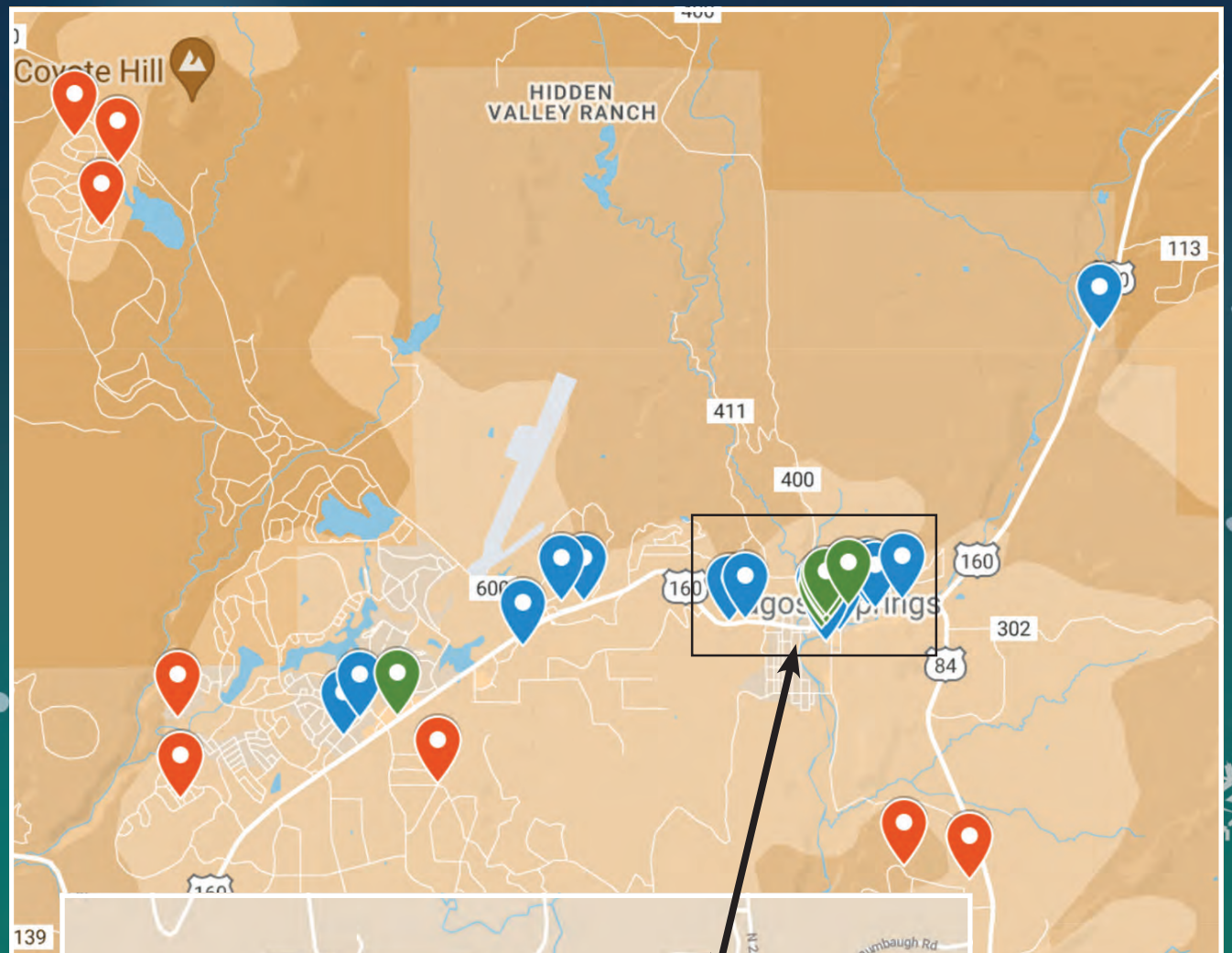
Entrants for the 2023 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

Vote for your favorite between Nov. 24 and Dec. 17 at <https://bit.ly/2023holidaylightingcontest>.

Contest winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21.

Business

- PS Froyo - 459 Lewis Street
- Healing Waters Resort & Spa - 140 Hot Springs Boulevard
- Momentum Fitness - 40 N 15th Street
- Pagosa Mountain Sports (downtown) - 162 Pagosa Street
- Pine Valley Rental & Sales - 305 Bastille Drive
- Colorado Dream Homes - 2283 Eagle Drive
- Kips Grill and Cantina - 121 Pagosa Street
- Motel Soco - 651 W. Hwy 160
- Growing Spaces - 1868B Majestic Drive
- Pine Ridge Rehab and Healthcare Center - 119 Bastille Drive
- Engel & Volkers Pagosa Springs - 286 Pagosa St.
- Riverwalk Inn - 260 East Pagosa Street
- The Springs Resort - 323 Hot Springs Blvd
- High Creek Lodge - 3821 E HWY 160
- RE/MAX Eagle's Nest and Build Pagosa - 390 Boulder Drive



Storefront window

- Chow Down Pet Supplies - 100 Country Center Drive Unit A & B
- Happy Trails Ladies Boutique - 454 Pagosa Street
- Footprints Pagosa - 458 Pagosa Street
- Mountain Meadow Real Estate - 409 Lewis Street
- Goodman's Department Store - 402 Pagosa Street
- Courtney King Studios - 280 Pagosa Street
- Community United Methodist Thrift Store - 427 Lewis Street

Trinity Anglican Church announces Advent services

By John Hill
Trinity Anglican Church

Trinity Anglican Church (the "little gray church" at Harman Park and U.S. 160) invites you to join us as we enter the Advent season.

As an Anglican church, we observe this season in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The four Sundays of Advent emphasize various themes such as hope, love, light and promise, helping us reflect on the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dec. 3 and 17, the first and third Sundays in Advent, will be Holy Communion services, and Christian believers are invited to join us at the Lord's table. Dec. 10, the second Sunday in Advent, will be a service of morning prayer.

On Dec. 24, we will observe the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve, with morning

prayer and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This will replace our typical Christmas Eve evening service.

Our services are liturgical, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer as a vehicle for worship, since it is based upon the Holy Scriptures and focuses our attention on God and His gracious love for us. We meet each Sunday at 10 a.m.

The Trinity Anglican Church first met in 2003 as a "house church." Later the group joined with the Reformed Episcopal Church and remains a member of that communion. The members of the congregation built the "little gray church" in five months, and held their inaugural service there on Oct. 4, 2009.

For more information about the Trinity Anglican Church, or to contact our vicar, Fr. Joe Fockler, please visit our website at trinity-anglicanchurch.org.

Bethlehem

■ continued from page 15

Psalm 23 who offers to lead, guide, direct, protect, provide, encourage, welcome and walk beside you from those green pastures to His house forever, especially when the path leads through the valley of the shadow of death and great darkness.

He offers to lead, but you have to be willing to follow. If you will, you will watch Him do the most amazing and incredible things for you to show you He is real, that He cares and that He can be trusted.

If you would like to add another dimension to your research, come be part of our family at Centerpoint Church; check us out, put us to the test, see how we welcome you and offer you friendship without judgment.

There are no strings attached, no hidden fees and no required behavior modification before you can attend. We are all sinners, all broken, all in desperate need of a savior. That's why we gather as we do — to celebrate forgiveness, acceptance and a relationship with God that cannot be found outside of Jesus Christ. He is the baby in the manger who is the sinless Son of God who died on the cross to

make our way from earth to heaven possible.

Want an easy introduction to the family before the dreaded Sunday service experience? Come visit Main Street Bethlehem Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Centerpoint Church.

Walk the streets of first century Bethlehem, visit with shop owners, steer clear of the Roman soldiers, take in the sights and sounds of what Bethlehem might have looked like when Jesus was born. Stop by the manger, visit with Mary and Joseph, wonder with us at how much God must love us to give us His only Son to help us find our way to Him.

There will be no preaching, no offering and no uncomfortable interactions, just a great way to begin your Christmas season with family and friends.

We hope to see you there. And, an invitation stands to join us on any of the Sundays in December as we consider together the true meaning of Christmas, culminating with our candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

We pray your research leads you to the Christ of Christmas, the Savior of the world, who came to seek and to save all who will believe.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Pasta shape
- 5 Social stratum
- 10 Asian housemaid
- 14 Rainbow goddess
- 15 Bagel choice
- 16 Pampered one?
- 17 Self-absorbed
- 19 Become unhinged
- 20 Medical setback
- 21 Produce milk
- 23 Domino dot
- 24 Alleviated
- 25 Grammatical slip
- 29 Cleveland's lake
- 30 Hotel worker
- 31 Barbecue fare
- 33 Growl viciously
- 36 Resistor unit
- 37 Dependent
- 39 Fluffy scarf
- 40 Cunning
- 42 Building toy
- 43 Cole ____
- 44 Turn's partner
- 46 Type of lights
- 48 Dinner accessory
- 51 Ms. West of films
- 52 Machine gun sound
- 53 Rodeo props
- 57 "Tide" anagram
- 58 Chinese porcelain color
- 60 Astringent fruit
- 61 Mournful chime
- 62 Actress Stone
- 63 Put in the mail
- 64 Disreputable
- 65 Very best

DOWN

- 1 Wedding cake section
- 2 Strongly suggest

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20								21		22				
			23				24							
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36				37					38			39		
40			41			42					43			
			44			45		46			47			
48	49					50			51					
52								53				54	55	56
57						58		59						
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

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- 3 High school subj.
- 4 Pulled a Houdini
- 5 Plot together
- 6 Start the pot
- 7 Knight's title
- 8 Labors long
- 9 Protect, in a way
- 10 Refrain from
- 11 Controllable
- 12 Subside
- 13 Made too much of
- 18 Grand in scale
- 22 Swore, old-style
- 24 Natural, as lighting
- 25 Skyline obscurer
- 26 Waikiki's island
- 27 Constraint
- 28 Window ledge
- 32 Type of palm
- 34 MGM mascot sound
- 35 Ground cover
- 37 Stopwatch button
- 38 As a rule
- 41 Found
- 43 Ice cream alternative
- 45 Hints at, with "of"
- 47 Small pie
- 48 News media
- 49 Gravy server
- 50 Make amends
- 53 Tread-bare
- 54 "Tickle me" doll
- 55 Coal unit
- 56 Arabian and Caspian
- 59 Quilting party

Answers to Previous Crossword:

F	A	I	L		E	P	I	C		W	H	I	S	H	
E	U	R	O		R	U	T	H		H	O	R	N	E	
A	R	R	O	G	A	N	C	E		A	M	O	U	R	
R	A	I	T	A		C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	
			T	E	M	P	T			T	I	E	S		
F	L	A	R	E	O	U	T			T	R	I	P	O	D
R	E	T			S	T	A	R	V	E		C	H	I	A
O	T	I	S			S	T	E	E	R		K	I	L	N
Z	O	N	E			H	E	E	H	A	W		L	E	T
E	N	G	A	G	E			S	E	T	A	S	I	D	E
					F	A	R	M		M	E	L	T	S	
C	E	L	A	N	D	I	N	E			L	A	T	I	N
A	L	E	R	T			L	A	N	D	S	L	I	D	E
S	A	F	E	R			L	I	C	E		K	N	E	W
E	N	T	R	Y			S	L	E	W		S	E	A	S

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Nov. 30

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Festival of Trees Public Viewing.

Noon-6 p.m., Community Center. View and vote for your favorite trees decorated by local nonprofits. Votes are \$1 each. Santa will be available for pictures from 3-6 p.m.

Virtual Author Talk: Naomi Alderman.

1 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring Naomi Alderman, who will focus on writing dystopian worlds. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Bridge.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center. **Hand and Foot Card Game.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Tech Time.

2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Dungeons and Dragons.

4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language.

4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball.

5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Delta.

Creation Care Pagosa.

5:30-7:30 p.m., fellowship hall, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Join for discussion on practical ways to enjoy a stress-free and eco-friendly holiday season. A free meal will be served. If you plan to attend, email Laura Lunsford at lunsforduwf@gmail.com.

PALS Adult Education.

5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball.

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs

High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Delta.

Friday, Dec. 1

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pi Beta Phi Christmas Angel Luncheon.

11:30 a.m., home of Carole Howard. Guests are asked to dress in festive holiday attire. Please bring an anonymous wrapped angel gift to exchange; an appetizer, side dish or dessert for the potluck; 7-10 canned goods for the Healthy Archuleta food distribution center and travel-sized toiletries for Rise Above Violence. RSVP to Carole to say what you are bringing to the potluck to avoid duplications.

Friday Flix.

2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Enjoy a PG-rated movie and free popcorn.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball.

5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Montrose.

Festival of Trees.

5:30 p.m., Community Center. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the tree auction at 7 p.m. There will also be live music and food. Tickets are available at pagosasprings.co.gov.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball.

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Montrose.

Saturday, Dec. 2

LEGO Club.

11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Bas-

ketball. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Rocky Mountain.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball.

4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Christmas in Arboles.

Noon-4 p.m., TARA Community Center. The TARA Community Center is holding its annual Christmas in Arboles. There will be a holiday cookie contest, local vendors and a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the TARA Community Center.

Heralds of Christmas.

3 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. A myriad of holiday and seasonal works will be performed by local musicians. Both instrumental and vocal soloists and ensembles will fill the church with festive music. Heralds of Christmas is presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society.

Monday, Dec. 4

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Senior Conversations.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Art Class.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center. The class will focus on making a small box suitable for giving a gift card using old Christmas cards. All

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

supplies will be provided.
Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.
Teen/Tween Art Camp: Floral Art. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Art classes for teens and tweens. Each month we will explore a different style or medium. Registration is required.
Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities and expertise are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

WHIPS: Women Helping in Pagosa Springs. 11:30 p.m., Senior Center. The cost is \$15. You must RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Dec. 3 to attend. Dress festively.

Pagosa Duplicate Bridge. 12:30 p.m. PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Duplicate players new and experienced are welcome. We are members of the Durango Bridge Club and play ACBL-sanctioned games with computer-dealt hands for maximum review options. Please email names of the playing pair to pagosaduplicate@gmail.com or text (970) 946-6454 for more information.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

Virtual Author Talk: Victoria Aveyard. 1 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring Victoria Aveyard, who will focus on fantastical world building. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Kids Kare is a program for children ages 3-5 that meets each Wednesday and includes Bible time, songs, crafts, games and more.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Community Center. Free beginner lessons. Reserve at www.pagosapickleball.org.

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Build essential skills in core subjects. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, Dec. 8

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Craftapalooza. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Create a variety of crafts. Stop by anytime during the program.

Free Legal Clinic. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via Zoom at the library. Registration required. Registration opens on the first day of each month. Space is limited. Call (970) 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.com.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'Sounds of the Season' Christmas Concert. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. You will hear both traditional and lesser-known songs celebrating Christmas.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Chess Club. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sisson Library. Learn how to play chess with quick lessons and game time or practice your skills. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your scrapbooking projects or any crafting project you may want to work on with the group.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project or sit and knit.

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Happy Hour and 'Paint Your Pet' Class. 4 p.m., Picasso and Vino, 450 Lewis St. Anyone can come enjoy a drink (sales support the Humane Society) during the happy hour open house. Those who register by Nov. 22 can do a "Paint Your Own Pet" painting class from 6-9 p.m. The cost for the class is \$150.

Late Night at the Library. 5 p.m., Sisson Library. The fundraiser for the Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate the library will feature hors d'oeuvres,

■ See Calendar on page 22



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TECHNOLOGY WORD SEARCH

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 U Y N I T R Q U O G P V A Q E I F R B E L
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- APP
- BACKUP
- CABLES
- COMMUNICATIONS
- DATA
- DEVICE
- EMAIL
- FEATURES
- FILE
- LAPTOP
- MEMORY
- MERGE
- MODEM
- QUEUE
- REBOOT
- RELIANT
- ROUTER
- SMARTPHONE
- SPAM
- SPLITTER
- TABLET
- TECHNOLOGY
- VIRTUAL
- WIFI

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Meet Sherry, your new early literacy librarian

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

This week we are welcoming Sherry Vanatta, who joined our staff on Tuesday in charge of our early literacy programs. She comes to us with a wealth of experience working with children — and knows your library well because she has been one of our enthusiastic volunteers for the last couple of years.

Vanatta has a BS in dietetics and institutional administration from Texas Woman's University and a masters of education from East Texas State.

Her previous work history includes being an adjunct professor of nutrition and academic advisor at Texas Woman's University, a public health nutritionist at Wewoka Indian Health Clinic in Oklahoma, and community dietitian to Indian tribes in Arizona. She also has been a first-grade teacher in Garland and a special commissioner for a probate judge in Denton County, both in Texas.

Vanatta is a longtime Stephen lay congregation minister and leader and also is junior warden at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

"Sherry's previous experience and passion for working with children will make her a fantastic addition to our staff," said Meg Wempe, library director. "We have come to admire her skills during her time as a once-a-week library volunteer and now are delighted to welcome her in her new full-time role."

Save the date for library fundraiser

We hope you will mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. for Late Night at the Library, a fundraiser for our Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate your library.

The event will offer hors d'oeuvres, drinks and a fun time turning old books into repurposed treasures.

Tickets are \$50 per person in advance and \$60 at the door. They can be purchased online at pagosa-



salibrary.org or in person with cash or check at the library.

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular free virtual author talks continue with two more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times best-selling authors and ask questions in December. For details and to register go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 5 p.m. we will gather with Victoria Aveyard, author of young adult and fantasy fiction as well as screenplays.

Thursday, Dec. 12, at noon will feature a conversation with Stephanie Land, author of "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother's Will to Survive," which became a Netflix miniseries.

Friday Flix tomorrow

Enjoy a PG movie and free popcorn Friday, Dec. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, Dec. 4, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided. Note that we have added an additional session and this group will now meet the first three Mondays of the month.

Tween/teen art camp Monday

Monday free art classes from 4 to 5 p.m. for teens and tweens will explore a different style or medium. On Dec. 4 and 11 it is floral art with guest artist Kirstin

Bennett. Participants will create floral mug arrangements and art from pressed and dried flowers. Registration is required. This art camp will happen only the first two weeks of December because the rest of the month the schools are on winter break.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. Anyone under age 18 is welcome with a signed parental permission, available at your library. For program information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Thursday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Elementary tutoring sessions

Children ages 6-11 are welcome at these free sessions on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. where they will build essential skills in core subjects. Preregistration is

■ See Library on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

drinks and fun turning old books into repurposed treasures. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. They can be purchased online at pagosalibrary.org, or with cash or check at the library.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'Sounds of the Season' Christmas Concert. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. You will hear both traditional and lesser-known songs celebrating Christmas.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'Sounds of the Season' Christmas Concert. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. You will hear both traditional and lesser-known songs celebrating Christmas.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

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Library

■ continued from previous page

required. This tutoring will happen only the first two weeks of December because the rest of the month the schools are on winter break.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Writers' support group

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

ESL class times

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there is a change in the way the time is divided: 4 to 5 p.m. is reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students.

Please help us spread the word about these classes to others in our community who would be interested, and contact us by phone or email if you have any questions.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Large print

"Judgment Prey" by John Sandford is a Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers murder mystery. "The Mustangs" by Preston Lewis is set in 1804 Spanish Texas. "Lone Star Legacy" by William W. and J.A. Johnston is a Forever Texas western. "Traitors Gate" by Jeffrey Archer is the latest in the William Warwick series set in London. "Killing the Witches" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard focuses on the events of 1692 and 1693 in Salem Village, Mass.

Books on CD

"From a Far and Lovely Country" by Alexander McCall Smith is a No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency mystery. "The Burnout" by Sophie Kinsella features two burnout victims dealing with their malaise at a rundown seaside resort. "The Secret" by Lee and Andrew Child is a Jack Reacher adventure.

DVDs

"The Duke" is based on the true story of a man who stole an invaluable Goya portrait from the National Gallery of London. "The Bletchley Circle" is a thriller featuring four women with extraordinary code-breaking skills. "The

Fox and the Child" is the story of a remarkable friendship narrated by Kate Winslet. "Gran Turismo" is based on the true story of unlikely underdogs.

Thrillers, mysteries and suspense

"Happiness Falls" by Angie Kim begins when a Korean American family's beloved father and husband goes missing. "Blood Sisters" by Vanessa Lillie features a Cherokee archaeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs investigating the disappearance of two women. "Mother-Daughter Murder Night" by Nina Simon focuses on a high-powered businesswoman investigating a murder. "What We Kept to Ourselves" by Nancy Jooyoun Kim tells of a family's search for answers after their mother disappears.

Other novels

"The Madstone" by Elizabeth Crook is a saga that begins when a stagecoach strands a passenger in Texas Hill Country in 1868. "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt explores a widow's connection with a giant Pacific octopus. "Sisters Under the Rising Sun" by Heather Morris features two women surviving and helping others in a Japanese POW camp in World War II. "Testament" by Wilbur Smith and Mark Chadbourn is a historical novel set in ancient Egypt. "Beyond That, the Sea" by Laura Spence-Ash tells of the life of a young woman sent from London to live in America during World War II.

Nonfiction

"I Am Asking in the Name of God" by Pope Francis contains 10 prayers on vital issues facing the world today. "Imagine the God of Heaven" by John Burke reveals stories of people who have experienced more than a thousand near-death experiences. "Sonic Life" by Thurston Moore explores life in New York's post-punk, no wave scene by this talented musician. "How to Forage for Wild Foods Without Dying" by Ellen Zachos is a beginner's guide to identifying 40 edible wild plants. We also have three more new travel guides — "Colorado" and "California" by Lonely Planet and Fodor's "Essential Ireland."

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Henry Cesary for his materials donation.

When we are open, materials donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

The Friends recently announced new guidelines for what they will accept as donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2013 or later, nonfiction books published

2018 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

"Whatever you do in life ... remember ... think higher and feel deeper. Life is an open hand waiting for some other hand to enter it in friendship. Ultimately the answers are so simple. Not simplistic, but so simple." — Elie Wiesel (1928-2016), Romanian-born American author, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor. He authored 57 books, written mostly in French and English.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.



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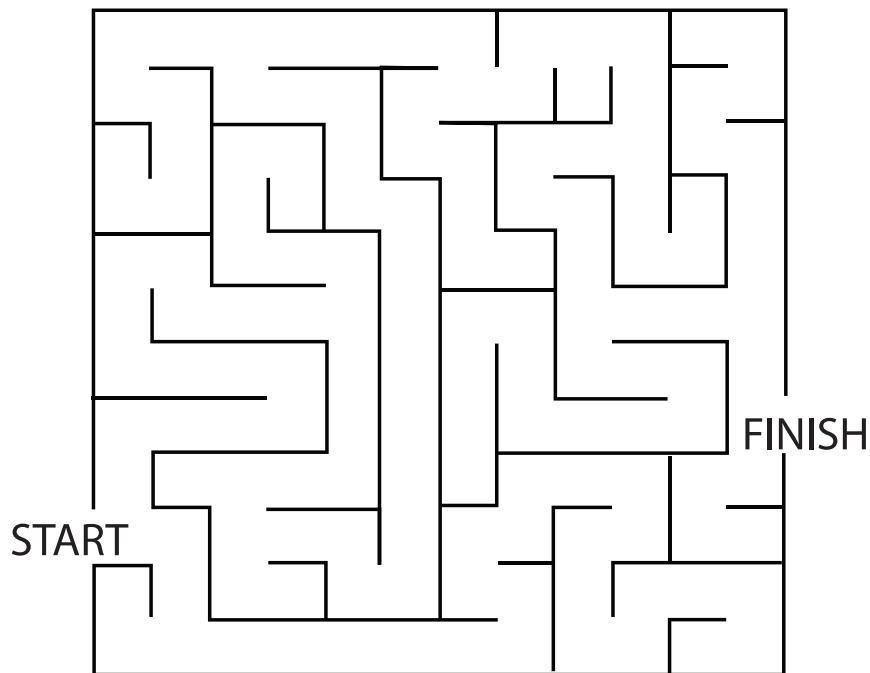
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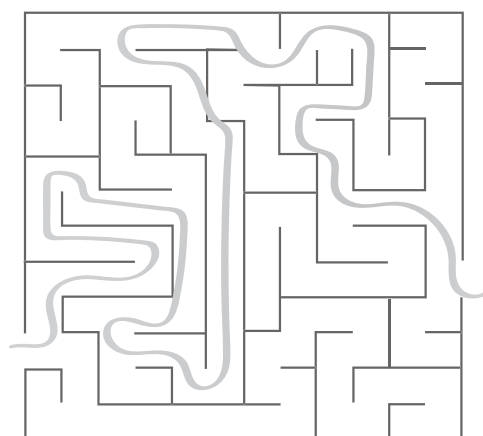
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PEOPLE FACT!
EVEN THOUGH 'BLACK FRIDAY' TENDS TO BE THE BUSIEST SHOPPING DAY OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THIS DAY ALSO ATTRACTS CROWDS OF SHOPPERS.

ANSWER: THE LAST SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS



DEBIT

amount owed or removed from an account

How they SAY that in...

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SPANISH: Comprar

ITALIAN: Comprare

FRENCH: Acheter

GERMAN: Etwas kaufen



CUSTOMERS WHO WANT TO AVOID THE CROWDS ON BLACK FRIDAY CAN SHOP LOCALLY ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SALE SIGN

When no one hears

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Artist's Lane

I challenged the writers in my Monday morning writers' group to write no matter who reads their words. I have written for 20 years, not sure who has read mine. But if I heard from the Lord what he's asked me to write, then those words I wrote would be divine revelation words. There is a reason and necessity for why I wrote them. Wow. Could I be so bold to say that?

God said to Isaiah, "Go tell Israel what I'm telling you. But they won't hear."

Those words were fulfilled by Jesus 700 years later when he sat by the sea and great crowds gathered together. He climbed into a boat and the multitudes stood on the shoreline. He said, "Behold, a sower went out to sow ..."

The disciples spoke to Him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

"Because I'm fulfilling a prophecy that Isaiah spoke, in which he said they can't hear. Their hearts are closed."

This message and messenger can only be understood in the spirit. They wanted to receive His words by sight.

And, the passage continues. Jesus said to the disciples, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them, it has not been fully perceived ... Your ears and eyes are privileged." (Matthew 13, NKJV).

If the listener is hungry to learn, their hearts can be opened through the cryptic language of parables to move them beyond their intellectual abilities. Is that what our stories, based on truth, do for our readers?

The multitudes didn't receive Jesus' message because the prophecy said they wouldn't. Did He feel rejected? No. He planted a seed. Sometimes that's what we're doing when we feel our words have fallen on rocky soil and there is no connection. Maybe it's just a seed of thought for them to ponder on and will bring a certain light later in their lives.

Solomon wrote in his proverbs, "Pay attention to these excellent sayings of three-fold things. For within, my words you will discover true and reliable revelation. They will give you serenity so that you can reveal the truth of the word of the one who sends you" (Proverbs 22:20, 21, TPT).

What does he mean three-fold things? God speaks in threes, for he is a triune God. We have a body, soul and spirit. God lives in a three-room house (outer court, holy place and the chamber of the Holy of Holies). These dimensions are throughout the Bible. Maybe we meet our readers in the outer court. Someone else will take them

into the Holy Place or the Holy of Holies. Our job is to write truth and bring light to those who are searching.

Seek God and He will give you truth. It is divine revelation. Sometimes those words speak to the heart, and sometimes to the mind or to the spirit. Jesus said, "Behold, a sower went out to sow ..." He was speaking to the currency of that day.

It's common sense. If you want a harvest, then you must sow seeds. The harvest will depend on what kind of ground the seed is planted in. He's speaking about the heart of people.

A writer in our group writes in emotional metaphors. She writes three-fold. She writes her personal experiences. She writes in spiritual truths. She frames her experiences in emotional metaphors. Can the reader get it? Sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. It depends if the reader has ears to hear.

Some of our readers will hear the truth in their minds, some in their hearts and some in their spirits. It's where the writer is in their writing and where the reader is in their reading. Only God knows.

When I asked one of my biggest fans why he reads "Artist's Lane," he said, "It makes me laugh." Apparently, he needs to laugh. Another reader says, "It's like you are reading my mail."

Sometimes, what we write will sound too sappy or embarrassing. When I wrote about Al getting older, I thought I had stepped over the line, that no one would appreciate it. They would think I was putting down my Sweet Al and I would surely be judged for it. But people saw I was being honest and real, and they read my heart.

I received more favorable feedback than I have for any of my other writings. I almost pulled this article before it appeared in print. I would have missed a valuable lesson, and the readers who connected with it would have missed what they needed.

Final brushstroke: No matter if the readers hear or not, the challenge for the writer is to let go. Make it easier on yourself and let God do what He wants with your words. Your words might not be understood for years or many generations, but it's part of why you write. You might not be around, but you've left truth for those to follow.

Send your comment to betty-slade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Archuleta Seniors Inc. participating in Festival of Trees, Colorado Gives Day

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Senior News

Vote for the Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) tree at the 17th Annual Festival of Trees at the Ross Aragon Community Center today, Thursday, Nov. 30, from noon to 6 pm.

Friday, Dec. 1, at 5:30 p.m. is the auction with live music, food and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30, available through the Community Center.

Southwest Colorado Gives Day is on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Colorado comes together to raise funds for local nonprofits, and ASI is participating.

Every gift is tax-deductible. Early giving is open now. You can donate by visiting www.psseniors.org, clicking the link to the Colorado Gives website, or using the following to go there directly: <https://www.coloradogives.org/story/Asiyearend2023>. Thank you for your generosity.

There is also another way to donate.

Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to Archuleta Seniors Inc. and sent to PO Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

December art classes

There will be two free art classes in December because there are two wonderful Christmas projects and both need to be created.

On Monday, Dec. 4, we will be making a small box suitable for giving a gift card. We will be using old Christmas cards, so bring some if you have them. But, there will be plenty of cards if you don't. Everyone will end up with at least one very special gift card box.

On Dec. 14, we will be making a

globe out of old Christmas cards. This involves cutting 20 circles, all the same size, and gluing them together in a specified way. It's easy to do and the results are gorgeous, so come join in on the fun.

Both classes will begin at 1:15 and are free to attend. All supplies will be provided. No reservations are required, but space is limited, so be sure to be there by 1:15.

Our teacher will be Denise Fisk, who is a retired elementary art teacher from Iowa. She loves sharing art techniques with her classes. So, come to the Pagosa Senior Center with a friend and see how your old Christmas cards can be turned into useful pieces of art.

Senior conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of "Senior Conversations" with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Share lunch Monday through Thursday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutri-

tious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$10, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage. Some popular menu items include Frito chili pie, pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, Singaporean pork ribs, vegetarian lasagna, Hawaiian shrimp with coconut rice and always a beautiful green salad. Many of our items are locally sourced and organic.

Our chef works with a team of local food professionals to hand-prepare your meal for dine-in service in our cozy dining room (with an amazing view of the San Juans) or for takeout (via our convenient drive-through). Our menu changes

■ See Senior on next page

A Cure for Fall Projects: Rent it from P.V.R.

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What really affects hunting in the West

By Lesli Allison
PREVIEW Columnist

Opinion: Writers on the Range

A disgruntled hunter wrote a “Writers on the Range” opinion recently about Westerners getting fed up with the many out-of-staters coming in and buying up draw licenses to shoot bull elk, deer, bear and other big game animals.

As a hunter myself, I understand their frustration.

But reducing nonresident tags, as Andrew Carpenter suggests, takes us in the wrong direction. The greatest threat to hunting now and in the future is the loss of habitat.

Private lands provide up to 80 percent of habitat for all wildlife species, including critical winter range that’s the limiting factor for most big game populations. Yet these family farms and ranches are struggling for economic survival and in many places are under immense development pressure.

According to the American Farmland Trust, Colorado is on track to lose approximately a half million acres of open land in the next two decades. Other states have similarly alarming projections. As these lands disappear, so does the wildlife they support.

Income generated by providing access and outfitting services to out-of-state hunters is one of the few economic lifelines keeping ranches and habitat intact.

As New Mexico rancher Jack Diamond explained, “Without nonresident hunters, we couldn’t survive at this point in the ranching business. I don’t want to see this place subdivided, but we’d have to consider that as a last resort.”

David Olde, also a rancher from New Mexico, concurred: “We ended up with so many elk that we

had to reduce our cattle. If I can’t sell hunts, what can I do — turn it into ranchettes?”

For the fourth-generation Bramwell family ranch in Colorado, hunting income is an integral part of their operation.

“Our out-of-state clients have been coming here to hunt for generations,” Darla Bramwell said. “These migratory animals do not care whose grass they are eating or whose fences they tear down as they come from forest lands to eat in our hay meadows at night. Without the income from the nonresident hunters, something would have to give.”

Most states already heavily favor resident hunters, both in draw quotas and license fees. In Colorado, for example, residents are now allocated 75 percent of licenses while nonresidents receive only 25 percent. Further, nonresidents typically pay hundreds of dollars more per license than residents. In Colorado, a resident bull elk tag is \$61. A nonresident bull elk tag costs \$760.

Several things happen when nonresident licenses are further reduced. First, it squeezes the bottom line of family farms and ranches that support wildlife and depend on hunting for a portion of their income.

Second, it harms local livelihoods and rural economies. Visiting hunters outspend resident



Photo courtesy P.J. Briscoe

Deer in high grass near Paonia, Colo.

hunters by a large margin, supporting local restaurants, hotels, stores, outfitting services and the local tax base in rural communities.

As Bramwell said, “When our out-of-state hunters come here, they not only support our family, but they support our community. They buy local gifts, food, fuel, lodging, meat processing and taxi-dermy work.”

Diamond’s operation supports between seven to 10 guides from August through December.

“These are good-paying jobs and the money generated is all spent locally in the two counties we live in,” he said. “We buy gas, propane, groceries. We also pay state gross receipts tax on the entire hunt.”

Third, state wildlife agencies

depend on the high license fees they charge out-of-state hunters.

Fourth, the loss of visiting hunters would remove incentives for prospective ranch buyers to invest in conserving and managing land for wildlife.

Finally, it would also mean more hunters crowding public lands and forcing elk to seek refuge on private lands, reducing hunter opportunity and creating a lower-quality hunt experience.

Pulling the economic rug out from under private lands and wildlife isn’t the answer. So, what is a better solution?

We need to increase, not decrease, incentives for landowners to conserve habitat and provide hunting opportunities. We should bolster, not undermine, the role

of hunting in supporting agricultural lands and rural economies. And we need to improve wildlife habitat on public lands with better management of our forests and rangelands.

The future of hunting — and wildlife — both depend on landowners and sportsmen working together to sustain our remaining wild and working lands.

Lesli Allison is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. She is CEO of the Western Landowners Alliance, a West-wide, landowner-led organization that supports working lands, connected landscapes and native species. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Senior

■ continued from previous page daily.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Nov. 30 — Beef pot roast with root vegetables, creamed spinach, garden salad, fruit, milk and bread pudding with rum sauce.

Friday, Dec. 1 — Stuffed portabella mushroom caps with veggies, feta and Gruyere cheese; Brussels sprouts; garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, Dec. 4 — Shredded chicken tacos, tortillas, Spanish rice, refried beans, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 5 — Pork tenderloin with mushroom gravy, roasted

butternut squash, creamed spinach, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 — Perfect 10 codfish, broccoli, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 7 — Eggplant Parmesan, asparagus, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Dec. 8 — Tuscan soup with pork, white beans and kale, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$10 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970)

264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Text reservations

Don’t forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-N-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 2.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Thursdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 10a.m.. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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1 LOFT BEDROOM 2 BATH condo for rent. \$1500 plus utilities, long term. No garage partially furnished on Davis Cup. Must provide copy of credit report and GOOD credit. Call (970)946-0930.

2 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH condo on Lake Pagosa \$1800/month. TP-1 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM HOUSE at Lake Hatcher. Quiet street near to lake. Simply furnished, with all appliances, and pool table. Internet(strong) included. No smoking, small pets considered. \$2000./ mo. (970)903-9049.

3 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH, 2-car garage, 3,348 sq. ft. beautiful home on remote 35 acres. \$4,500/ month. TP-2 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

900 SQUARE FOOT CABIN. Two bedroom, 1 bath, plus utility room. On a private ranch. Wood stove. 1st month's rent, security deposit, half of last month's rent. Pets considered. 8.5 miles north of town. Call (970)731-2010, leave message.

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH 2 car garage on 3 lovely and private acres. This is a must see property. Available now. \$4,750/ month. TP-3 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

HOMES FOR RENT

FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM with loft, 2 bath condo across from Lake Pagosa. Pet allowed. Available around January 1, 2024. \$2195 per month. TP-6. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

FURNISHED STUDIO APARTMENT. 8.5 miles north of town. Quiet, beautiful location, fenced yard. 1st month's rent, security deposit, half last month's rent. Pets considered. Call (970)731-2010, leave message.

HOUSE FOR RENT on three acres on Hwy 84. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, brand new carpet and paint. Move-in specials. \$1750 per month. First, last and security deposit required. (970)749-4252.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOVELY UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage townhome on golf course in uptown Pagosa. All appliances including gas fireplace. \$2150 per month. TP-5. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

RENT MY FIFTH WHEEL AND SPACE. \$630 a month. Water, electric, sewer included. Call (970)946-3983.

ROOM FOR RENT with private bath. no pets. washer and dryer, wifi and tv. (970)749-6281.

UNFURNISHED 3 BED 2 BATH, 1 car garage, duplexes. Newly remodeled and updated. All appliances including gas fireplaces. Pets allowed. \$2200 per month. TP-4 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

UNIQUE GREEN HOUSE, pool house atmosphere. Non-smoker, no pets, furnished, utilities included, trash and Internet, 6 month lease, \$1,200, first and last, \$500 security. Text/ call (970)309-6067.

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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 ACRE with great cell service, country views and 10 minutes from town. \$235,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

64 ACRES, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME, 3 garages and shed, 46 shares of irrigation water, 3-3 phase electric outlets and beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$995,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Log home on the banks of Stollsteimer Creek. 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home, 2-car garage, 2 acres with lots of extras. \$675,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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1.2 ACRES CLOSE to Navajo Lake. Utilities available. \$75,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.2 ACRES, MOUNTAIN VIEWS, electricity near, No HOA, close to town. \$35,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

35.81 ACRES WITH AWESOME VIEWS of Banded Peaks at the end of cul-de-sac with national forest access. Also comes with a full set of house plans. \$300,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES. Centrally located, all utilities near. \$250,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

DOWNTOWN LOT, GREAT VIEWS for your dream home. \$190,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

RIVER FRONT PROPERTY, 1.45 acres, electricity across the street. \$289,900. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.



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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the marsh wren.

When you're out for a winter stroll on the Riverwalk, stop awhile near the warm water pond at the end of the 6th Street bridge and you may hear the song of this bird. Wrens as a group are known for singing remarkably big songs for their small sizes. Analysis of birdsong ranks the male marsh wren among the North American songsters considered most impressive.

Don't expect a melodic sound from this wren, whose song is described as rapid-fire gurgling and trilling, buzzy and sewing-machine like. Instead, he is admired for the 150 or more songs that he learns and sings in defense of territory and to attract his mates. In some populations, around 50 percent of the males are polygynous, mating with two or more females.

Roger Tory Peterson, who published the first modern field guide for birds, described this bird as "the wren of the cattail marsh," but other marsh plants like sedges, bulrushes and wild rice will also do as long as they are tall and dense. Marsh wrens can be secretive and well-camouflaged, much easier to hear than spot.

Within this habitat, they are constantly on the move, foraging on stems, leaves and the water's surface for any accessible invertebrate – spiders, bees, beetles and aquatic larvae. Males are prodigious nest builders, suspending between stalks a woven ball of vegetation with a hollowed-out interior and small entry hole. Additionally, he will build six or more dummy nests within his territory that may serve as decoys to deter predators looking to raid a nest.

This tiny bird is rusty brown above with black and white streaks down its back. It typically holds its short, barred tail straight up. It has a pale, unstreaked underside and a pale eyebrow streak. If you are hoping to spot one, be prepared to check out any rapid movement within the marsh for a brief look before it disappears again.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

Cancer support group to meet Dec. 6

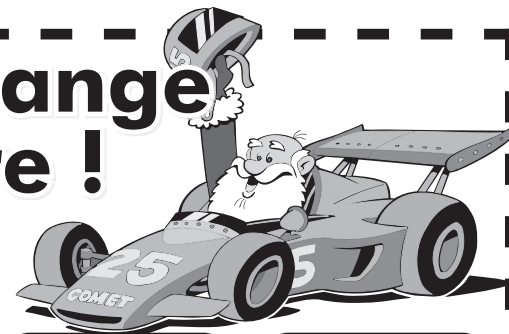
Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group

The Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom on Dec. 6.

Our group consists of survivors of prostate cancer and men who have been diagnosed with prostate issues including BPH and cancer. We discuss experiences with resources, diagnosis and treatments for the disease. Anyone is welcome.

For more information and a Zoom invite, please contact prostategroupdro@gmail.com.

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Letters to Santa



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Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!
Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.
Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 15th

You can also email your letter to editor@pagosasun.com
or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

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