



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 116 — NO. 6, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023



Russ Widener finds 'enormous' relief decades after Vietnam service

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

When Russ Widener, 74, found Spc. 4 Roy McLennan's name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., in late September while on an Honor Flight, he wept.

The wall chronologically lists the names of more than 58,000 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country during the Vietnam conflict.

In Vietnam, Russ worked with fire direction control, plotting rounds, he explained. One day, he relayed, his lieutenant told

him he wanted Russ to lead the mine sweep the next morning.

The next morning, he put all his gear on and walked out of the back of the armored personnel carrier, he noted, adding the lieutenant then notified Russ he was instead needed to plot rounds for the mortars, and the lieutenant pulled another guy from the platoon to take Russ' place.

That guy, Russ recalled, had no gear, so Russ gave him his flak jacket and other gear. "He got outside the gate about 30 meters and stepped on a landmine, and it killed him and two other guys," Russ said. ■ See Service A8



Photos courtesy Russ Widener

Russ Widener takes in the sights — and finds Spc. 4 Roy McLennan's name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall — in late September while on an Honor Flight.



Ballot issue 5A passes, school board members elected in Tuesday vote

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The unofficial vote totals for Tuesday's election have been released, with Archuleta County voters signaling strong support for Archuleta School District's (ASD's) mill levy override and electing four incumbent members to continue their time on the ASD Board of Education.

Archuleta County saw a 44.95 percent voter turnout, with 5,166 ballots cast out of 11,494 active voters.

The ballot included local races for school boards, state ballot measures and, depending upon where a voter lives, a school district ballot measure or special district ballot measure.

Not all races included below appeared on all ballots. All vote totals listed below are from Archuleta County voters unless otherwise noted and were accurate as of mid-morning Wednesday.

School board elections

Voters within ASD boundaries voted on the following school board director races:

Robert Lynch was selected to keep serving on the Board of Education representing District 2 after receiving 2,892 votes. Challenger Christa Laos received 1,132 votes. Lynch will serve a four-year term.

Amanda Schick was selected for a four-year term on the ASD board rep- ■ See Vote A9

Wolf Creek Ski Area announces opening date

By Hailey Sams
SUN Intern

Wolf Creek Ski Area's opening dates are slated for Saturday, Nov. 11, and Sunday, Nov. 12.

"Ten inches of snow fell October 28th and 29th. The all-natural settled base is 6 inches at the midway," relays Wolf Creek Ski Area's website, "with snowmaking operations taking place on Nova and Susan's runs."

The beginner lift and its two runs, Nova and Susan's trails, will be open

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with lift tickets available for \$44 for all ages. Ski school and ski and snowboard rental will be open as well, according to the website.

Wolf Creek will close Monday, Nov. 13, through Thursday, Nov. 16, and reopen for all-week operations on Friday, Nov. 17, according to the website.

"Details for 7-day a week operations will be announced closer to the reopening date," the website states. hailey@pagosasun.com

Community health assessment identifies major concerns

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 26 meeting, the San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) Board of Health (BoH) heard a presentation of preliminary data and priorities from the community health assessment recently conducted by SJBPH.


SJBPH Assessment and Planning Supervisor Shannon Shropshire presented the data, beginning by outlining that the community health assessment is a required portion of updating SJBPH's public health improvement plan.

She explained that the number of participants in the assessment survey rose from the previous 2018 assessment.

She indicated an increase of 493 participants for a total of 1,545 participants overall across both La Plata and Archuleta counties, an increase of 179 participants for a total of 427 in Archuleta County and an increase of 284 participants for a total of 1,118 in La Plata County.

Shropshire explained that the assessment involved six focus groups, seven key informant interviews and two qualitative survey questions resulting in 3,344 responses, all of which were coded by SJBPH staff and Colorado School of Public Health students.

SJBPH Interim Executive Director Brian Devine interjected to congratulate those who worked on the project ■ See Assessment A7

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Opinion

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11/2	59	22	-	-	-
11/3	63	26	-	-	-
11/4	65	26	-	-	-
11/5	64	29	-	-	-
11/6	64	28	-	-	-

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GUEST EDITORIAL

58,320 names

Russ Widener served in the U.S. Army during the conflict in Vietnam, including during Operation Fulton Square. He recently went on an Honor Flight, where he was able to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a black granite wall, cold to the touch. It is an immense slab of black stone 492 feet long, 102 feet wide and 7 and 1/2 feet tall positioned on a 2-acre field of land. Only one walkway is available for visitors to walk by the 58,320 names etched into its surface. There is nothing remarkable about this monument when compared to the many other memorials, statues, and structures nearby. Still, it is a very somber and emotional memorial and easily quiets a crowd, bringing tears to the eyes of many by its mere presence. When touched by those who have experienced the horrors of war, it brings chills to their very core. Each name represents a life lost, a family torn apart, and a dream deferred. It is a place of mourning. However, it is also a place of anger. Anger at a war that took these lives, fury at those who sent them to fight, and resentment at the society that forgot them when they came home.

Still, the wall remains a place of hope,

anticipation, and faith — hope that one day we will learn from the mistakes of the past, anticipation that we will never again send our young men and women to fight in a war that is not theirs, and faith that we will finally find peace.

The names inscribed on this monument should live in our hearts. They represent the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and friends who are no longer with us. They are the names of those who gave their lives for our country, and we must never forget why their names are on this memorial.

There are other monuments to military conflicts such as World War II, Korea, and others, that stand as tributes to the patriotism and sacrifice by vast numbers of defenders of freedom and democracy. Sadly, these structures are also glaring symbols of the seemingly continual ignorance and shortcomings of mankind. Many patriots who died defending freedom do not have their names on monuments but should never be forgotten. Many of those who served in past conflicts are with us today. They live in surroundings of peace but inwardly, unknown to others, fight their own wars of PTSD, homelessness, and disrupted lives.

Wars usually end in the eyes of the pub-

lic when the politicians and media announce the same. However, for many who experienced these events, the hostilities continue. Counseling sessions with mental health care workers are scheduled, individual and group meetings accomplished and medications routinely taken as prescribed. Still, for many individuals, the war rages. There is no peace for many of these soldiers. There is no end to any war by many of those who have experienced the horrors of it.

No one should ever measure the horror of war by the number of graves. Rather, include those who continue to fight their own wars, many times with their loved ones and themselves. Statues artistically carved from beautiful stones or other magnificent monuments are objective measurements of the cost of war, but the price of war is so much greater. Just ask those who have experienced the reality of armed conflict.

Remember, not everyone who lost his life in a war died there and not everyone who came home from a war ever left there. Once a war veteran, always a war veteran.

Russ Widener

LOOKING BACK



From the August 4, 1960 Pagosa SUN - These are the Pagosa Springs Volunteer Firemen who competed in the various field day events of the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association last Sunday at Salida. There were eight competing departments, two of them paid departments, and the locals brought home one trophy. The smoke eaters are, left to right, back row: Orrin Ford, George Crouse, Milton Wiley, Bud Patterson, Carlos LaVarta. Front row: Harold Flaugh, Don Warr, George Yanase, Ernest Yamaguchi and Warren Christie.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 9, 1923

At a meeting of the Lester W. Mullins post of the American Legion, held Tuesday evening, it was decided that the post would observe Armistice day on Monday, Nov. 12th, and a program was hurriedly arranged. Most of the business houses will be closed for the day and all of them at least during the afternoon, for the program will start at 1:00 o'clock with concerts by the Pagosa band.

Other features of the afternoon and evening will consist of the following:

Free moving picture show at the Liberty theatre, consisting of a Harold Lloyd comedy and "Nanook of the North," one of the finest feature pictures ever produced.

Rev. John Everington of Durango has been secured to deliver the Armistice address, which will also be held at the Liberty theatre.

In the evening at eight o'clock on Pagosa street a grand fireworks display will occupy the attention of all. The Legion post has purchased a wonderful assortment for this occasion.

A big dance at the Odd Fellows' hall will follow the fireworks.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 12, 1948

Work was started this week on moving of the SUN printing plant to its new location in the Frank Brown building adjoining the Whatsit Shop. The job printing equipment and paper stock was moved on Monday and Tuesday and the heavier machinery will be moved as soon as this issue is off the press.

The two big Linotypes and the large newspaper presses will be torn town and erected in time for next week's edition of the SUN.

Due to the fact that they are complicated machines, and some time must be spent assembling them after they are moved, normal production will be disrupted for a week or ten days and it will be greatly appreciated if all advertisers and correspondents will have their copy ready as early in the week as possible. Normal production is expected to be resumed by the last week in November and we ask the indulgence of our readers if during this period of confusion any news is overlooked or omitted.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 15, 1973

Local service stations are facing a cut-back in gasoline supplies and most have shortened their hours to allow for this. Some will be closing on Sunday, all will be observing fewer hours of operation each day. It is evident that the gasoline supply here has been curtailed to distributors and to service stations.

Local stations have said that they will be trying primarily to serve their local customers, but should have adequate supplies for normal winter travel. All indications are that the shortage will increase during the winter months.

This is the first time that the gasoline shortage has been felt so acutely in this community. To date there seems to be no shortage of natural gas for consumers already being served, nor is there any shortage of butane and propane for established customers. Butane and propane prices have been increased, however.

Local residents will find that diesel fuel, heating oil, and gasoline shortage problems are increasing.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 12, 1998

Y2K and what to do about it was the topic of a Tuesday meeting featuring representatives of the county, town, school district and Chamber of Commerce.

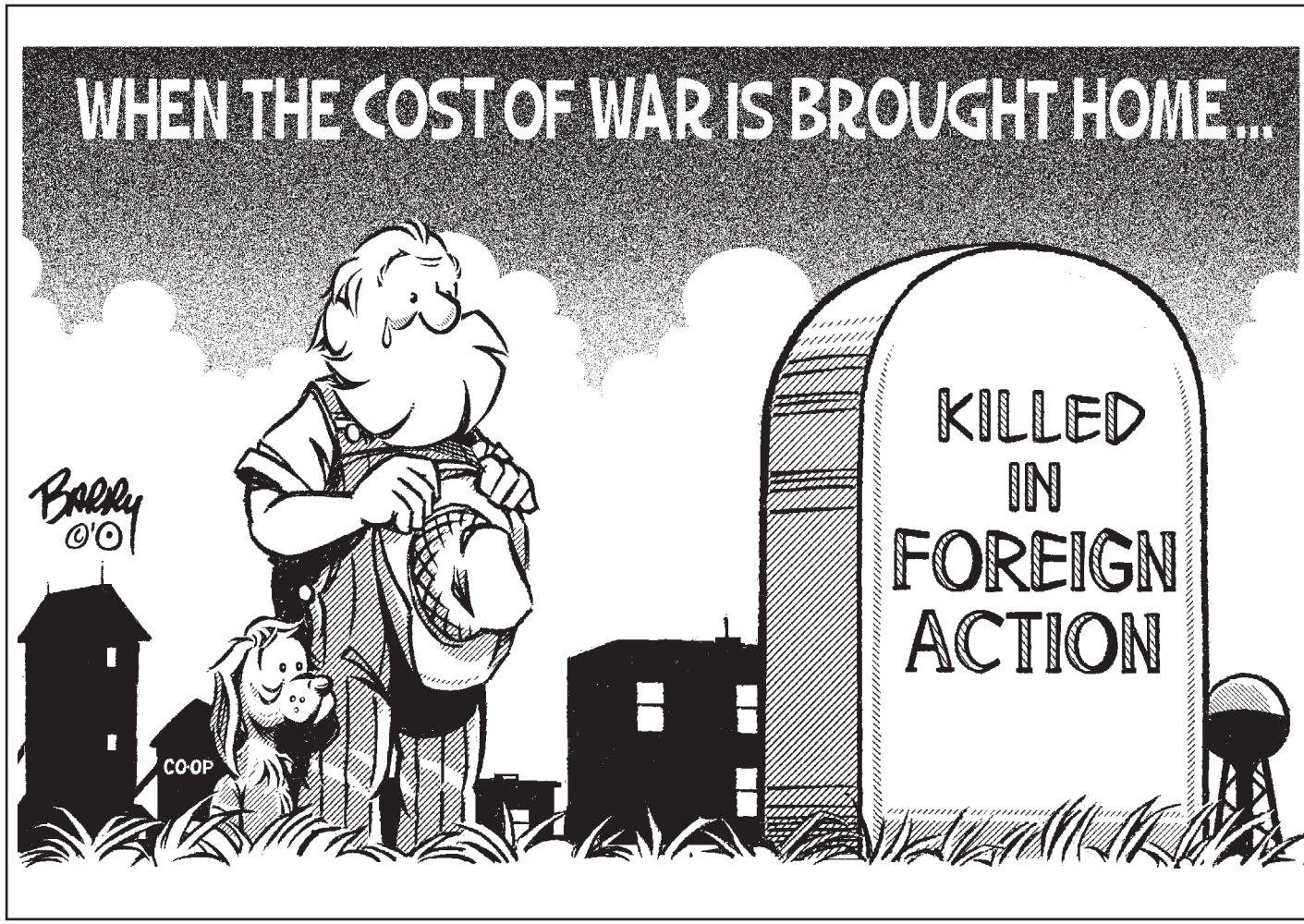
"The purpose of this meeting is to share our concerns about the Y2K situation and to establish mutuality in developing solutions," said Ken Fox, chairman of the board of county commissioners.

"This is a management problem, not a governmental problem," Fox said. "It can best be managed by taking a community-wide approach. We need to find a middle ground between the total catastrophe predicted by some and the 'let's ignore it' attitude of others."

Another admonishment given by Fox is to find remedies for situations local entities can control, and recognize that many effects will be outside of local control.

Y2K is the name given by experts to the possible failure of many computers when the year 2000 arrives. The failure could happen because many computers are not engineered to recognize the change from the 20th century to the 21st century.

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Letters

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

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.

City manager

Dear Editor:
Well, we have found a new City Manager and it appears to me that he will be rather handsomely compensated. Well, not apparently in his opinion. At the meeting to formalize his employment, our new City Manager brought up a new issue - "comp time."

Not knowing just what that is, I turned to family members who do. If you are employed for an 8-hour day, but work some extra time, you can have an agreement for "comp time." You save up that extra time and then use it to be either paid for the time or to use it for time off. We used to call that overtime and hourly employees were paid for that. Usually, normally, at least in my somewhat limited experience, salaried employees don't get "comp time." Salaried employees are expected to show up and get their job done in a fairly-normal work day. Not so for our City Manager. Stay past 5:00 and you expect to get extra compensation.

"Comp time" can be a little different in that this "extra time" is tracked

and then is paid like overtime or the employee uses that time for whatever but not for work.

The hiring of a new City Manager is a difficult process consuming a lot of time and effort on the part of our City Commissioners, who are not salaried. In the newspaper, it appears to me that the issue of "comp time" was not brought up until the meeting to sign the necessary documents. Do you believe that this just came up at the last minute? I don't.

The Commissioners were in a bind to get business done and this additional proposal was added to the contract. I do not fault them. I do fault our new City Manager for having waited to bring this issue up. My opinion is that he should have been escorted out of the room and headed back to Texas.

At the very outset of this new employment, the Town has been treated badly. We need a new City Manager.

William L. Hubbard

Editor's note: For clarification, the comment made at the meeting by Mayor Shari Pierce about comp time was to update the Pagosa Springs Town Council on new developments with the contract since its previous meeting. The town council members are paid \$200 monthly and the mayor is paid \$300 monthly.

Honoring our veterans

Dear Editor:
The Armistice ending WWI was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. In 1954, President Eisenhower set aside November 11th to officially honor our veterans.

The soldiers who fought in WWI endured devastating injuries from (then) new technologies - tanks, airplanes, machine guns, flamethrowers, poison gas. Over 320,000 Americans were killed or wounded in the "Great War."

In 2018, a joint US/French commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI was planned to coincide with a visit to France by then President Trump. Alas, it was raining that day. Trump refused to visit the resting place of the 1800 Marines who fell at Belleau Wood. Those in the room reported that the head of the US Armed Forces wondered aloud why he should go to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. It's filled with losers.

Thanks to the wisdom of our Founding Fathers, American soldiers take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. The aptness of this non-partisan, non-personal allegiance was reinforced on that rainy morning in 2018.

Perhaps we'd be wise to reflect on the character of anyone who wishes to lead our Armed Forces. We'd be wise to think deeply about what it takes to preside over our Democracy and to lead the brave men and women who defend it. Fallen, wounded, and captured soldiers aren't suckers or losers. They are our heroes.

On this Veteran's Day, let us be profoundly grateful for those who serve. Let's zealously guard the de-

mocracy they sacrifice so much to preserve. Let's remember that we owe our freedom to our veterans. Let's try to be worthy of their service.

K. Muth

How will you vote?

Dear Editor:
Are You Veterans Suckers? Veterans, whether you volunteered or were drafted, on the day you proudly marched on the parade ground after graduating from Boot Camp, you knew then that you had the responsibility of protecting and fighting for your country's honor. Had any individual insulted the symbol you wore then, they would be seeing stars in the middle of the day while laying flat on the ground. You were no coward.

One of the most cowardly things a person can do is not stand up for his or her family's honor when it is belittled. Ted Cruz and Mike Pence did nothing when they were insulted and threatened by the former four time indicted disgraced ex-President Trump, respectively. The latter also had his family put in danger while the first did nothing when Trump called his wife ugly.

Are you veterans who support Trump willing to have your compatriots and heroes referred to as suckers? Are you in line with MAGA Republicans, who are willing to kneel down and kiss Trump's ring? Or are you the type of vet like former Senator and war hero, John McCain, who risked his political career to confront a lady, who falsely disparaged former President Barack Obama?

Five in my immediate family served proudly in the military, including my father who is now 96 years old. My son, a nephew, and many cousins had combat duty. My family has no reservations of where our loyalty belongs. Veterans, where is your loyalty?

Republicans who once were considered pro-military are now doing the work of Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping, which is to undermine our military. U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama, and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert and other Republicans have little respect for our military. They either block or delay promotions and healthcare for veterans and service men and women, and their families, respectively.

Trump, who misused charitable funds (\$2.82 million) meant to support veterans, had his charity organization (Independence Fund) shut down. Eventually, he had to repay the money after being investigated.

Most veterans I know love their country and have disdain for Trump, but are afraid of what their peers will say. I wonder how some veterans can support a person who they'd be ashamed for their kids to be affiliated with.

In the presidential election next year our country's democracy is in peril, especially with the new Republican Speaker of the house, who is an election denier. Not only is our democracy in danger, but also our benefits are at stake. How will you vote?

America will never have the same hope our parents had for us, nor the freedom to choose who we want as our leaders if Trump is elected. Will you veterans be for your parents' America or for Putin's America? Will you denounce Trump's betrayal to the Constitution and to your dignity or do you like being called a Sucker?
Santos Luis O'Cañas

Constitution class

Dear Editor:
The Constitution is Alive
I want to publicly thank Perry Schjolin, our local Patriot Academy constitution coach, and Grace in Pagosa Church for hosting the Constitution Alive and Biblical Citizenship classes this past year. My wife and I have considered ourselves reasonably well educated in federal law, but we didn't have the historical education on the founding fathers or on the writings that inspired the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The challenges we face in our country can easily be overcome by seeking the truth, knowing why it was created in a specific way, understanding the importance of Liberty and by following state and federal laws. The very first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay said it very well. "every member of the state ought diligently to read and study the constitution of his country, and teach the rising generation to be free. By knowing their rights, they will sooner perceive when they are violated, and be the better prepared to defend and

■ See Letters A4

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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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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Business

Visit Pagosa Springs and Visit Alamosa awarded \$40,000 grant

Visit Pagosa Springs

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO), a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), announced last week that its Marketing Matching Grants program has awarded more than \$569,000 in grants to 16 Colorado organizations, from across the entire state, to aid in their marketing efforts.

The Tourism Marketing Matching Grant program provides financial support for tourism marketing and promotional campaigns, with a maximum grant amount of \$40,000. The grant operates on a 2:1 match basis, meaning that for every \$1 contributed by the grantee, the CTO provides \$2

in matching funds.

In a first-ever collaboration, Visit Pagosa Springs and Visit Alamosa are partnering to promote south central Colorado, connecting into southwest Colorado.

The Bridging Regions marketing campaign connects the Mystic San Luis Valley and Mountains and Mesas regions. The project targets specific key international audiences into the area. This campaign will allow the destinations to highlight an area of Colorado that features many aspects that would be interesting to an international traveler, including the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Wolf Creek Pass, Chimney Rock National Monument, the hot springs and the uniqueness of each destination.

According to Visit Pagosa Springs Executive Director Jennifer Green, "Both destinations have prioritized growing international visitation and we understand the strength of working together to promote our destinations to reach a unique audience. Alone, our destinations can only do so much with international marketing; this collaborative effort expands our reach that aligns with the international traveler."

Kale Mortensen, executive director of Visit Alamosa, explained, "A combined advertising campaign will allow us to promote an 'off the beaten path' segment of Colorado for many international travelers. We are focusing efforts on the strongest markets for both destinations. We are excited

about creating new itineraries and a marketing campaign that ties together both destinations seamlessly to improve the visitor experience."

About the CTO

The mission of the CTO is to empower the tourism industry by inspiring the world to explore Colorado responsibly and respectfully. The CTO seeks to advance the strength and resilience of the entire industry through collaboration, inclusivity, innovation and leadership.

In 2022, Colorado travelers spent \$27.7 billion, generating \$1.7 billion in local and state revenues, reducing the tax burden for every Colorado household by \$760. For more information, please visit www.colorado.com.

Gear up for business holiday activities

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

With November and December barreling down upon us with national holidays, Pagosa Springs also has our own plethora of activities. However, with these activities come due dates, so businesses should start working on their participation and interest level now.

Holiday Lighting Contest

We start off with the Holiday Lighting Contest. This annual event will take place from Nov. 24 to Dec. 31, and residents and businesses need to commit to keeping lights on that entire time.

There will be three categories this year: residential, business and storefront window. Applications need to be in by Wednesday, Nov. 15.

All entries need to be decorated by Nov. 24 when the online voting begins. Voting will take place until Dec. 17 and then the winners will be announced in the Dec. 21 edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Residential category winners can

win cash prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place. Business category winners can win the same denomination of prizes; however, the amount will be awarded in advertising dollars for The SUN. The Storefront Window category will have prize valuation of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$125 for third place, also paid out in advertising dollars with The SUN.

A complete list of guidelines can be found at <https://bit.ly/2023HolidayLightingContest>, where the link to the application is listed. The Chamber will also have a link to the contest on our home page.

More information will be forthcoming on how you can vote for all your favorite lighting displays from Nov. 24 to Dec. 17.

Small Business Saturday

There is always lots of hype about Black Friday deals and discounts. While you are in the shopping mode, don't forget about our local businesses that will be celebrating Small Business Saturday.

Officially sponsored by American

Express more than 12 years ago, this day brings to mind our local businesses and the need to shop small and local. Many of our businesses will be participating in this event.

If you are a retail, beauty or food business that is going to participate in this Nov. 25 event, please contact Membership Coordinator Kim Hartfiel about your participation at info@pagosachamber.com by Nov. 17.

Old Fashioned Christmas

Finally, we have the 3rd annual Old Fashioned Christmas event coming up on Dec. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. along the Riverwalk.

This event welcomes musicians, nonprofits, businesses and other community members to participate in this unique event. The entity basically "adopts" a section of the route. You are not allowed to sell items or have a fundraising effort.

You will be responsible for decorating your post with low-impact décor and illumination and non-amplified sound or music. Entry forms to participate in this event are due by Nov. 29 and you can contact Jennifer Green, tourism director, at sales@visitpagosasprings.com.

visitpagosasprings.com.

This event has fast become a true holiday community event highlighting our spirit and beautiful surroundings. Santa will be on hand, and there will be giveaways, music and so much more.

As you can see, our businesses and organizations have some planning ahead of them. Stay tuned for reminders, emails and social media posts from the Chamber reminding you to plan and participate in so much that Pagosa has to offer over the holiday season.

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Letters

Continued from A3

Mr. Schjolin is planning to start new classes in January. The classes are 2 hours long, one evening a week and I encourage all to attend. It will be time well spent plus you will meet great Pagosan's! My wife and I have now taken the classes twice and we plan on attending again in January.

Thanks again Perry and see you all in January!

Jamie Scholl

From the heart

Dear Editor:

From the Heart:

I have never written a letter to a newspaper but this subject has touched a sensitive spot especially because I feel I have personally been affected. I know you're tired probably of hearing about this, but how about one more letter on the subject, the proposed Heliport and/or Helipad in an agricultural and residential area. I know there are always two sides to any story but the residents protesting the development have done in-depth homework, they've researched environmental, sound ordinances and wildlife implications and spoke to everyone in the area they could. The man wanting the permit to build threw his neighbors off his property when they went to speak with him about his plans, claimed they were being disloyal to him! He didn't give them the courtesy of hearing their concerns.

He has told different people different stories. One person is a strong supporter but he wasn't there when he told his neighbors what he was planning on doing, before throwing them off his property. So now he wants to say its misinformation and falsehoods. What about the falsehoods this permit requester has spread about his plans? Once it's built, I can guarantee you he'll do whatever he wants and to what and whose detriment?

Now we hear the county doesn't want to entertain adding an addendum to zoning regulation 3.1.5.1. because it's 'pointing out' one individual and they are afraid of a lawsuit. Tell me, how is this any different to barring a gravel pit? The county did that and it was one individual! Why were they not afraid of a lawsuit then? This has the same environmental implications...quality of life for residents and wildlife, adding possible

contamination of Echo Valley Ditch, water we all rely on in the valley. Why are they bending to one individual vs several hundred? Several hundred could sue just as one person could.

I've already seen the effect of his helicopter flying over the valley. My beloved bald eagles have abandoned a nest they've been in for years. My horses were spooked and have run through barbed wire fencing. I've had less deer this year than prior years and who knows if the elk will return. It's disheartening to sit on your patio and listen to the whoop, whoop of helicopter blades when you are trying to enjoy a Sunday afternoon in peace.

Did you know Denver closed down pickle ball courts because of the sound affecting the nearby residents? How could they do that? Our county commissioners need to listen to ALL of their county residents.

Evelyn Tennyson

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USDA ORGANIC

Water boards discuss possibility of Running Iron Ranch sale

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At an Oct. 12 joint meeting and at subsequent separate meetings, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed the prospects for the sale of the Running Iron Ranch and related conflicts between the boards.

Discussion of the possibility of a sale at the joint meeting opened with PAWSD District Manager/Engineer Justin Ramsey explaining that PAWSD District Manager Renee Lewis received an email from a real estate agent representing property owners neighboring the approximately 20-acre property across U.S. 160 from Running Iron Ranch that is owned by PAWSD and the SJWCD.

Those neighboring property owners offered to purchase the property for \$50,000 an acre, he noted.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson commented that the agreement between PAWSD, the SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) discourages splitting the Running Iron Ranch and adjacent properties owned by the districts and selling the pieces.

He added that, in his reading of the agreement, the organizations cannot sell a portion of the property and suggested the proper response would be to ask the interested party to buy the entire set of properties.

Hudson and PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh briefly discussed the costs PAWSD would incur according to the agreement if it chose to sell the property before SJWCD board member Charles Riehm asked if the offer provided to PAWSD, if extended to the entire property, would cover PAWSD's debt on the property.

Hudson stated that this would easily cover PAWSD's costs, although Walsh expressed doubt if any buyer would purchase the entire acreage at \$50,000 an acre.

SJWCD board member Candace Jones highlighted that the property has a unique value as a potential site for a reservoir that she suggested goes beyond the value the property would have if sold for development.

She also noted that "some people" may oppose the construction of a reservoir but that other portions of the community see the need for one.

"And that's a big false dichotomy," Walsh commented, stating that the opponents of the reservoir make up 80 percent to 90 percent of residents of the area based on the vote margins of candidates and ballot issues supporting the reservoir.

"So, I don't dismiss 80 or 85 or 90 percent of the voters as people who are ill-informed and we're better informed bureaucrats and we can impose our vision on them," Walsh said. "I really object to it. You really have to respect the fact that 80 to 90 percent of the community doesn't support Dry Gulch."

Jones countered that while 80 percent to 90 percent of the community may not want to pay for the reservoir, the portion of the commu-

nity with an interest in the creation of a reservoir is higher.

Walsh suggested that the SJWCD's perspective is "the perspective of people who don't pay for things" and suggested that SJWCD attempt to go to state agencies or the voters to obtain funding to purchase the property.

"But I think you'd prefer us to spend 100 percent of the carry costs every year, including taking on responsibility for your grant, and then to tell us we can't use a piece of property across the street for our workforce," Walsh said, referencing a \$1 million portion of the initial funding for buying the ranch that came from a grant from the CWCB that will have to be repaid if the property is sold and PAWSD's efforts to construct employee housing on the 20-acre parcel which received the offer for purchase.

"If we can't divide what's pool and what's dam from the rest of the property where we can put it to some beneficial use, then I move real quickly from a water time, 'Let's hold it,' to, 'Let's just sell it,' because we just will not have a productive relationship if

bers to indicate whether they would support sale of the land for the offered price or not.

The members of both boards unanimously stated that they would not support selling the parcel at the offered price.

Following this, Hudson noted that the sale of property would require PAWSD to repay the CWCB grant.

Tautges stated that this is "immaterial" and that the question before the boards was if they wanted to ask the persons making the offer to buy the entire ranch.

Riehm and SJWCD board member Bill Nobles cautioned that such a counterproposal might present issues and that PAWSD would likely have to notify the public and the CWCB about their intent to sell the property.

Hudson questioned what the objection would be to PAWSD entering into negotiations with a potential buyer.

PAWSD board member Peter Hurley stated that such negotiations would be premature as PAWSD needs to determine what penalties it would face from the CWCB for such a sale.

would likely not be interested in purchasing the property if it went up for sale and that the board would also be unlikely to support a renegotiation for a longer planning term for the reservoir project.

Lewis stated that the CWCB representatives suggested that the renegotiation would be "more plausible" than the CWCB exercising its right of first refusal and purchasing the property.

Ramsey also noted that the CWCB representatives indicated that the payoff for the Running Iron Ranch, including the penalties for selling the property, would be approximately \$10.2 million.

Hurley highlighted that, with \$10.2 million, PAWSD would be "clear of this land."

Walsh added that the amount required for PAWSD to pay off its debt will be higher in the future, adding, "My sympathy is to hold it for 70 years and put a small reservoir there, but there's a lot of risk if somebody offers 10.2."

Hurley commented that, while he supports constructing a reservoir on Running Iron Ranch, he opposes PAWSD holding the property for that purpose and would like the property to be purchased by the SJWCD or the CWCB.

Tautges commented that the SJWCD appeared to be unaware of the results of the meeting with the CWCB, and Ramsey stated that he did not discuss the meeting with the SJWCD.

Tautges suggested that the SJWCD understanding that PAWSD can sell the property might make meetings with the SJWCD more productive.

Ramsey responded that he believed the rest of the SJWCD board, excluding Proffitt, understands that PAWSD can sell the property.

Ramsey commented it was a "good meeting" with the CWCB.

The board then further discussed next steps for the Running Iron Ranch property, with Hurley stating that the CWCB purchasing the property would be ideal and promoting continued exploration of selling the property.

Tautges suggested that additional water rights or other options could provide "the 40-year solution" to water needs in the area.

Walsh concluded the discussion by stating that, while he believes the "10,000 acre-foot" model for a reservoir is "kind of silly," he believes that a smaller reservoir might benefit the community while opening up options for PAWSD to use the remaining portions of the property for other uses.

At the Oct. 16 SJWCD board meeting, the board also discussed the joint meeting.

The discussion began with SJWCD board member Rob Hagberg commenting that the SJWCD has "fundamental disagreements" with Walsh about when water from the reservoir would be needed.

"They think they have enough water to last forever," Hagberg said. "And I think they're nuts."

SJWCD president Al Pfister commented that "he is not they" and Hagberg countered that Walsh was "dominant in the conversation."

The board then discussed the proposal by Walsh at the meeting that a reservoir could be built in Martinez Canyon, with the board generally agreeing that this could be a feasible location for a reservoir, although Nobles noted that additional sampling and testing would be needed before this could be confirmed as a viable location.

josh@pagosasun.com

"Justin Ramsey stated that the CWCB representatives stated that PAWSD has the right to sell the property — a position which contrasted with an email Ramsey noted he received from SJWCD board member Rod Proffitt that states PAWSD cannot sell the property — and that the CWCB approves of workforce housing on the property as long as it does not impact the development of a reservoir."

you can't draw those lines conceptually," Walsh added.

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges asked if the boards' focus is too narrow, questioning if there are other options for improving water storage and availability in the area without constructing a reservoir.

Walsh commented that PAWSD operates its district on only a portion of the water it possesses and it could secure additional water from reservoirs it owns if necessary.

He suggested that, because of this, the community will not need another large reservoir for 60 to 70 years.

Walsh also highlighted Martinez Canyon as a potential site for another smaller reservoir.

PAWSD chairman Jim Smith interrupted Walsh, bringing the meeting to order again and asking Lewis to provide the details of the offer, after which he stated the boards could decide to accept or not accept it.

Lewis described the offer as being from two adjacent landowners to the 20-acre parcel who were coming together to offer \$50,000 an acre for the parcel.

Tautges questioned if the sale of a portion of a property is allowed under the agreement and stated the boards should seek a legal opinion.

Smith then asked for board mem-

He commented that both boards want the "best and highest use" for the property.

Hurley added that, once the potential penalties and the value of the land are known, PAWSD could decide to put the property up for sale and attempt to attract bids, which he suggested is the correct way to approach the sale.

Hurley stated that he might support selling the property, but added that the board needs to do "due diligence" first, as well as entertaining other "highest and best uses" before entering into the sale price.

Following a discussion about if PAWSD should respond to the offer at all, Lewis suggested that PAWSD could respond by stating that the board is not interested in the offer, but those making the offer are welcome to attend a PAWSD meeting.

The board members agreed that this would be an appropriate response, concluding the discussion.

Later that day, at the PAWSD board meeting, the board and Ramsey discussed a recent meeting between PAWSD and the CWCB to discuss the costs of selling Running Iron Ranch and the prospects for changes to the loan agreement.

Ramsey explained that he, Lewis, Burns and Hurley met with CWCB representatives and noted that PAWSD is facing high regulatory compliance costs in the next 10 years and that the cost of the Running Iron Ranch loans "isn't helping."

"We tried to be somewhat diplomatic and not throw ... San Juan under the bus, but we did let them know that, in the eight years this agreement was in, we really haven't seen any movement towards getting a reservoir, and so it's likely we're not going to see one anytime in the near future, so we need to come up with some way to have some benefit of all the money we're spending with San Juan," Ramsey said.

He stated that the CWCB representatives stated that PAWSD has the right to sell the property — a position which contrasted with an email Ramsey noted he received from SJWCD board member Rod Proffitt that states PAWSD cannot sell the property — and that the CWCB approves of workforce housing on the property as long as it does not impact the development of a reservoir.

He added that the CWCB representatives suggested that the CWCB



Photo courtesy Edie Brogan

Jake Harvath and his mustangs — Bella, Eddy and Denver — are pictured in Pagos Springs earlier this week. Harvath is in the midst of the longest horse trek ever to be completed in the United States in just a year. The Year of the Mustang, as he calls it, started in Utah, with Harvath set to cross through 30 states in the continental U.S. and cover about 7,200 miles entirely on horseback.

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Water conservancy discusses reservoir status report, considers next steps

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At an Oct. 16 meeting and an Oct. 27 work session, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed a draft report from consultant Rick Ehat on the district's San Juan Headwaters reservoir project.

SJWCD President Al Pfister explained that Ehat submitted a report on the reservoir and asked the board for comments, noting, "He has spent the money that we have approved thus far."

He also asked the board whether it wished to proceed with spending additional money with Ehat to answer some of the questions remaining in the report or take the report and have the board move forward on determined next steps.

SJWCD board member Rod Proffitt commented that Ehat examined the project at a high level and that he would like to ask him additional questions before moving forward.

Proffitt added that he was surprised about how low the escalated estimated construction cost of \$75.1 million was, noting that he expected inflation to carry the cost above \$100 million.

SJWCD board member Candace Jones stated that she desires additional information on how grant applications for the project would need to be scheduled.

SJWCD board member Bill Nobles commented that the report is "extremely broad" and that he wanted additional details and guidance, although he added that the board had potentially not directed Ehat toward this approach clearly enough.

Pfister stated that Ehat spent a significant amount of time on a "budget matrix" in the report, limiting the amount of time available to provide specific directions.

He added that the lack of specific direction was also driven by a desire to provide options to the board for how it might choose to proceed.

Nobles questioned if the report would provide pilot documentation for soliciting funding.

Pfister indicated that the report could be the "start" of such documentation, though further discussion and research would be needed.

Pfister added that he would estimate it would take \$5,000 to get the specific information requested by the board.

The group then discussed what information and documentation would be needed to have the information needed for applications for future planning grants, with board members expressing a desire for additional specifics, an expanded report and a roadmap for future steps.

Nobles asked if moving forward with reservoir design would require buy-in from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), with all parties in a three-way agreement concerning the financing and management of the Running Iron Ranch where the reservoir would be located.

Pfister expressed the opinion that he does not want to "wait" for PAWSD, and the board expressed frustration with the lack of communication between PAWSD, the CWCB and the SJWCD.

Pfister commented that the SJWCD needs to continue moving forward and completing goals with the reservoir project, and Nobles raised concerns about if PAWSD might be taking steps to sell the Running Iron Ranch property without communicating with the SJWCD.

Pfister stated that PAWSD has not advertised the property for sale but has taken initial steps toward a sale, such as completing a budget analysis to determine how much money would be required to pay off the loans on the property.

Jones commented that it is "unfortunate" that PAWSD does not recognize the value of the property beyond its financial value and that she believes there is significant support for the project in the area, including from the Archuleta County commissioners, although there is not support for having local taxpayers fund it.

Pfister agreed, and Proffitt commented that PAWSD is driven by

its debt issues and that its board is interested in withdrawing from the project or giving no active support to it while freeing the district from its debt obligations.

Jones commented that the issue would not be solved at this meeting, and Pfister recommended that he submit the comments that the board had on the report to Ehat and that he schedule a meeting with Ehat to discuss the reservoir report.

The board then discussed the timing of the meeting and the feasibility of Ehat completing the recommendations on what directions the board could pursue.

SJWCD attorney Jeff Kane remove provided his comments, noting that the board needs to know the scope of National Environmental Protection Act and archaeological studies required for federal funding on the project and what projects the funding would enable before beginning those studies to prevent excess work being done.

Kane added that the board will also need to identify a consultant who can assist with design and project permitting for the reservoir.

The board expressed general agreement with both comments.

Pfister then updated the board briefly on his discussions with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) concerning a potential land exchange for the reservoir, explaining that the exchange could not move forward until a list of possible properties for exchange is generated, before discussion of the report concluded.

At the Oct. 27 work session, SJWCD board members discussed the findings of the report and next steps with Ehat.

The work session began with SJWCD board member Doug Secrist explaining that he and Pfister discussed the report with Ehat a "couple weeks ago" and discussed potential next steps.

He added that the cost estimate Ehat provided was "preliminary."

Secrist also noted that some of these next steps might impact SJWCD's 2024 budget.

Ehat explained that he reviewed a range of sources in compiling his report as well as speaking with people previously involved in work on the project.

The board and Ehat then discussed what the objective of the work session was, with Jones noting that the board was interested in Ehat providing a "roadmap" for funding and next steps on the project.

Jones added that the work session should also cover the steps needed to finalize Ehat's report.

Secrist recommended that Ehat give a review of his report, which Ehat expressed agreement with.

SJWCD board member Joe Tedder recommended that the board should ask questions on the report first given they had all reviewed the report before the meeting.

Jones asked Ehat for his opinion on how much of the work already done on the reservoir project would have to be redone for future funding applications.

Ehat explained that he spent significant time on investigating what funding options might be available for the reservoir and that he was positively surprised with the amount of funding options available, although he had not completed those investigations due to a need to complete the report on the status of the reservoir project.

He explained that he is "aggressive" in terms of funding applications and that there are a range of potential approaches available depending on how many risks the board is willing to accept, particularly in terms of soliciting federal funding.

Jones asked if there are options available that do not require federal funding, to which Ehat indicated there are some options available, though it would be potentially difficult to fund the entire project in such a way.

Jones questioned Ehat on if he had a sense of what funds would need to be secured first and what the order of funding should be.

Ehat noted that Pfister and Secrist did not express enthusiasm for an "aggressive" approach to reservoir funding, which he explained means

trying to secure as much funding as quickly as possible.

Tedder commented that, in his understanding, the cost estimate was based on a 2017 loan application that used comparisons with construction work on Long Hollow Dam to create a rough estimate of costs and noted that this estimate is not based on a design.

Ehat commented that this approach to creating an estimate was a "yellow flag" for him, but that he feels the estimate is the "best you have."

He recommended that the SJWCD needs to move forward with acquiring a design for the reservoir.

Tedder questioned how much variation there might be from the cost estimate the report provides for the final project costs.

Ehat explained that most funding sources, particularly the federal government, would require a "feasibility-level design" or a "feasibility estimate" before they would provide funding for the project.

Tedder reiterated his question about how much variability in costs would be expected in a feasibility estimate.

Ehat replied that 10 percent variation would be expected for that level of estimate.

Jones reiterated her questions about how to order grant applications, adding that part of Pfister's and Secrist's interest in being conservative with applications was driven by an awareness of the district's limited funds.

Ehat noted that the 2017 loan application might be enough for certain applications, but documentation showing local support and additional economic analyses might be necessary.

He also noted that phasing the project might be a useful approach for funding the reservoir.

After discussing two potential federal grant programs the district could apply to, Ehat stated that he believes Pfister is interested in moving slowly and securing additional funding to investigate the reservoir project due to its potential complexity.

The board then discussed a range of potential grant options, including federal grants, particularly through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Ehat commented that the SJWCD would likely have to move "in tandem" with the CWCB on many of these grants due to the need for matching funds and emphasized that the district needs to move forward on reservoir design.

He also stated that the reservoir project will require updated environmental compliance studies once design reaches approximately 10 percent.

Secrist asked how moving forward with design would integrate with the land swaps with the USFS that would be required to supply the area needed for an 11,000 acre-foot reservoir.

Ehat suggested that the land swap process should likely occur alongside acquiring grant funds and raised the possibility that the SJWCD could come to an agreement with the USFS that does not require a land swap.

Tedder questioned if not having the land fully available would negatively impact the district's funding applications and stated that Pfister wanted to work on the land swap in 2024 to eliminate this risk.

Ehat indicated that this might be a risk and stated that the district would need to investigate and ask about how much of a risk it would be.

Jones asked whether the district should distribute its funds between acquiring grants and moving design forward or whether it should focus on one element.

Ehat stated that he would focus on moving the engineering and design forward and that the total design costs for the projects would potentially cost around 12 percent of the total project expenses.

Jones commented that the district might need \$10 million to get to a point where it could apply for funding for reservoir construction.

Ehat stated that the design could be phased, but this would carry additional risks.

"It would be easy for me to say if you had all the money what the right thing to do is," Ehat said. "But, you don't, so you gotta take these baby

steps, like you're saying. I think you're getting the picture real well."

Tedder asked if additional geological analysis on the project is needed to ensure that Running Iron Ranch is a feasible location for a reservoir should be an early step in the project given the possibility that the site's geology is not conducive to a dam and reservoir.

Ehat indicated that this work would be part of the design costs and that such tests would require an engineering geologist and a designer to analyze the results.

He also emphasized that shale, such as might exist at Running Iron Ranch, can be dealt with during construction.

The question of if the reservoir would hold water would also need to be answered, Ehat added, although he commented that the Running Iron Ranch location appears likely to be sound in that regard.

In response to a question from Jones, Ehat indicated that the reservoir design would indicate what information would be needed and that the district would perform sampling to fit the needs the designer identifies.

Tedder suggested that Ehat's comments about the possible difficulties of building on shale "multiplied" his concerns about the project as he had only considered the geology of the area from the perspective of permeability, not impacts on construction.

Secrist asked Ehat about what his approach for hiring a program manager to help move the project forward would be.

Ehat explained that the board could take several approaches, including attempting to secure separate grant funding for a program manager or that the board could include funding for a program manager in a larger grant application for reservoir project funding.

Tedder noted that the CWCB Southwest Basin Roundtable expressed support for the SJWCD's reservoir project when the district presented a grant for educational

■ See Reservoir A7

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Assessment

Continued from front for their contributions.

Shropshire explained that one survey question asked respondents to rank the overall health of their community, with 58 percent of Archuleta County respondents rating the community as somewhat healthy, 30 percent as healthy, 9 percent as unhealthy and 3 percent as very healthy.

These results contrasted with La Plata County, Shropshire explained, adding that 50 percent of La Plata County respondents rated their community as healthy, 37 percent as somewhat healthy, 8 percent as very healthy, 4 percent as unhealthy and 1 percent as very unhealthy.

She stated that, when these survey responses were translated to a numerical rating with a lower number being better, the rating for Archuleta County improved by 0.04 from 2018 to 2.73 while the La Plata County number improved by 0.03 to 2.4.

She explained that the Colorado School of Public Health used the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) framework to code qualitative results, which she added is broadly used in Colorado and focuses on "upstream prevention" and social determinants of health.

Shropshire stated that residents of both counties were asked what they believe is the most important health issue facing the residents of their county and that the near 50 percent of respondents in both counties indicated living conditions.

She commented that this is the largest category of issues in the BARHII framework and that "it's really not a surprise that that's where most things fall."

Out of those who chose living conditions, approximately 60 percent of residents noted problems with health care, including access and affordability, Shropshire stated, adding that 27 percent in La Plata County and 15 percent in Archuleta County instead indicated housing as a primary issue.

She then explained that survey respondents used an average of three SJBPH services per person, with COVID-19-related support and immunizations, other vaccination services and SJBPH communications making up the most commonly used services.

Shropshire and Devine noted that these results are not necessarily indicative of what services are most used by residents, noting that restaurant inspections benefit every person that visits a restaurant in the counties, but that few residents are aware of them.

Shropshire then covered issues that respondents chose as a major concern in either county, noting that approximately 80 percent of respondents in both counties chose afford-

able housing as a major concern.

She stated that, in Archuleta County, the next most prominent major concerns included availability of jobs/economic opportunity at 46 percent and substance use at 45 percent.

In La Plata County, she explained that 59 percent of respondents marked substance use and climate change as major concerns, making them the most common after affordable housing.

Climate change was only noted as a major concern by 42 percent of Archuleta County respondents.

She stated that approximately 50 percent of La Plata County respondents marked access to inpatient psychiatric treatment and access to individual therapy/counseling and support as major concerns while 40 percent of Archuleta County respondents marked solid and hazardous waste issues — such as landfills, illegal dumping and recycling — as a major concern.

Devine noted that respondents could choose more than one major concern.

Shropshire explained that the top 10 areas of concern were similar across both counties, although solid and hazardous waste did not make the top 10 in La Plata County and access to diagnostic services, such as testing, screening and mental health assessments, did not make the top 10 in Archuleta County.

She then presented the major concerns by ranked score, indicating that affordable housing and substance use took the highest places in both counties followed by poverty in Archuleta County and access to mental health care in La Plata County.

She stated that the lowest concern in Archuleta County was vaccine-preventable diseases such as flu or whooping cough and the lowest concern in La Plata County was availability of exercise and fitness opportunities.

The BoH then discussed the reasons for why vaccine-preventable diseases were a low concern in Archuleta County, with board members and staff questioning whether this was driven by an unwillingness to use vaccines in Archuleta County, a perception that such illness are not broadly circulating in the community or that these illnesses are effectively controlled in the community by vaccines.

Shropshire explained that concerns about affordable housing rose and concerns about substance use fell in both counties since the 2018 assessment.

Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton noted that she was surprised that concerns about substance abuse fell in La Plata County.

The group also discussed how aff-

ordable housing impacts public health, with BoH member Jon Bruss suggesting that lack of affordable housing, in addition to causing financial strain that inhibits health care access, can also lead to increased spread of infections due to cramped living conditions.

Shropshire then covered the details of the survey questions on health concerns in the community before moving on to summarize the changes in concerns between 2018 and 2023.

She stated that, in both counties, concerns about suicide went down, while concerns about indoor air quality, access to healthy foods, access to basic and specialist medical providers, and access to individual therapy went up.

In Archuleta County, Shropshire explained that concerns about teen pregnancy, adult tobacco use and adult marijuana use decreased, and concerns about septic systems and outdoor air quality rose.

BoH chair Shere Byrd questioned if the data on concerns about access to medical providers is shared with medical care providers, noting that public health does not directly control medical care.

Shropshire stated that medical providers were involved with the assessment and that some of the barriers to access may be related to issues that public health can more directly address, such as health insurance availability.

Bruss noted that Healthy Archuleta in Archuleta County is also working on addressing access to primary care.

The BoH then further discussed health access in La Plata County, with Devine noting that many of the issues in the health assessment are national in scale and stating that many of the issues in the plan may need to be addressed through community partnerships instead of through direct action by the public health agency.

Bruss also suggested that the responses contained in the community health assessment might not be representative of the overall community.

BoH member and Archuleta County Department of Human Services Director Isabel Vita explained that her agency pursues extensive partnerships with community partners and that she believes that these partnerships help to ensure the agency remains "in tune" with the community.

Porter-Norton noted that public health also has a role in ensuring that housing meets health standards for indoor air quality and other issues.

Byrd added that public health's broader role in facilitating partnerships and direction for broad community issues is increasingly important.

Shropshire indicated that responses to a question on survey par-

ticipants' view of their ideal version of health indicate that affordability and accessibility are key concerns.

She then presented the advisory committee recommendations for potential public health improvement plan priorities, including (in alphabetical order) access to care, behavioral health promotion, climate and health, environmental health and living conditions, public health system capacity, and social determinants of health.

Shropshire added that these potential priorities and the data supporting their selection would be discussed further at the next BoH meeting, although Devine noted that these issues were prominent throughout the community health assessment data presented.

Devine added that the priorities will be discussed at the November BoH meeting with the aim of adopting the public health improvement plan at the December meeting.

BoH member Bob Ledger asked if

See Assessment A10

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Reservoir

Continued from A6

video creation to the roundtable.

He asked if it might be productive to attempt to secure funding from the roundtable to support additional grant writing, indicating that the organization has a budget of \$750,000 in 2024 for grants.

Tedder added that such a grant would need to be submitted by Dec. 1.

The group then discussed this possibility, with SJWCD Executive Assistant Sally High noting that SJWCD's contracted grant writer, Renee Lewis, could assist with preparing such a grant.

The board then pondered the possibility of using reserve funds for a grant writer or project manager and

discussed if Lewis would be available to submit the grant.

Following further discussion, the board agreed to contact Lewis and assess if she could submit the grant, with High emphasizing that Lewis is ready to work on such a grant.

The board also discussed that it would likely need to schedule a special meeting to approve Lewis working on applying for the roundtable grant.

Ehat then raised the issue of how the board wants the report he submitted to be finalized.

Secrist recommended including suggestions from Ehat on what the next steps for the reservoir project should be.

Tedder and SJWCD board member Susan Nossaman expressed agreement with Secrist's recommendation, and Ehat stated that he could likely do this before the SJWCD board's Nov. 16 special meeting.

"Really good," Tedder commented on the meeting. "Our most productive one-and-a-half-hour session we've had in four years."

Tedder added that Secrist would need to speak with Kane to determine if a special meeting is needed to approve Lewis moving forward with the grant application or not.

The meeting concluded with Ehat thanking the board for its "patience" and questions.

josh@pagosasun.com

FREE COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENTS

Hot Springs Fest is a 3-day festival celebrating Pagosa Springs' all-natural mineral water and the healing benefits of hot springs. In celebration of the event, we invite you to join the wellness team of The Springs Resort and the team at Healing Waters for a series of Free Community Wellness Events as part of Hot Springs Fest.

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4:30 - 5:00 PM	5:00 - 6:30 PM	10:00 - 11:00 AM
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Experience relaxation and balance with a rejuvenating sound bath experience, where soothing sounds and vibrations guide you to a state of meditation and tranquility, promoting holistic wellbeing.	Experience the fun and meditative practice of ecstatic dance, a free-form dance event with uninhibited movement that allows you to express yourself through joyful and spontaneous dancing.	Join us in the park for a community yoga event, open to all experience levels, as we connect with nature and community while enjoying the mindful benefits of yoga for physical and mental wellbeing.
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Photo courtesy Russ Widener

The veterans of the late September Honor Flight out of southern Colorado pose for a photo. The group included three veterans from Pagosa Springs.

Service

Continued from front

"About an hour later they brought my weapon back and the only thing of my weapon was my trigger housing." That guy was McLennan.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund lists his date of casualty as Aug. 24, 1969.

"I never realized that that hung with me forever," Russ said.

Jacqui explained that Russ finding McLennan's name on the Vietnam wall during his Honor Flight was an emotional release.

"That was a very, very emotional moment," Russ said, adding later, "I didn't realize until I got home just how much of a burden I'd been carrying for years."

Russ said he was "one of those PTSD deniers."

Several years ago, Russ explained, Jacqui helped Russ find McLennan's family and the two traveled to Texas to meet McLennan's wife.

"I told them everything that had happened and stuff. But even that wasn't a release. The relief that I felt from visiting the wall was enormous, absolutely enormous," he said.

It was also part of the reason Russ wrote a piece that can be found on page 2 of this issue of The SUN.

Russ noted monuments built in honor of soldiers are also monuments to war and the ignorance of mankind.

"I couldn't get out of the back of my mind the ignorance of mankind," he said.

The Honor Flight, he added, gave him a lot of relief he'd never felt before, but also gave him a different perspective on war.

He indicated his perspective has changed with age and living life with war.

"I think people that have experienced it, it never leaves them," he said. "It's always there somewhere. In some shape or form, it's always there. And it's not always necessarily bad all the time ... but it affects your life profoundly. It affects the decisions you make, how you feel about things, how you don't feel about things and how you learn to turn off feelings without even realizing that you're doing that, it just happens."

Russ also explained he went through a long period of denial after seeing enemies killed and thrown in a ditch, then buried.

A missed flight

Russ was also part of another memorable occasion in Vietnam that left an impact.

"The biggest thing that happened in his military life, in my mind, is he was supposed to be getting on a helicopter after getting out of Vietnam after his service was up, and he missed his flight and he ended up in the second biggest battle of the war," Jacqui said. "And that's when he got his Silver Star, Purple Hearts and all that good stuff."

That battle was Operation Fulton Square in the Quang Tri Province.

"I was in a combat unit on the DMZ and we had just set up on a hilltop that evening, it was getting toward dusk, and we were setting

up perimeter defenses. And when I came back they said, 'Sgt. Widener, where were you?' I said, 'What do you mean? I was out setting up defenses.' They said, 'That helicopter ... came in for you because you're due to go home; you got orders.' And wouldn't you know, that night we got in one of the biggest battles of 1969," Russ said with a chuckle, noting he could see the helicopter flying off in the distance. "I think I was saying some unkind words about the pilots."

That night ended up being one of the biggest battles of the conflict, with Russ noting he thinks more than 240 enemy combatants were killed in about four hours.

He noted the battle began with the single platoon of 30 men, but reinforcements came in later that night at about 10 p.m.

Russ' Silver Star commendation states in part that he "distinguished himself by valorous actions on 13 November 1969 as a mortar section leader of Company B, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 61st Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), during the defense of a night perim-

"I think people that have experienced it, it never leaves them," he said. "It's always there somewhere. In some shape or form, it's always there. And it's not always necessarily bad all the time ... but it affects your life profoundly. It affects the decisions you make, how you feel about things, how you don't feel about things and how you learn to turn off feelings without even realizing that you're doing that, it just happens."

Russ Widener

eter. A numerically superior force of North Vietnamese Army Regulars engaged the Company's perimeter with a devastating barrage of mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. Sergeant Widener, with complete disregard for his own safety, fearlessly moved from position to position providing encouragement and leadership, administered first aid to more than fifteen seriously injured comrades, and personally eliminated an aggressor about to throw a grenade into the position where he was treating a casualty. His knowledge of first aid saved many lives and was largely responsible for conserving the



Roy McLennan



Russ Widener

unit's fighting strength."

He left the next day, Jacqui relayed, pointing out they received no debriefing and a shocking experience just ended.

Russ recalled encountering Hare Krishnas in the San Francisco International airport days later while in his full dress uniform.

They said something to him, he recalls, and "they ended up laying on the floor."

He said law enforcement officers located nearby did nothing.

"I was greeted rather harshly," he said.

Russ arrived home in Ohio on Thanksgiving day, but didn't realize that's what day it was.

When he saw cars in the driveway, he assumed his parents had friends over for dinner.

He remembered his mom answered the door and he heard his dad ask, "Is my boy home?"

A career of service

Russ grew up in Troy, Ohio, after having been adopted at the age of 1 day, his wife, Jacqui relayed.

He joined the Army at 18, but didn't go to Vietnam until he was 23, he noted.

He served from 1964 until April 1994 with breaks in his service, he stated. He retired as an officer with 21 years of service.

According to a narrative he wrote, Russ went into the reserves and one to two years later his unit was activated. He was then called to active duty in 1968.

One of those breaks was to go to school for nursing.

Russ relayed with a laugh that, after he earned two purple hearts, someone suggested he wasn't very good at what he was doing and should change professions.

"It's ironic because I put in for flight school when I was stationed in Hawaii, and I was accepted," Russ said. "I passed all the tests and was just waiting for orders and then I came down on orders for Vietnam. And I fought it all the way, as far as I could fight it and finally the answer was, 'When you get back from Vietnam we'll make sure you go to flight school.' Well, after I came back from Vietnam, I thought, 'Do I really want to go to flight school?'"

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Community to honor veterans with multiple events

By Hailey Sams
SUN Intern

A number of events in Archuleta County are scheduled to honor veterans on Friday, Nov. 10, and Saturday, Nov. 11.

Friday, Nov. 10, will start off with the annual breakfast at the Ross Aragon Community Center, put on by the eighth-grade class of Pagosa Springs Middle School.

The free breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at about 10:30 a.m. All veterans are invited, and World War II and Korean War veterans will be special guests.

The breakfast will have middle school band and choir performances, with the American Legion performing the flag-folding ceremony after the Pledge of Allegiance and "America the Beautiful."

Later that day, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., the Fourth Degree members of the Knights of Columbus will be hosting an appreciation dinner for all veterans.

It will be held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Veterans will be admitted for free and a donation of \$10 for all nonveterans is suggested.

For more information on the ap-

preciation dinner, email parishsecretary@ihmjp2.org.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., a Veterans Day ceremony will take place at Veterans Memorial Park.

Free access to state parks

As a thank you to U.S. military members, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will offer veterans and active duty members of the military, military reserve and National Guard free admission to all Colorado state parks on Friday, Nov. 10.

"Any member of the military forces or veteran can enter any of Colorado's state parks free of charge," states CPW's website, "along with his or her companions in the same vehicle."

According to the website, the military member or veteran must show proof of military service at the park gate. Military identification methods include military ID cards, applicable DD Forms, Veterans Affairs health identification cards, or a current driver's license of state-issued identification card with the veteran seal printed on it.

All other park fees, including camping and fishing fees, still apply.

Colorado residents that have current disabled veterans license plates

may obtain a "Disabled Veterans license plate" through the Division of Motor Vehicles that provides free entrance to state parks year-round, relays the website.

For more information about military benefits and Colorado state parks visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/>.

Forest Service waives day fees

In recognition of the nation's veterans, the USDA Forest Service will be waiving day-use fees for everyone on Saturday, Nov. 11.

"All day-use fee sites on National Forests and Grasslands in the Rocky Mountain Region, such as Chimney Rock National Monument on the San Juan National Forest, Arapaho National Recreation Area on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, and Fish Creek Falls on the Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests, will be free to all visitors on Veterans Day," a press release from the USDA Forest Service states.

The release comments that fees for camping, cabin rentals and other permits still apply, as do day-use fee sites operated by concessionaires "unless individual managers choose to participate."

The Forest Service offers six fee-

free days throughout the year, with Veterans Day being the last one of 2023.

Marine Corps birthday

On Friday, Nov. 10, local Marines and their guests are invited to a celebration at Boss Hogg's Restaurant and Saloon, located at 157 Navajo Trail Drive, from 6 to 8 p.m. It will be held in the Wilderness Room on the main floor.

This event marks the 248th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, as it was on Nov. 10, 1775, that the Continental Congress passed a resolution to establish the Marine Corps, according to the Pagosa Springs Marine Corps Birthday Committee, who's hosting the event.

The evening will feature the traditional birthday ceremony, including the recognition of the oldest and youngest Marines in attendance. Complimentary birthday cake will be served.

All service members, especially U.S. Navy corpsmen, are welcome and dress is casual, although uniforms are always welcome.

Contact Don MacNamee, (970) 731-0306, or Ed Robinson, (970) 731-0718 to RSVP or with questions.

hailey@pagosasun.com

County seeks planning commission applicants

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

County Manager Derek Woodman highlighted openings on the Archuleta County Planning Commission and that applications are still being accepted for the Road and Bridge Advisory Board at the Nov. 8 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session.

Woodman explained that the planning commission currently has two vacancies among its five seats.

He added that the openings have been advertised widely but have at-

tracted no applicants so far.

An Archuleta County advertisement in the Nov. 9 issue of The SUN states that, for the planning commission, "Applicants must be County Residents with duties to include: recommendations regarding subdivision regulations, zoning, and development projects along with amending the Community Plan and Land Use Regulations."

It explains that planning commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the county administration building

at 398 Lewis St.

The advertisement indicates that interested parties should contact Development Director Pamela Flowers by phone at (970) 264-8381 or by email at pflowers@archuletacounty.org to learn further details or request an application.

At the work session, Woodman added that the county has seen success in attracting applicants for the newly formed Road and Bridge Advisory Board, with eight applications received so far, "a few more" expected and applications open for

another week.

Another Archuleta County advertisement in the Nov. 9 issue of The SUN states that qualifications for serving on the advisory board include "experience in the field of municipal public works, those with backgrounds in heavy equipment operation, snow removal and/or road work projects and/or persons with advisory or supervisor level experience in the public works sector."

It adds, "This is a voluntary position with no pay. Commitment is one evening meeting per month for a projected 1-2 hours. Interested applicants can email resumes to adminp@archuletacounty.org or call 970-264-8309 for more information. Website: archuletacounty.org."

josh@pagosasun.com

Vote

Continued from front

resenting District 3, garnering 2,664 votes. Challenger Jessica Trujillo garnered 1,303 votes.

Dana Guinn ran unopposed for a four-year term in District 4 and received 3,142 votes. Ray "Butch" Mackey also ran unopposed for a two-year term on the ASD board representing District 5 and received 3,201 votes.

Voters within Bayfield School District voted for three school board members to serve a four-year term. Voters chose Molly Orendorff (22.39 percent of overall votes, six votes in Archuleta County), Debbie Wilhelm (25.66 percent of overall votes, four votes in Archuleta County) and Justin Talbot (29.93 percent of overall votes, 10 votes in Archuleta County). Amy De Prospo Davlin received 22.02 percent of the overall votes and six votes in Archuleta County.

Voters within Ignacio School District also chose three candidates to serve a four-year term on the school board. Ross Melton (24.74 percent of the overall vote, 80 votes in Archuleta County), Jerry Allen McCaw (22.30 percent of the overall votes, 66 votes in Archuleta County) and Jay Dee Brunson (20.17 percent of overall votes, 45 votes in Archuleta County) were elected.

Gina M. Schulz received 15.33 percent of the votes overall and 56 in Archuleta County. Sheryle Hunter received 17.46 percent of the overall vote and 57 votes in Archuleta County.

School district ballot measure

ASD's Ballot Issue 5A passed with 73.12 percent of voters, or 3,534, in favor and 26.88 percent, or 1,299

against.

Ballot Issue 5A asked to extend the district's mill levy override in perpetuity, authorizing ASD to continue to collect \$1.7 million annually for educational purposes including but not limited to:

- Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and staff.
- Providing school safety, security and mental health support for students.

The measure also asked for the collection to be exempted from limits that would otherwise apply under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

State ballot measures

Two state ballot measures appeared on the ballot.

Proposition HH asked about reducing property taxes for homes and businesses, including expanding property tax relief for seniors, and backfilling counties, water district, fire districts, ambulance and hospital districts, and other local governments and fund school districts by using a portion of the state surplus up to the proposition HH cap identified.

Archuleta County voters voted in line with much of the state in not favoring the measure. In Archuleta County, 55.91 percent of voters (2,849 votes) voted against the measure and 44.09 percent (2,247 votes) voted in favor.

The measure also failed at the state level, with 60.17 percent of voters in the state voting against it and 39.83 percent voting for it.

Proposition II passed at both the local and state levels.

Proposition II asked if, without raising taxes, the state can retain and spend revenues from taxes on

cigarettes, tobacco and other nicotine products; maintain tax rates on cigarettes, tobacco and other nicotine products; and use the revenues to invest \$23,650,000 to enhance the voluntary Colorado preschool program and make it widely available for free instead of reducing the tax rates and refunding revenues to cigarette wholesalers, tobacco product distributors, nicotine products distributors and other taxpayers for exceeding an estimate for Proposition EE.

In Archuleta County, 71.18 percent of voters voted in favor of the measure and 28.82 percent voted against it.

At the state level, 66.73 percent of voters were in favor and 33.27 percent were against it.

Special district ballot measure

Voters within the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District were asked to vote on Ballot Issue 7A, which asked if the district's current 1.46 mill levy currently used for retiring its outstanding bond debt (scheduled to be paid off in 2024) should, without raising additional taxes, be continued for an additional 20 years for the purpose of funding needed capital improvements.

The measure indicated the extended assessment would commence in assessment year 2024 (for revenue collection in 2025) and sunset in assessment year 2044 (for revenue collection in 2045).

It also asked that the revenue be exempted from TABOR and other limitations set forth in law.

The measure passed with 70.95 percent of the total voters voting in favor, with all eight votes from Archuleta County in favor.

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MLS 806520

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165 Big Horn Court
\$750,000

MLS 805023

3 Bed, 3 1/2 Bath, 2,286 Sq feet and 3.3 Acres in Holiday Acres. Also, a 1,500 Sq foot shop and garage.

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Commissioners hear Veterans Memorial Park progress update

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard an update from the Veterans Memorial Park of Archuleta County (VMPAC) Board of Directors at its Oct. 24 work session, where the board highlighted ongoing progress on the park.

VMPAC board president Karin Daniels began the presentation by highlighting the completion of the installation of sidewalks at the park, a project that occurred in cooperation with Archuleta County.

She explained that VMPAC board member Jim Van Lier served as the project manager for the work, Mastercraft Concrete Contracting served as the concrete contractor and the county's Road and Bridge Department performed dirt work to prepare for the concrete.

She commended the "tremendous amount of work" done by Road and Bridge on the project and thanked the BoCC and County Manager Derek Woodman for their support and funding for the work.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez thanked the board for its work and highlighted the importance of honoring veterans and their sacrifices.

VMPAC board member Rick Walker noted that the sidewalks also improved handicap and wheelchair access at the park.

Woodman noted that the county has a surplus trash can enclosure, dog waste collection dispenser and bike rack that it is offering to install at the park.

Daniels stated that this would be "awesome" and pointed out that this would improve the park for dog walkers.

She explained that an Iwo Jima statue donated to the VMPAC in 2020 was installed in the "inner circle" near the parking lot this fall.

Daniels then discussed the brick display at the park, noting that orders continue to come in for commemorative bricks, and that expansion and reinforcement of the display continues.

Van Lier explained that the display previously contained wood elements that caused deterioration in its overall structure and that these ele-

ments are being replaced with metal.

Daniels explained that she assisted in refurbishing the sign for the park this fall but that "we might want to think about a new sign down the road."

Woodman stated that the county is experimenting with a new type of outdoor sign that is advertised to have a 20-year lifespan.

Daniels then covered the roles and responsibilities of the VMPAC board, noting that the board maintains the park with the assistance of the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, Veterans for Veterans and other volunteers.

She stated that the board also oversees the raising and lowering of the flag at the park and hosts memorials and events.

She highlighted that the board will hold an event on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at 11:11 a.m.

Daniels added that the "continued conversation" is about the future of the park, stating that she believes the future of the park is "in the hands of the county and the community."

However, she added that the VM-

PAC board will continue assisting in managing the park and accepting donations.

Maez noted that the VMPAC accepts donations and brick sponsorships at vetsmemorialpark.org.

Commissioner Veronica Medina thanked the board for its "vision and dedication" in moving the park plans forward, stating that the park is "beautiful."

Walker added that the coordination between the park board and the American Legion in providing memorial services for veterans "just proves another reason why we need that park and the more we can do to support it and improve it, I think the better off the community will be."

"I agree," said Maez.
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Assessment

Continued from A7

the data and priorities will transfer over to county public health departments following the dissolution of SJBPH at the end of 2023.

Devine explained that the counties were involved in the assessment process and noted that the concerns are similar for both counties.

Porter-Norton expressed her appreciation for the work on the community health assessment and stated that La Plata County will use the data.

Byrd also thanked staff for their contributions to the board.

Devine then asked the board for impressions of the strategic priorities, noting that the opportunities for changing the priorities are limited.

Porter-Norton questioned if substance abuse is covered under behavioral health, which Devine confirmed, and suggested that this should be indicated by the description of the priority.

Bruss raised questions about if the climate and health priority should be renamed or included.

Devine noted that SJBPH "wrestled with this" and worked on how to include concerns about climate change impacts.

He added that many of the issues involved with climate change, such as wildfires and water availability, fall outside of traditional public health categories and thus necessitated a separate priority.

He stated that the priority is not indicating that public health should

directly combat climate change, but does address other issues related to it.

BoH member and Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown advocated that the priority should instead be included under environmental health to prevent community members from rejecting the report due to it mentioning climate issues.

Devine commented that he appreciated the feedback and the final document would include additional details and examples of climate impacts.

Brown stated that he understood Devine's point and that he was throwing out a "bid for apolitical" to reduce the potential that community members would reject the report.

Bruss commented that climate "has become a political issue," stating that global warming is data-driven, although the reasons for this change and the impacts of the change on climate are a "topic of debate."

He added that the word climate should potentially be removed to avoid political issues.

Byrd commented that another possible way to keep the topic focused on local public health issues would be to use the word weather.

Devine stated that the advisory committee also considered this but chose climate due to extreme weather preparedness already being its own planning area.

He also noted that some issues associated with climate change, such as new diseases related to changes in the ranges of mosquito populations,

are not directly related to weather.

Bruss stated that putting the priority under environmental health would enable a focus on issues like drought, floods or wildfires that directly impact the region.

Devine commented that he believes that climate change is not primarily an environmental health issue and that he is more concerned about the non-environmental impacts, such as new communicable diseases and stress.

He proposed that the BoH could examine the issue further and staff could present responses to the issues raised at the November BoH meeting, which the BoH agreed to.

The discussion concluded with Devine stating that he appreciated the feedback and the BoH thanking Devine, Shropshire and SJBPH staff for the work and presentation.

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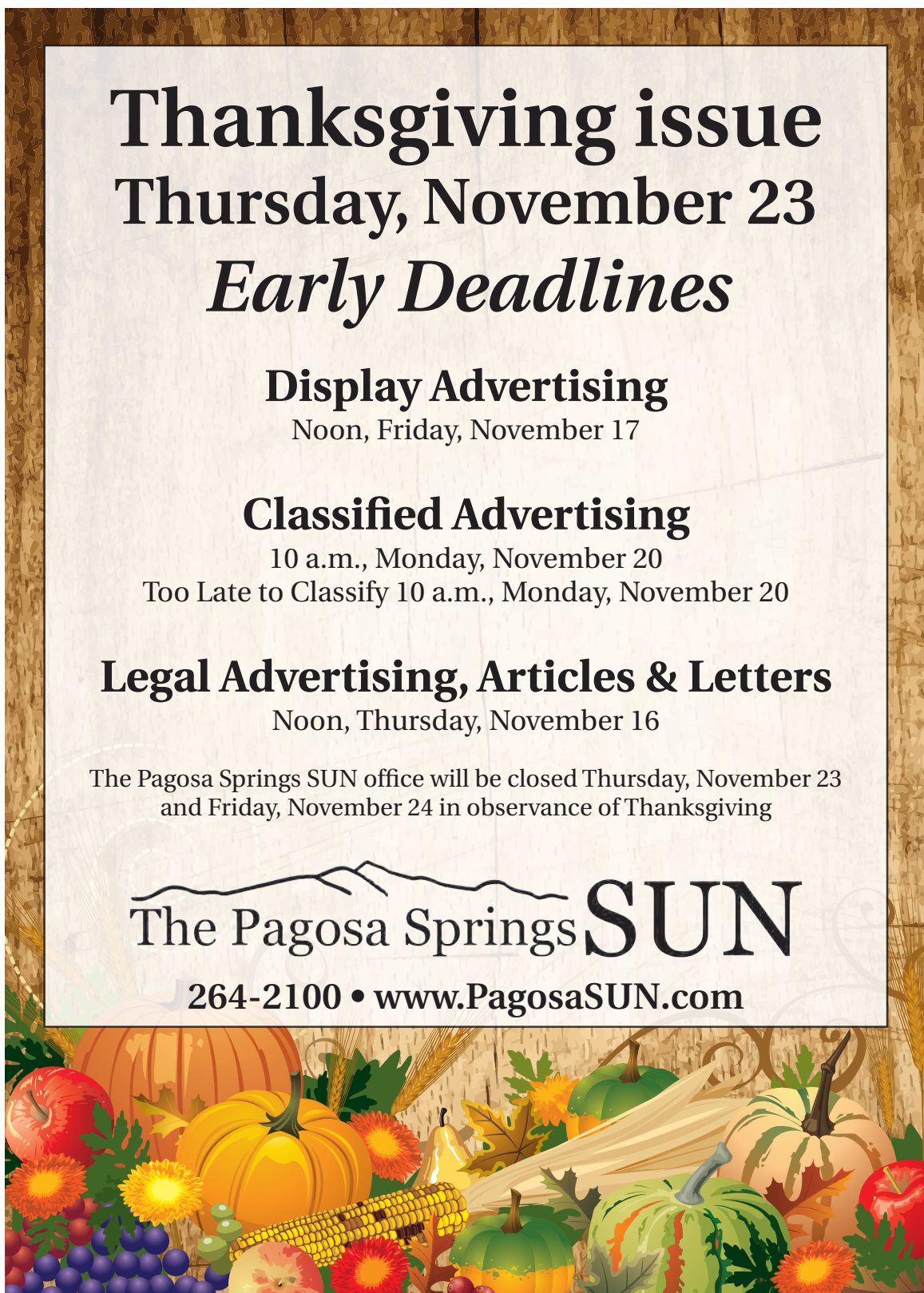
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Sports

FOOTBALL



Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

The Pirate football team is victorious in La Junta on Nov. 4, moving them into the quarterfinal round of the 2A playoffs. Top: Pagosa's Blake Laner goes in on a tackle. He led the team with 16 total tackles. Bottom left: Gavin Lindahl shows his happiness during the win. Bottom right: Colton Lucero evades a Tiger defender.

Pirates to host quarterfinal action Saturday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team will host quarterfinal action Saturday afternoon after defeating the La Junta Tigers in the first round of the 2A playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 4.

The Pirates defeated the Tigers 14-7 after losing 22-6 in early September.

"They played really well, they did a good job," coach Nathan Morales said. "We talked about having to probably go back there for the playoffs whenever we played them earlier in the year, and it just happened to work out that way. They kind of had a chip on their shoulder and they went in there with something to prove, and they did that."

The Tigers scored first in the affair with a 1-yard rushing touchdown with 3 minutes, 31 seconds left in the first quarter that was followed by a successful extra-point attempt, giving them a 7-0 lead.

The Pirates countered with a touchdown with just under two minutes remaining in the half on a 53-yard pass from Creede Dozier to Seth Aucoin. It was followed by a successful kick to tie the game.

Pagosa then took the lead in the third on an 83-yard touchdown by Gavin Lindahl that was followed by another successful kick by Elijah Castro.

The Pirates logged 367 total all-purpose yards in the game.

Dozier completed one of three pass attempts in the game for 53 yards and a touchdown.

The Pirates had 231 rushing yards in the game, including 186 by Lindahl on 22 carries. Colton Lucero rushed for 36 yards on seven carries. Seth Zeigler had 9 yards on nine carries.

The team logged 69 total tackles, led by Blake Laner's 16. The team had five tackles for loss — two by Zeigler and Harley Armijo and one by Laner.

Hudson Mazur punted seven times for the Pirates for 246 total yards. He also had three kickoff returns for a total of 68 yards.

Lindahl had two punt returns for a total of 15 yards.

But, Morales noted, the team's work is not done.

This week, the Pirates will take on the No. 15 Eaton Reds, who scored a touchdown in the final minute to best No. 2 Kent Denver 31-28 last weekend.

■ See Football A12

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VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates end season at regionals

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team's season drew to a close last weekend in regional competition.

The No. 33 Lady Pirates traveled to Delta for Region 4 action, but went 0-2 in pool play.

No. 4 Delta advanced to the state tournament from the region after going 2-0. No. 21 St. Mary's Academy went 1-1 in the regional pool play.

Coach Katie Lorenzen noted the Lady Pirates had an off day and indicated the team didn't play at its normal level.

"It was a bummer that we performed the way we did because the week leading up we were just having some killer reps and scrimmages in practice with really high level of play and it looked like it was all coming together," she said. "And, we were just off. We were completely off against both teams at regionals."

The Lady Pirates played the Delta Panthers first, falling 3-0.

The Pirates fell 25-15, 25-17 and 25-13 in the three sets.

Lorenzen noted in team's first set against Delta only two Lady Pirates hit in positive — setter Annie O'Donnell and hitter Kynsle Limebrook.

O'Donnell had two kills on six attempts with no errors to hit .333, while Limebrook had three kills on 16 attempts with two errors to hit .062.

The team tallied 15 total kills, led by Aspen Pitcher and Lexi Campbell with four each.

Pitcher logged the team's only ace, and O'Donnell had the team's only block.

The team tallied 46 digs, led by 13 from Lauren Monterroso, eight by Pitcher, seven by Grace Walker and six by O'Donnell.

The coach also noted the team was frustrated at times during the match-up with Delta.

"I know there was some frustration with some calls in the first game

against Delta and we were getting called in the net or touches when players were adamant they were not in the net or touching the ball from the other team," she said. "So, I think that we might've got a little too focused on that frustration and then weren't able to recover."

Next, the Lady Pirates took on The St. Mary's Academy Wildcats, against falling 3-0.

The Pirates fell 25-16, 25-17 and 25-17 in the three sets.

"In our game against St. Mary's Academy, every single hitter hit zero or negative, and ... it wasn't for lack of effort," Lorenzen said.

The team had 10 kills in the game, led by four from Lexi Campbell and three from Pitcher.

Three Lady Pirates logged an ace each — Hayden Peterson, Pitcher and O'Donnell.

The team had two total blocks, including a solo block by Cadence Kerns and an assisted block by O'Donnell and Limebrook.

Lorenzen indicated she worked to sub girls out to give them breaks and help the team reset throughout the day, but the team continued to be off.

"Our hitting percentages were in the negatives, and last week we had our two best hitting percentages of the season," Lorenzen said, adding it looked like the team's hitters weren't able to get into a rhythm and feel confident. "And we just had a ton of hitting errors in the net and out of bounds even though our passing and our setting was there."

She noted the team's passing wasn't as great as it typically is, but wasn't bad Saturday.

"We did get aced a number of times, but then we also had a number of great, great passes and our sets were there — and then we just weren't able to put it away," she said. "So, it wasn't any single players' fault, and what I told the girls in the locker room afterward was, even though we ended like that and it doesn't feel good to end not playing our best, it

doesn't take away from the fact that we had a ton of improvements this season throughout the season and it just didn't come together ... Saturday. It was sad to see us leave on not our best play and it sucks to wonder what could have been, but that's how the dice rolled on Saturday."

The Lady Pirates went 10-15 on the season and 3-5 in Intermountain League (IML), placing them fourth in the league standings to end the season.

One IML team remains in the running for a state title, with Centauri earning the No. 8 seed in the state tournament bracket.

The team will see five seniors graduate off the team: Walker, Jordan Lindstrom, O'Donnell, Monterroso and Limebrook.

Lorenzen spoke of the contributions and growth of each of the seniors.

"I've coached Grace for four years and really watched her blossom as a defensive specialist and this year saw her ... range just really increase as she was covering so much floor going after balls and being a really good deep-court communicator to her hitters," The coach said. "She was also battling a knee injury all year and was tough as nails. She never wanted to be off the court."

Lindstrom has also come a long way since her freshman year, according to Lorenzen.

"I still remember during open gym her freshman year when she told me she had never learned ... any fundamentals about volleyball as I was trying to get her to ... learn the correct footwork for hitting. And it was evident that that was true," she said. "She was very raw, very athletic, but she never once had any sort of attitude, was always willing to try her hardest and put in the work to be a very explosive player and hardworking at the net to block. Middle blockers don't always get a lot of glory for the work they put in unless they're getting a ton of kills, and Jordan was putting in the work even if she wasn't getting all the sets to put balls away. She was working her butt off to get to every block."

O'Donnell, Lorenzen said, "Her growth since freshman year is also tremendous. She stepped in her junior year to fill a role that opened up because of an injury, and she ... stepped in without hesitation, and the team needed that. ... This year one of the things that was really fun to watch was how strong she became as a blocker, just going up with everything in her with the intention of

block. It was nice watching someone who was that aggressive at the net while she was blocking."

The coach added O'Donnell stepped into a leadership role this year and "was really trying to keep her team positive at all time."

The coach also noted Monterroso's growth over four years.

"The strides that she made, the improvement that she made from freshman year was pretty incredible," Lorenzen said. "She had a number of roles between playing as a defensive specialist, or libero, to also setting. I think her sophomore year I think I had her setting quite a bit. And then last year after an injury she ended up helping varsity setting without any heads up; she just got pulled into a game one time and we were running a 6-2 or a 5-2 with her. ... She was always steady force for us, just willing to give her all and be positive about and do whatever possible for her team and her teammates to succeed regardless of any glory that she saw."

Lorenzen added this year, as a libero, Monterroso stepped up "her game so much with her work ethic and being dialed in on what her job was — it was to pass, to dig balls and to cover her hitters — and she never slacked on that."

The coach highlighted Limebrook's work despite pain.

"For four years she was battling a lot of injuries and pain, and never wanted to come off the court for it, and I commend her for sticking it out because I know she was in a lot of pain a lot of time, and she still just wanted to be out there playing with her team. And this year she ... was up there in stats on our team for a lot of the statistical categories," she said.

Limebrook ended the season first on the team with 56 aces, first in blocking with 47 total blocks and second in kills with 144.

Looking forward, Lorenzen indicated several Lady Pirates will be putting in time in the offseason, which will benefit the team.

"They understand how important it is to be working on either different sports or their volleyball skills through different avenues," she said, adding, "We really promote the idea of being multisport athletes, the importance of continuing to play other sports or continuing to play volleyball and not just being sedentary and coming in in the fall behind just because of not doing anything. And, I think we've got a lot of hungry girls who are looking to do that."

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More about the transition to Archuleta and La Plata County public health departments, opening January 1, 2024:



sjbpublichealth.org/changes

RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for youth basketball

By Matt Zaborowski
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. The registration fee will be \$45 per child and the deadline to register will be Nov. 26.

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 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. The registration fee will be \$45 per child and the deadline to register will be Nov. 26.

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 at pagosasprings.co.gov, or stop by the Community Center.

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



Good luck, Pirates!

Football

Continued from A11


Both the Pirates and the Reds at 7-3 on the season, with the Pirates riding a five-game win streak and the Reds having a three-game win streak.

Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. "We're just gettin' better," Morales said. "We're going to continue to work

to get better, and that's that."

In addition to Pagosa versus Eaton, the quarterfinal round features No. 1 Delta hosting No. 9 The Classical Academy, No. 4 Berthoud hosting No. 12 Moffat County and No. 3 Rifle hosting No. 6 University.


randi@pagosasun.com



Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week

Gavin Lindahl

Football, wrestling, track



Favorite subject: English
Comments from coach Nathan Morales: "Gavin Lindahl leaves a lasting impression both on and off the football field. On the football field, he embodies toughness and physicality, a force to be reckoned with. Gavin's commitment to the weight room is undeniable and enables him to excel and endure the demands of the game. However, what truly sets Gavin apart is

his genuine care for people off the field. He extends his compassion and support to those around him, becoming a leader of positivity and a source of inspiration. With a great mindset and an unwavering dedication to the sport and community, Gavin Lindahl is more than just an athlete; he's a remarkable individual who represents the very essence of a triple impact athlete."

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Outdoors



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalizes designation of gray wolf experimental population in Colorado

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

In support of a statewide voter-led initiative passed in November 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized the designation of an experimental population of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

This action provides management flexibility in support of the state of Colorado's voter-mandated gray wolf reintroduction program.

The final 10(j) rule and final Record of Decision (ROD) are available in the Reading Room and at <https://www.fws.gov/coloradowolf>.

The 10(j) rule will become effective on Dec. 8, 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission intends to reintroduce the gray wolf in a portion of the species' historical range in Colorado by Dec. 31.

CPW requested the designation of an experimental population under section 10(j) of the ESA to provide the state with increased flexibility to



Photo courtesy Lori Iverson/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
A gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) with a Uinta ground squirrel catch.

manage wolves once reintroduced in Colorado.

CPW completed and published a Final Wolf Restoration and Management Plan for reintroducing the species. The state management plan

provides for differing management tools based on achieving recovery targets. As the state achieves these recovery targets, tools available to the public under state laws and regulations may be more restrictive than

what is allowable under the Service's federal rule.

The announcement follows extensive coordination and outreach among many partners in Colorado at the local, state, federal and tribal levels.

On Sept. 15, the Service announced the draft ROD and Final Environmental Impact Statement. The final ROD concludes that the Service will implement proposed "alternative 1" from the scoping and draft process to finalize a 10(j) experimental population designation.

This final Service experimental population rule designates management flexibility to the state for reintroduced gray wolves in Colorado. This management flexibility can help to address potential conflicts between wolves and humans, and wolves and domestic animals while contributing to the conservation of the species. Learn more about 10(j) rules and experimental populations at <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ESA-section10%28j%29-fact-sheet.pdf>.

Additional information, documents, and frequently asked questions about the experimental population designation can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/coloradowolf>.

More information from CPW regarding its reintroduction of gray wolves can be found at <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/CON-Wolf-Management.aspx>.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Study looks at indoor air quality after wildfires

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

Newly published research on indoor air quality from Colorado State University (CSU) shows wildfire smoke may linger in homes long after the initial blaze has been put out or winds have shifted.

The findings, published in *Science Advances*, show that wildfire smoke can attach to home surfaces like carpet, drapes or counters — extending the exposure for those inside and potentially causing health problems even after an initial cleaning activity by air purifiers.

However, Professor Delphine Farmer said the research also shows that simple surface cleaning — like vacuuming, dusting or mopping — can reduce exposure and limit risk.

The research illustrates the hidden and persistent health threats many in the western U.S. are facing given the increase in wildfires over the last decade, she said.

"This research shows that events like the Marshall Fire in Colorado, the wildfires in Canada and the recent fires in Hawaii present serious exposure potential — not just when they occur, but well after," said Farmer, who is based in the Department of Chemistry at CSU. "This paper is a key initial step towards providing actionable and practical information on how to protect yourself and clean your home."

To better understand how smoke enters and then stays in buildings, researchers burned pine wood chips in a net zero energy residential testing facility operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Maryland. That facility is frequently used to study how different systems impact the ways energy, water and air move through a single-family house.

The detailed instrumentation available for that work was perfectly suited to this research, said Dustin Poppendieck, an environmental researcher at the NIST who helped coordinate the project.

"The NIST Net Zero House allowed the researchers to track the movement and transformation of chemicals in the air and onto surfaces in real time using instruments in ways that don't interfere with the behavior of the smoke," said Poppendieck.

Those smoke injection sessions

occurred regularly over several days, and Farmer said the total amount applied was comparable or slightly under the particulate levels seen during the Canadian wildfires. The team then took careful measurements of air quality levels and surface conditions after opening exterior doors and windows, cleaning and use of the home's built-in air cleaning systems.

The CSU team was particularly interested in the gas phase of compounds developing from the smoke, while other teams from the University of California San Diego, University of Colorado Boulder and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill explored different phases and interactions across the home. The team then compared findings between states to confirm what was actually happening in the home after the burn.

Farmer said findings from this interdisciplinary research approach could also be applicable to other large air pollution events like the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, where the same principles of compounds sticking to surfaces are likely to occur.

Because there has not been a lot of similar indoor air research, the team leaned on previous findings from others around the effects of cigarette smoke to inform their approach. Farmer said burning nicotine causes specific compounds with well-known health concerns and that the comparison to their project findings was informative.

"Nicotine reacts on surfaces to create a particularly nasty set of compounds called nitrosamines, which is where the real concern from thirdhand smoke that is left behind comes from," she said. "Whereas with wildfire smoke, we found there was a huge diversity of organic compounds that stick to surfaces, which then slowly bleed off."

Further research into wildfire smoke

The amount, persistence and variety of compounds from the wildfire smoke in each case could potentially change the recommended approaches for cleaning the indoor spaces.

Farmer said that is an area of research the team hopes to explore in the future.

For now, she said the team was able to show that the amount of smoke left on surfaces was propor-

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Calls for service for two weeks:

518.

Oct. 16 — Information only, North Pagosa Boulevard/Park Avenue.

Oct. 17 — Death investigation, Paradise Ridge Place.

Oct. 17 — Trespass warning, Cloman Boulevard.

Oct. 17 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Dutton Drive.

Oct. 18 — Unlawfully aims a firearm at another, criminal mischief, false imprisonment, possession of weapons by previous offenders, menacing-felony-aggravated-weapon, second-degree burglary, Hilltop Drive.

Oct. 18 — Information only, West U.S. 160.

Oct. 18 — State warrant, Canyon Circle/Highland Avenue.

Oct. 18 — Second-degree aggravated motor vehicle theft, agency assist, Hilltop Drive.

Oct. 19 — Throwing missiles at vehicles, disorderly conduct-petty, pedestrian on highway under the influence of intoxicating substance, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Oct. 19 — State warrant, North Pagosa Boulevard/Antelope Avenue.

Oct. 19 — Information only, Canyon Circle.

Oct. 20 — Second-degree arson felony, second-degree arson felony, fourth-degree arson-felony, Great West Avenue.

Oct. 20 — Agency assist, Piedra Street/South 8th Street.

Oct. 21 — Violation of restraining order, criminal mischief, Park Avenue.

Oct. 21 — Information only, West Golf Place.

Oct. 21 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, Carefree Place.

Oct. 22 — Harassment by phone or computer-threaten bodily injury, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, Flicker Lane.

Oct. 23 — Warrant arrest, Bonanza Avenue/Prospect Boulevard.

Oct. 24 — Failure to appear in court when ordered, failure to appear in court when ordered, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 24 — All other thefts, West U.S. 160.

Oct. 24 — Failure to appear in court when ordered, failure to appear in court when ordered, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 24 — Warrant arrest, County Road 302/U.S. 84.

Oct. 24 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, Jack Rabbit Road.

Oct. 25 — False imprisonment, third-degree assault-simple assault, second-degree assault-aggravated assault-weapon, child abuse, menacing-felony-aggravated-weapon, criminal attempt to commit felony, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, County Road 700.

Oct. 25 — Disorderly conduct-petty, Navajo Trail Drive.

Oct. 25 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, Pagosa Street.

Oct. 25 — Harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, menacing-intimidation (inc stalking, threats), Ranchland Drive.

Oct. 25 — Aggravated motor vehicle theft, theft from vehicle, U.S. 160.

Oct. 25 — Third-degree criminal trespass, information only, County Road 700.

Oct. 26 — Information only, U.S. 84.

Oct. 27 — Warrant arrest, Piper Place.

Oct. 27 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, domestic violence, resisting arrest, Solomon Drive.

Oct. 27 — Information only, third-degree criminal trespass, Fairfield Drive.

Oct. 28 — Dog at large (first offense no injury), Haystack Circle.

Oct. 28 — Agency assist, County Road 148/USFS 628A.

Oct. 29 — Resisting arrest, careless driving resulting in injury, driving while ability impaired by alcohol, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, domestic violence, Fairfield Drive/Eagles Loft Circle.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department
Calls for service for two weeks:

247.

Oct. 15 — Criminal trespass, North 8th Street.

Oct. 15 — Assault-second degree, false imprisonment, harassment, resisting arrest, domestic violence, North 5th Street.

Oct. 17 — Nuisance/animal running at large, South 8th Street/San Juan Street.

Oct. 18 — Theft, South 8th Street.

Oct. 20 — Theft, East Pagosa

Street.

Oct. 20 — Arson-second degree, Talisman Drive.

Oct. 20 — Arson-second degree, Great West Avenue/Bluebell Court.

Oct. 20 — Harassment, domestic violence, Piedra Street/8th Street.

Oct. 22 — Criminal mischief, 9th Street.

Oct. 24 — Harassment, domestic violence, 8th Street.

Oct. 25 — Possession controlled substance, 8th Street.

Oct. 26 — Simple assault-third degree, domestic violence, 9th Street.

Oct. 27 — Abandonment of motor vehicle, 9th Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Oct. 9 — Perrine Quintana, disobeyed official traffic control device, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Oct. 9 — Shonna Wright, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.

Oct. 9 — Melissa Stamps, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.

Oct. 9 — James Malone, vehicle crossed roadway dividing space, median or barrier in an unlawful manner, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Oct. 10 — Jobad Aguirre-Ramirez, failed to present evidence of insurance upon request, speeding 25-39 mph over prima facie limit, 10 points off, fine — \$600.

Oct. 23 — Cindy Lenear, made U-turn where prohibited, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Oct. 24 — Finn Ralston, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge

and costs — \$72.

Oct. 24 — Trenton Smith, shoplifting, fine, costs and restitution — \$151.

Oct. 24 — Nicole Oswald, shoplifting, fine and costs — \$235.

Oct. 24 — Jarad Corbin, shoplifting, 10 days incarceration.

Oct. 24 — Meadow Nicely, disorderly conduct, fine and costs — \$185.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Oct. 17 — Brian S. Humphries, seat belt not used, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$214.50.

Oct. 18 — Julia Bell Rivas, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Oct. 18 — Aaron Thomas Bradshaw, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.

Oct. 18 — Patricia A. Butkovich Humphrey, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Oct. 18 — Hattie Chavez, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Oct. 18 — Christopher Michael Gallegos, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Oct. 18 — Shane T. Hawkins, driving under FRA suspension, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$242.50.

Oct. 18 — Adam Paul Hirshberg, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Oct. 18 — Jose Ibarra, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Oct. 18 — George Kenneth Little, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$105.

Oct. 18 — Jose Macias, seat belt

not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Oct. 18 — Jose Macias, driver's license-driving without, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$201.50.

Oct. 18 — Sarah Marie Miller, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Oct. 18 — Vern W. Peterson, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$135.

Oct. 18 — Kevin Jay Torrez, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$105.

Oct. 18 — Joshua David Koerner, driving while ability impaired, 10 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 1 year probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$576.50.

■ See Blotter A16

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Public Notices

■ continued from page A14

County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis St. Please call Pam Flowers at 970-264-8381 or email pflowers@archuletacounty.org to inquire and request an application.
Published November 2, 9 & 16, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (220088)

The Archuleta County Public Works Department is seeking community members for their newly created Road & Bridge Advisory Board. Qualifications include experience in the field of municipal public works, those with backgrounds in heavy equipment operation, snow removal and/or road work projects and/or persons with advisory or supervisor level experience in the public works sector.

This is a voluntary position with no pay. Commitment is one evening meeting per month for a projected 1-2 hours. Interested applicants can email resumes to admmp@archuletacounty.org or call 970-264-8309 for more information. Website: archuletacounty.org
Published November 2, 9 & 16, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (220090)

This notice is to inform Carrie Church, last known address: 135 County Center Drive, Ste #74, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, that the items stored in unit C16 of Renner's Mini Storage located at 177 Bastille Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 will be sold or disposed of due to lack of payment. This notice will be published in the Pagosa Springs Sun on both November 2 and November 9, 2023 with the sale or disposal of items taking place at a later date of our choosing.
Published November 2 & 9, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (220091)

VALE Legal Notice 2024
2024 VALE FUNDS — 6th Judicial District, La Plata, San Juan & Archuleta Counties (VICTIM ASSISTANCE and LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT)
GRANT PERIOD: January 1, 2024– December 31, 2024. The Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board announces the availability of 6th Judicial

District VALE funds. The VALE Board is a five member, volunteer, community board appointed by the judicial district's Chief Judge, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson. Funding for these grants is generated from a surcharge or fees assessed to people convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, traffic offenses and fish and game violations, no tax dollars are used.
APPROXIMATE AMOUNT AVAILABLE: \$200,000. During the 2023 grant cycle, seven agencies were funded for a total of \$163,000.

FUNDING PURPOSE: The purpose of the 6th Judicial District VALE grant process is to fund effective and efficient programs who will provide services to crime victims in the 6th Judicial District and assist them with emotional and physical needs to stabilize their lives, provide a measure of safety and security, and/or enhance victims' experience with the criminal justice system.

FUNDING PRIORITIES: Programs that provide direct services to crime victims and witnesses as outlined in VALE statute, victim-related training, equipment and personnel needs of law enforcement agencies. The VALE Board has also established the following priorities: programs that provide direct services to victims of violent crime, unique and non-duplicative programs; agencies working with children and young adults; agencies offering a unique service to the community (unmet needs in an underserved community); The VALE Board may take into consideration factors other than those stated above in making their final decisions. Board members may award money for projects not designated in the priority categories. The fact that an applicant meets eligibility requirements and applies for services within a priority category does not guarantee funding.
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications will be available Friday Oct. 27, 2023 and returnable no later than Monday, November 29, 2023. To request an application please contact Jane Foy at the District Attorney's Office in Durango ph (970) 382-6345, 1060 E Second Avenue, Suite B-10, Durango, CO 81301 jfof@lpcgov.org *copies of VALE statute and Victim Right's Act are available upon request.
Published November 9, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (220819)

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Counties hear 2024 district attorney budget

Increases in juvenile crimes, length and intensity of cases discussed

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County and La Plata County commissioners and San Juan County staff heard a 2024 budget presentation from Sixth Judicial District Attorney (DA) Christian Champagne on Oct. 26.

Champagne opened his presentation by noting that the “bottom line” of his presentation was that the DA’s budget is coming in as close as possible to last year’s, although there would be an increase in the expenditures for part-time salaries.

He outlined the mission of his office, which he indicated is to prosecute criminal cases to the “highest standards of excellence” while promoting community safety, securing accountability from offenders, honoring victims and preventing future crimes.

He pointed out that the DA is an elected official who operates separately from the counties, although the counties provide funding to operate the office.

The arrangement between the DA’s office and the counties is governed by a 2005 intergovernmental agreement (IGA), Champagne explained.

He then discussed trends in cases for the DA’s office, explaining that total numbers of cases fell across the

district from a high of 4,176 in 2018 to 2,845 in 2023, although he noted that juvenile cases rose from 31 in 2022 to 89 in 2023.

He added that the rising juvenile cases in Archuleta County appear to be primarily connected to drug crimes or crimes driven by the need to obtain money for drugs, although he noted that the juvenile diversion program in the county through the municipal court is potentially less functional than it previously was and this could also have contributed to a case increase.

He highlighted that the present case numbers are the lowest in 25 years, which he stated is “really great news.”

La Plata County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton questioned how much of this decrease is attributable to statewide changes to sentencing and arrest guidelines.

Champagne responded that he believes the decrease is most driven by changes in law enforcement decisions on what misdemeanor and traffic cases to bring into the law enforcement system.

He added that most felony cases are driven by drugs, alcohol and mental health issues, which he indicated is a consistent pattern.

Champagne also noted that drug possession cases being reclassified as misdemeanors has caused challenges for the DA’s office as it reduced the office’s tools for incentivizing offenders to seek drug treatment by reducing their sentences from felonies to misdemeanors if they seek

treatment.

Champagne stated that, despite the decreasing case numbers, the DA’s office faces “a lot of stress” due to the increased amount of evidence involved in cases, particularly body camera footage.

In response to a question from Archuleta County Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Champagne explained that the body camera footage has made cases stronger, but has increased the amount of work required to review and present evidence.

He added that the DA’s office also has far more phone, social media, surveillance video and other evidence to review, as well, further increasing the challenge of prosecuting cases.

Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina asked if the amount of evidence has caused the DA’s office to attempt to prosecute fewer crimes due to the increased workload.

Champagne responded that the amount of work involved in cases does not have a significant impact on the number of cases prosecuted because the amount of work required is not known at the time a case is declined or accepted.

He added that the amount of funding and staff for public defenders has increased at a faster rate than that for the DA, making litigation more “intense” and lengthy.

Champagne noted that this has resulted in the days to case resolution increasing from 158 days in 2018 to 231 in 2023 for felonies and from 115 in 2018 to 148 in 2023 for misdemeanors.

He stated that reducing the time for case resolution is a priority for the office.

He explained that the number of cases involving deaths has significantly increased since 2020, causing the office to feel “overwhelmed” by the number of cases.

Champagne then covered next steps for the office, explaining that the office is working on expanding its diversion and restorative justice program.

He explained that a portion of this expansion will include adding \$20,000 in funding to allow the office to retain an additional staff member hired for the program in 2023.

Champagne also discussed the issue of increasing the pay for the DA, noting that, although the office has increased salaries for staff, the elected DA’s pay has not increased since 2012.

He explained that this increase would have to be done in an election year and that the office will request a salary survey for the elected DA position next year to ensure that the pay for the elected DA is sufficient.

He indicated that this increase will not benefit him since he is term limited.

The group also discussed a bill in the Colorado Legislature to address the issues with the pay for elected DAs, although Champagne indicated that the prospects for this bill passing the Legislature might be limited.

Champagne raised the issue of reworking the IGA between the counties and the DA’s office, explaining that the current IGA has issues concerning interactions between the DA’s office and the counties’ Human Resources departments.

He noted that there were previously concerns about how litigation is handled between the DA’s office and the county attorney’s office.

He added that he does not believe that it would be difficult to revise the IGA.

Following a discussion of how the potential budget increase would be divided between the counties and what resources are available to support the office with large numbers of high-intensity cases and with increases in the amount of data available, the commissioners concluded the presentation by thanking Champagne.

The Blotter

continued from page A15

Oct. 18 — Lee A. Chavez, careless driving, fines and costs — \$243.50.

Oct. 18 — Kaleb Robert Gerber, driving under the influence, 30 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$720.50.

Oct. 18 — Jay Weldon Kurth, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$135.

Oct. 25 — Mark Aldon Westbrook, passed when prohibited, fines and costs — \$170.

Oct. 25 — Veronica Taylor, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Oct. 25 — Samantha Leigh Stokes, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.

Oct. 25 — Jose Angel Rodriguez, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Oct. 25 — Rachel S. Beaird, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Oct. 25 — Christopher Phillip Toppins, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Oct. 25 — Jose A. Villa, driving while ability impaired, 25 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision,

fines and costs — \$596.70.

Oct. 27 — Julian Derrek Caler, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Oct. 27 — Patrick Fischer Waller, unsafe or defective vehicle, fines and costs — \$107.50.

Oct. 27 — Amber Dawn Landacre, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$105.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Oct. 18 — Justin Apodaca, theft-\$1,000-\$2,000, 30 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.

Oct. 26 — Jeffrey Thomas Lundquist, weapon-prohibited use-air firearm, 13 days jail, 45 days electronic surveillance, five years probation, fines and costs — \$3,303.50.

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

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Photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service

The Mill Creek 2 Fire is seen from Pagosa Springs earlier this week. As of Wednesday, the fire was listed at 146 acres with zero percent containment. The fire was human-caused. The Trail Springs Fire was listed at 1,303 acres and 43 percent containment Wednesday. The fire danger in the area remains high.



2024 PSMC EMT Training Class

What: Informational Meeting
When: Wednesday, November 15,
6-8 p.m.
Where: PSMC Training Room
189 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PSMC will present class information including:

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John Ranson Announces Candidacy for County Commissioner District 2



“I am excited to announce my candidacy for Archuleta County Commissioner because I believe in the resiliency and potential of our community.”

— John Ranson

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

With a long history of public finance experience and a proven track record of financial stewardship, John brings a wealth of experience to the Board of County Commissioners. His leadership in 2008 was instrumental in helping Archuleta County navigate through one of its most challenging periods ultimately leading to a period of stability and growth.

COMMITTED TO SERVE

John volunteered to serve as a Financial Task Force member in 2007 when Archuleta County discovered a serious financial crisis. Following that, John served for a period of time as County Commissioner. In addition, he recently sat on the committee to form, and budget for, Archuleta County’s new Health Department. He has an unwavering commitment to the fiscal health and well-being of our County. John’s leadership, as Commissioner and Task Force Member, not only rescued the county from financial turmoil, but also set the stage for a prosperous future.

KEY PRIORITIES

- 1) Provide focus and financial restraint in order to invest the amount required, not only to maintain, but improve OUR ROADS.
- 2) Invest more into TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE that can add to our economic growth.
- 3) Build stronger and better WORKING RELATIONSHIPS.



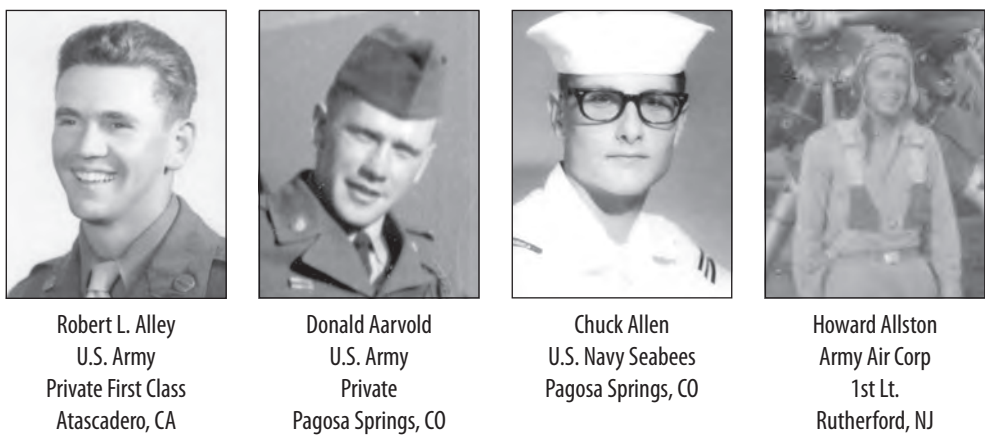
PERSONAL

John and Angie have been married for eight years. Both are long-term residents of Archuleta County: John since 1996 and Angie since 1986. Both raised their children in Pagosa Springs and the Archuleta School District. Together, they have 4 grandchildren, all living in Archuleta County.

Having been a dedicated member of the Archuleta County community since 1996, John understands the local values, concerns and aspirations of its residents.

To learn more about John Ranson’s campaign for Archuleta County Commissioner, District 2, please feel free to contact John at:
RansonforBoCC@gmail.com

Advertisement Paid for by John and Angie Ranson



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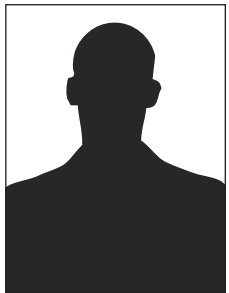
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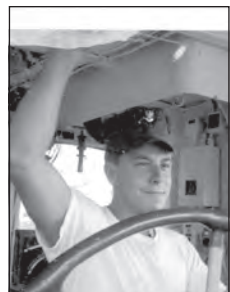
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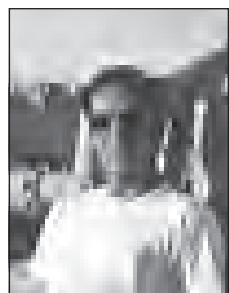
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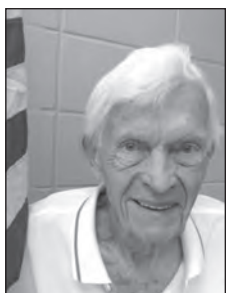
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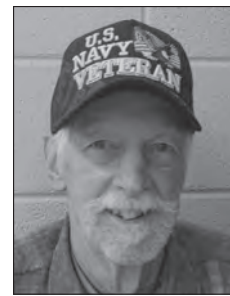
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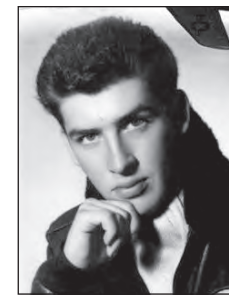
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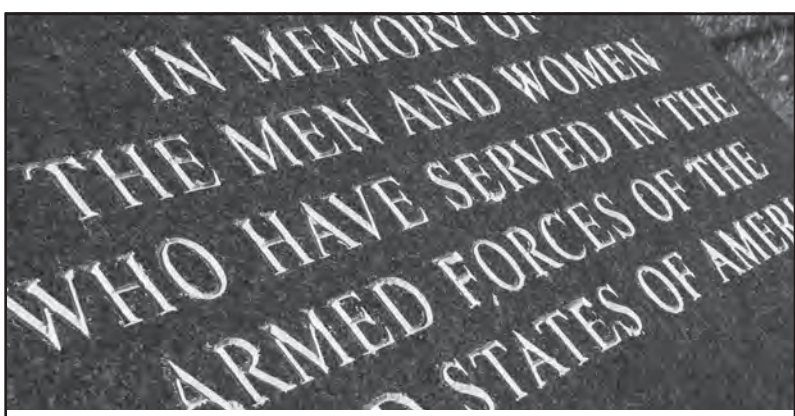
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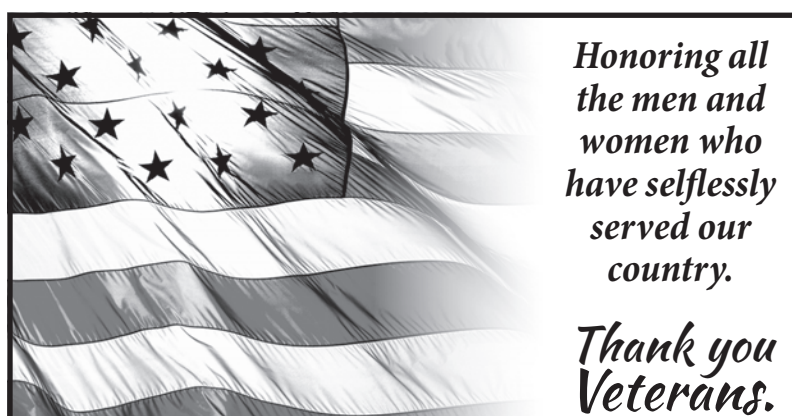
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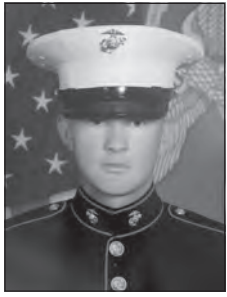
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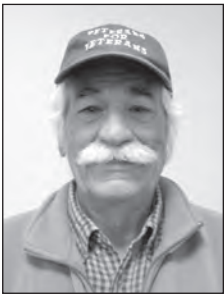
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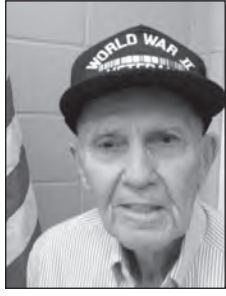
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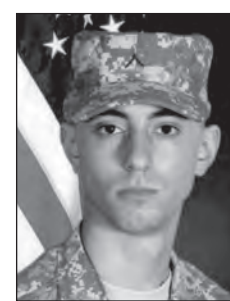
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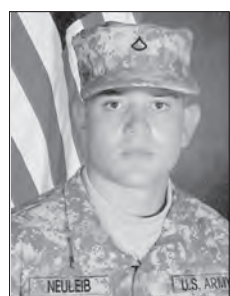
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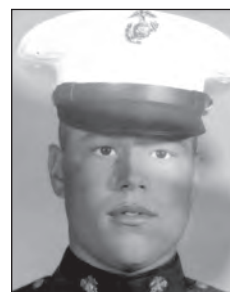
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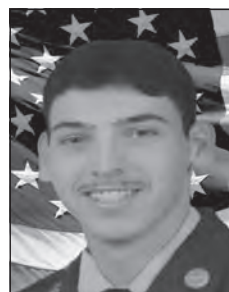
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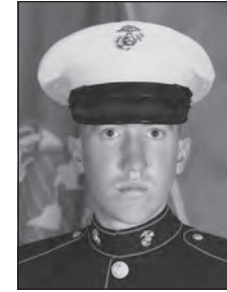
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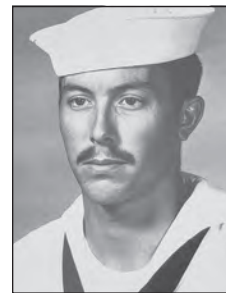
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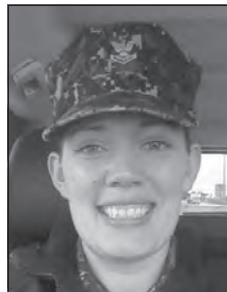
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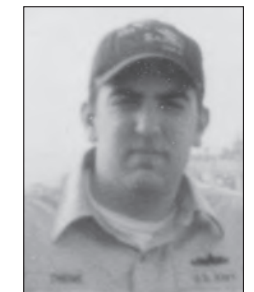
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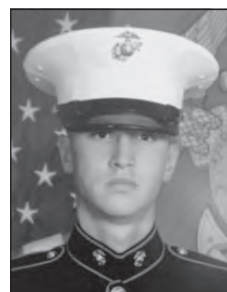
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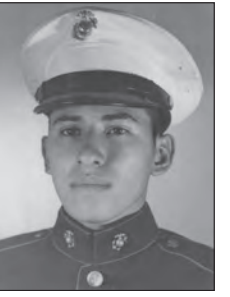
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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Local Makers' Fair

Saturday, Nov. 11 • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Pagosa Springs High School



Photo courtesy Kelly Lewis

November 9, 2023

Local Makers' Fair set for Saturday

By Jenna Gannon
Pagosa Community Initiative

As the holiday season approaches, Pagosa Springs is gearing up to celebrate in style with the Local Makers' Fair, a showcase of the town's incredible local artisan talent.

Organized by The Studios by Pagosa Community Initiative, this event promises to be a unique shopping experience that will help you find the perfect gifts for your loved ones, all while enjoying the holiday spirit.

The Local Makers' Fair will take place on Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School commons area, located at 800 S. 8th St.

It's an all-day affair, providing ample time for everyone to explore the wide array of handcrafted goods and immerse themselves in the festive atmosphere.

This fair is a testament to the talent and creativity of the local artisans in Pagosa Springs. Visitors can expect to find a wide range of custom creations, from handcrafted jewelry and artwork to unique home

decor and specialty foods. Whether you're looking for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts or something special for yourself, this event offers an opportunity to support local artists and find truly unique treasures.

The Local Makers' Fair isn't just about shopping; it's a celebration of the holiday spirit. As you explore the offerings of local makers, you can enjoy music that will set the perfect backdrop for a festive day. The event is family-friendly, making it an ideal opportunity for kids to enjoy the holiday magic and for adults to find the perfect gifts. This year we are also hosting a booth that will be a fundraiser for Aspen House called Kids Choose Art. Kids can pay a donation to pick a unique work of art for a gift or for themselves. All proceeds will go to Aspen House.

The Local Makers' Fair is not only an opportunity to find unique, handcrafted gifts, but also a way to connect with the vibrant creative community in Pagosa Springs. It's an event that celebrates the spirit of the holiday season and supports the talented individuals who make this community so special. We hope to see you there.

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Live Performers



Friday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.

The Springs Resort poolside: Steve Blechschmidt, 5 p.m.

Saturday

Meltdown on Main: Michael Dae Hanlon, noon

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Photo courtesy
Curtains Up Pagosa

With six potential suspects, six potential murder weapons and six potential rooms, “Clue: The Musical” is slated to be an interactive theater experience. Curtains Up Pagosa will perform the show – with 216 possible variations – Thursday through Saturday.

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Become a sleuth with Curtains Up Pagosa's production of 'Clue: The Musical'

Curtains Up Pagosa

In a daring theatrical feat, Curtains Up Pagosa is all set to dazzle audiences with its upcoming production of “Clue: The Musical.”

But this is not just any ordinary show; it is a unique and captivating murder mystery extravaganza, boasting an astonishing 216 possible variations.

Drawing inspiration from the classic murder mystery board game “Clue,” the talented cast and direction have embraced the challenge of presenting multiple twists and turns in this theatrical rendition. As if mastering lines, cues, blocking, and interactions with sets and props weren't enough, the cast must be prepared for every potential outcome of Mr. Boddy's heinous murder.

The adaptation revolves around six suspects, six potential murder weapons and a mansion with nine rooms where the sinister crime could have taken place. Though the rooms have been streamlined to six for the stage, the suspense remains palpable as the cast remains in the dark until the very last moment.

Here's how it works: At the start of each performance, three lucky audience members are invited by Mr. Boddy himself to select cards from stacks representing suspects, rooms and murder weapons. The choices are then sealed in an oversized envelope, which is kept secret until it's time for the cast to perform. The outcome of each show is in the hands of the eager audience, making each night's performance an enigmatic surprise for the actors

■ See Sleuth on next page



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Registration open for holiday lighting contests

Visit Pagosa Springs

Once again, the Pagosa Springs area will be bright with holiday cheer this season.

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board and The Pagosa Springs SUN are sponsoring a lighting contest this holiday season. The lighting contest will make the holiday season shine.

It includes enhanced lighting in downtown Pagosa as well as many other festive events taking place in and around the Pagosa Springs area through the end of December.

Participating addresses will be promoted to locals and visitors. Voting will be conducted online between Nov. 24 and Dec. 18.

Residential lighting contest

The holiday residential lighting competition will test participants' creativity and award cash prizes

for first (\$1000), second (\$500) and third (\$250).

Participating residential properties must be decorated by Nov. 24. Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21. We ask residential properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

Business lighting contest

The business lighting contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a property to decorate. Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 24.

We ask business properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Nov 24 and the end of the year.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21. Business prizes of first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third (\$250) will

be awarded as advertising in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Storefront window contest

The storefront window contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a storefront window to decorate.

Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 24. We ask business properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Nov 24 and the end of the year.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21. Storefront window prizes of first (\$500), second (\$250) and third (\$125) will be awarded as advertising in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

How to enter

To enter the contest, please complete the following form by end of day on Nov. 15: <https://bit.ly/2023LightingContestSignUp>.

Sleuth

■ continued from previous page and theater-goers alike.

Adding an engaging twist, a tenacious female detective enters the scene, eager to interrogate the suspects and uncover the truth. However, the audience members don't merely observe; they become detectives themselves, armed with their own sheets to piece together the puzzle. Expecting the unexpected, the plot takes unexpected turns, confounding even the most astute armchair sleuths.

The motives behind the characters' actions add layers of intrigue and complexity to the narrative. Mr. Boddy, who has been caught in the midst of extramarital affairs and business double-crossings, finds himself entangled in a web of deceit and revenge. Each character's connection to the wealthy victim sheds light on their potential motives, leaving audiences speculating until the very end.

Under the skillful direction of Aaron Bishop, and with the dedication of an exceptional cast, "Clue: The Musical" promises to be a theatrical event like no other.

So, dear readers, prepare to don your detective hats and get ready to solve the crime in this thrilling, interactive, and utterly captivating whodunit.

Don't miss the chance to be part of the mystery and witness the riveting "Clue: The Musical"

in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium starting from Thursday, Nov. 9. Secure your tickets now and become a sleuth in this mesmerizing theatrical adventure that is bound to keep you guessing until the very end.

Tickets are available online at <https://our.show/clue23>.

Get your tickets now and save money by purchasing in advance. Tickets will be \$5 more at the door.



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Catholic Community

The Fourth Degree members of the Knights of Columbus will hold a sit-down veterans' appreciation dinner on Friday, Nov. 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Veterans will be admitted free with a suggested donation of \$10 for others.

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Veterans' appreciation dinner set for Nov. 10

Pagosa Catholic Community

A sit-down spaghetti dinner is being hosted by the Fourth Degree members of the Knights of Columbus, Assembly 2704, on Friday, Nov. 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Friday dinner will be held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Veterans will be admitted for free, with a suggested donation of \$10 for all nonveterans.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882. The Fourth Degree designation was added in 1900 with the goal of reaching out to veterans and active military.

"Our November 10th dinner is meant to honor those that have served our country," explained Jim Field, event chair.

No RSVP is required. Questions? Email parishsecretary@ihmjp2.org.

Your source
 for community
 news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
 264-2100

LIVE MUSIC

at the Springs Resort =
 5-7 pm in the Lodge Atrium

Friday, November 10
 Jackson Mountain Ramblers in the Lodge Atrium 5-7 p.m.
 Steve Blechschmidt by poolside 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, November 11
 Maxwell Miller

Tuesday, November 14
 Jackson Mountain Ramblers

Charcuterie Board \$45
 available for purchase during live music

323 Hot Springs Blvd.
 800-225-0934
 pagosahotspings.com

Three Sisters AT YOUR Thanksgiving Table

COOKING CONTEST & DINNER

4-8 pm | November 11
 PLPOA Clubhouse 230 Port Ave

Proceeds benefit a 501(c)(3) corporation

2 WAYS TO ENJOY THE EVENT:

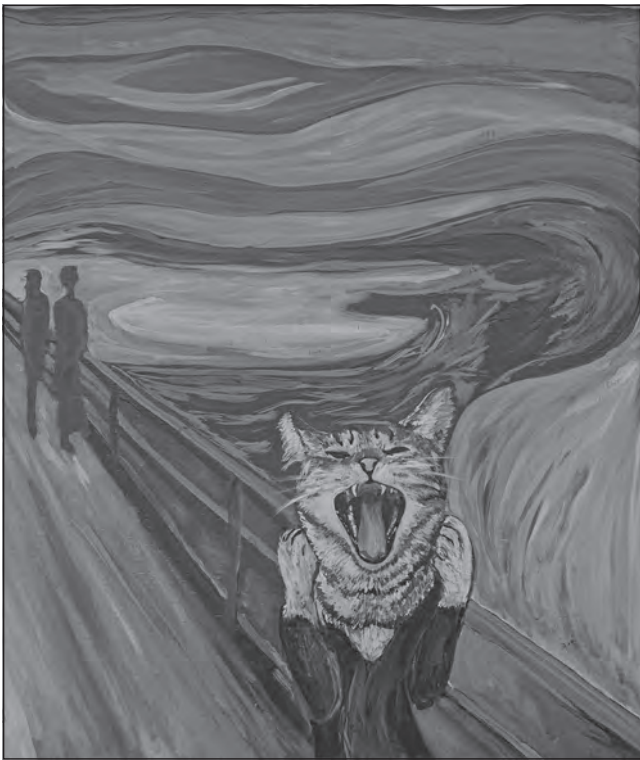
Make your favorite recipe with Corn, Beans, and/or Squash to enter (free entry) **OR** Guests enjoy Succotash Stew, Salad and Pumpkin Muffins and Vote for their Favorite Contest Entry

ALSO FEATURING:

- Live Music from Brooks-I
- Cash Bar after your First Freebie
- Indigenous Brewery using Local Ingredients
- Pagosa Photography Club Exhibit and Sale to Benefit GGP
- Local Non-GMO Blue Corn Meal for Sale

Enter & Buy Tickets

<https://www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/>



Photos courtesy Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs and Meltdown on Main are hosting a celebration in honor of the Humane Society on Saturday. The event will celebrate the organization's new website and mural.

Celebrate with the Humane Society at Saturday event

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

On Saturday, Nov. 11, from noon to 3 p.m., join the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs at Meltdown on Main, located at 257 Pagosa St., for an afternoon of gratitude, good food and great music.

"This event is simply a celebration of some major accomplishments happening within the organization," said Robson Reyes, executive director. "This is an opportunity for our friends and supporters to stop by and say hello while learning about what's new at the Humane Society."

On Nov. 11, the Humane Society's new website will go live. Be among the first to explore the Humane Society's brand-new website at www.PagosaHumane.org, offering a user-friendly platform that will better connect the organization with its current and potential supporters. Use the new website to

learn about the Humane Society's mission and vision, community services, adoptions, volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and much more.

In addition to launching its new website, the Humane Society will be celebrating the progress of its beautiful new mural painted on the thrift store building in downtown. Come meet the talented mural artist, Markus Hughes, at this event while learning more about his art and the Humane Society's mission, adoption opportunities and ways to support the organization in its efforts to care for our community's cats and dogs.

Meltdown on Main will host this free, family-friendly celebration event. At the event, enjoy the melodic tunes of talented local singer/songwriter Michael Dae Hanlon while dining on a limited menu available for purchase.

For more information, contact

hsfundraising@humanesociety.biz or call (970) 264-5549.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is a local, private nonprofit organization that operates the only animal shelter in Archuleta County. It is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership issues invitation to celebrate harvest of local foods and creativity

By Sally High
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) is hosting the Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table Saturday, Nov. 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

Tickets are available at the door

or at <https://www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/>.

The Three Sisters are corn, beans and squash, grown together and eaten together for untold generations in the Four Corners. The GGP's Three Sisters dinner will celebrate community with great

■ See Celebrate on next page

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November 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
At the Pagosa Springs High School Commons Area
800 South 8th Street

THE SPRINGS RESORT

FREE COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENTS

Hot Springs Fest is a 3-day festival celebrating Pagosa Springs' all-natural mineral water and the healing benefits of hot springs. In celebration of the event, we invite you to join the wellness team of The Springs Resort and the team at Healing Waters for a series of Free Community Wellness Events as part of Hot Springs Fest.

FRI. NOV. 10	SAT. NOV. 11	SUN. NOV. 12
4:30 – 5:00 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM	10:00 – 11:00 AM
COMMUNITY SOUND BATH THE COURTYARD AT HEALING WATERS	ECSTATIC DANCE EVENT THE MOTHER SPRING	COMMUNITY YOGA PAGOSA TOWN PARK
Experience relaxation and balance with a rejuvenating sound bath experience, where soothing sounds and vibrations guide you to a state of meditation and tranquility, promoting holistic wellbeing.	Experience the fun and meditative practice of ecstatic dance, a free-form dance event with uninhibited movement that allows you to express yourself through joyful and spontaneous dancing.	Join us in the park for a community yoga event, open to all experience levels, as we connect with nature and community while enjoying the mindful benefits of yoga for physical and mental wellbeing.
Bring yoga mat or cushion.	Glow-in-the-dark items encouraged.	Bring yoga mat or cushion.

Bring yoga mat or cushion.

Bring yoga mat or cushion.

Bring yoga mat or cushion.

HOT SPRINGS FEST, INFORMATION: WWW.BIT.LY/HOTSPRINGSFEST23 OR SCAN HERE



Photo courtesy Darryl Saffer
 “Answering a Distant Call” will be sold Saturday evening at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership’s Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table. The 3-foot-by-5-foot color print features the famous Rocky Mountain National Park bull elk, Kahuna, that died last year. Award-winning local photographer Darryl Saffer captured the powerful image. See all the Pagosa Springs Photography Club’s donated pictures Saturday evening and purchase an early Christmas gift or two.

November 10th - 12th, 2023

Hot SPRINGS FEST

The Springs Resort · Healing Waters · The Overlook

Celebrate Pagosa’s Official **Hot Springs Month** and the hot springs culture at the heart of our town and community. From honoring the legendary Mother Spring to soaking up the healing benefits of its mineral-rich waters at Pagosa’s three soaking venues, this festival is your pass to a fun and revitalizing three-day weekend. Immerse yourself in Pagosa’s famous waters, socialize, and experience a variety of water-based wellness activities.

3-DAY PASSES: \$150 | \$60 FOR LOCALS WITHIN 60 MILES · DAY PASSES ALSO AVAILABLE

Access to 40+ Pools · Wellness Activities · Live Music

Scan for details and passes
 or visit www.bit.ly/HotSpringsFest23

Celebrate

■ continued from previous page
 food, vibrant photography and live music.

Community cooks will bring favorite dishes of corn, beans and/or squash to share. Lighthearted local judges will select the best entries. Cooks must bring their dishes between 3 and 4 p.m. Cooks bringing dishes get in free. Other family and friends buy a ticket to support the GGP.

The GGP will treat all guests to a succotash stew, salad and pumpkin cookies. Succotash is a traditional Native American stew of corn, beans and squash. Guests can taste the community cooks’ dishes and dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club will display the winners of its annual digital photo contest onto a large screen. Members of the local club have donated print photos that guests can purchase. Proceeds will benefit the GGP’s continuing operations.

Highlights of the family-friendly evening will be live music with Brooks-I, freshly ground blue corn meal, locally brewed beer and thriving house plants raised in the GGP’s Education Dome. The GGP’s signature chokecherry-laced champagne will round out the celebration.

Each ticket holder receives a free drink and nonalcoholic drinks will be available. After that complimentary drink, a cash bar benefits the 501(c)(3) nonprofit GGP.

The GGP is a donation- and volunteer-driven organization that operates three greenhouses in Centennial Park.

**Established
 1909.**

The Pagosa Springs SUN
 264-2100

GET YOUR 2024 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR TODAY!

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Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, along with Loaves and Fishes and Centerpoint Church, will provide the annual community Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

18th annual Early Thanksgiving Dinner set for Nov. 17

By Anthony Aldwell
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

The 18th annual community Early Thanksgiving Dinner is returning to Pagosa Springs as a sit-down meal next week at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, in collaboration with Loaves and Fishes and Centerpoint Church, will prepare, cook and serve this free Thanksgiving meal next Friday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or until the food runs out).

Last year's successful community meal provided more than 400 dinners to the Pagosa community, but only as a takeaway meal. While takeaway is still a limited option this year, St. Patrick's rector, the Rev. Wren Blessing, suggested "a sit-down dinner is in keeping with the true spirit of Thanksgiving by having members of the community

gather together to share a traditional meal."

Members of St. Patrick's will prepare the meal in Centerpoint Church's well-equipped kitchen and transport it to the Ross Aragon Community Center's warming kitchen on Friday, Nov. 17, in time to welcome guests when the doors open at 11 a.m.

The traditional menu will offer roasted turkey and gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, pie and beverages.

As an added treat, noted local musician Jack Ellis will lend his talent to the occasion as he entertains guests during the meal.

All community members are welcome to participate in this free Early Thanksgiving Dinner next Friday to enjoy the traditional meal amidst our Pagosa neighbors as we give thanks to the blessings we have received during the past year.

Community partners, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership enhance Riverwalk

By Sally High
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) is busy this fall beautifying the west end of Centennial Park.

Partnerships and volunteers made this possible.

To volunteer with GGP's landscaping efforts, contact ggp@pagosagreen.org.

When you walk down the San

Juan Riverwalk, notice the newly painted doors of the GGP's three greenhouses. Funding from Main Street initiative's Façade Improvement Grant made those brightly colored doors possible.

The GGP received assistance from a Town of Pagosa Springs grant to build raised beds along the Riverwalk sides of the Community Garden Dome and the Innovation Dome. The Education

■ See Partners on next page

Holiday Open House

Saturday, Nov. 11 • 10-5

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featuring:

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2024 PSMC EMT Training Class

What: Informational Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 15,
6-8 p.m.

Where: PSMC Training Room
189 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PSMC will present class information including:

- Broader healthcare opportunities with EMT training
- Program expectations and schedule, must be 18 to register
- Potential program tuition and reimbursement opportunities

For more information, contact PSMC EMS at 970-507-3973

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Photo courtesy Brenda Breeding

The thriving Native Plants Garden on the San Juan Riverwalk in Centennial Park is a successful partnership between local Audubon volunteers and Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership.



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Partners

■ continued from previous page

Dome's sandstone raised beds were planted a few years ago with deer-resistant perennial plants. Those beds are overflowing with ornamental plants that come back every growing season. Many Riverwalkers take home seeds to plant at home because those perennials obviously thrive in Pagosa Springs.

Containers on the north side of the Community Garden Dome are being made ready for spring planting along the Riverwalk. Water troughs and whiskey barrels demonstrate how easy it is to grow food and beauty in any yard or porch. The containers are partly filled with soil, a water-conservative growing technique known as hügelkultur. Permaculturalists recognize the advantages of hugel raised beds, which hold moisture in the soil and build fertility. Both perennial edibles and seasonal vegetables will be planted in the spring of 2024.

The south side of the Innovation Dome will feature cinder block raised beds. A stucco surface will give those short walls an adobe look and a heritage theme will guide the planting of those beds in 2024.

The GGP volunteers dream of a Heritage Garden to demonstrate growing foods that have been grown at our latitude, longitude and altitude for generations.

Generous community members donated the daffodil and iris bulbs now being naturalized around the Education Dome doors. The wood chips that serve as ground cover are an annual contribution by a local business and are transported to the GGP site by another local businessman.

The Pagosa Springs Rotary Club donated the sandstone and initial plantings in its Rotary Garden on the GGP site. Rotarians now plan to tend the Xeric garden that demonstrates water-conservative ornamental growing in our high desert climate.

The Terry Hershey Memorial

■ See Partners on next page

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New Thought Center to hear about 'Life as a Heroic Journey'

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

At the Sunday service on Nov. 12 at 11 a.m., Julie Loar, award-winning author, will present "Life as a Heroic Journey."

Join Loar as she explores the idea that life can be lived like a quest — a heroic journey. The board game Quintangled was designed with this in mind. Once we step on the path, we can choose to live more consciously, following our destiny and navigating what seems to be random acts of fate.

Loar is the multiple award-winning author of eight books, dozens of articles and co-creator of Quintangled.

"Julie Loar is SUCH a great speaker! She had me utterly captivated and riveted in the first thirty seconds! I noticed everyone else in the room seemed to be spellbound too." — Elaine Bell, julieloar.com.

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.

Nov. 12, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Loar.

Nov. 16, 6 p.m.: Quintangled Night. Play the game Quintangled with Loar as your guide on a spiritual quest. Dressing as a character is optional.

Nov. 19, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with John and Sue Love. The Loves will share their story.

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

McClure for a beautiful ceremony. Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve over-nighter at Vallecito Lake. There will be a burning bowl ceremony on New Year's Day. Call/text (970) 510-0309 for reservations.

Jan. 1, 2024: Burning bowl ceremony to welcome in the new year with intention and purpose. The time is to be announced.

Jan. 20, 2024: Quintangled Masquerade Ball Fundraiser with Loar and the Good Vibe Tribe.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. We honor all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine. The vision of the New Thought Center is to empower possibility through revelation of spiritual truth, and to enhance our members' life experience through self-empowerment, inner peace and being part of an all-inclusive community. Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through awareness of a higher power. We are the Good Vibe Tribe that practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com;

mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

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—Kanaka Perea



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Swing by and say hello - we can't wait to see you!



Kelly Maestas
Financial Advisor

190 Talisman Dr Unit B-3
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-731-5100



Jon Mills
Financial Advisor

190 Talisman Dr Unit B-3
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-731-5100

Partners

■ continued from previous page

Native Plants Garden was planted on the GGP site in collaboration with the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies. Native plants benefit birds and other wildlife and provide water-saving beauty to our local park. Audubon volunteers tend the thriving Native Plants Garden each growing season.

The GGP always welcomes volunteers in ongoing landscaping efforts. Contact gpp@pagosagreen.org to get involved and help plan a green 2024.

Tax-deductible donations can be made all year, but especially in this season of giving, at www.coloradogives.org/geothermal-greenhousepartnership.

Tickets for Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table can be purchased at the door or at <https://www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/>.

www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/. The Three Sisters benefit is this Saturday evening from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse.



Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Nov. 9

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.

Virtual Author Talk: Tiffany Aliche. Noon, virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring "Get Good with Money and Reach Your Financial Goals" with Tiffany "The Budget-nista" Aliche. 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 chargers. 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.

Fall Lifelong Learning Lecture Series. 6-7:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Paul Wilson will showcase the Project Healing Waters fly-fishing program for disabled veterans and wounded warriors. Pick up a brochure with more details at your library or go to <https://pagosalibrary.org/adult-services>.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club Meeting. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. The meeting will feature Laura Brooks, who will present her documentary "Bat City USA." Following the presentation, club members may share and dis-

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

cuss up to five of their images per person with the group. For more information about the club, visit <https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/>.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents ‘Clue The Musical.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. This is a PG-13 production with mild adult themes. Tickets are available online at <https://our.show/clue23> or at the door.

Friday, Nov. 10

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

Messy Art: Nature Sculptures. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Get messy and make art. We will make sculptures out of natural materials. All supplies will be provided.

Veterans’ Appreciation Dinner. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. The Fourth Degree members of the Knights of Columbus will host a sit-down spaghetti dinner. Veterans will be admitted for free, with a \$10 suggested donation for all others.

San Juan Stargazers Anniversary Dinner and Celebration. 5-9 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Members should RSVP to (303) 995-2888 with your name, number of people coming and your favorite kinds of pies.

Great Stories Club. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa teens are invited to join us to discuss “Dreaming in Indian” and celebrate Indigenous voices and artists in our community. After discussing the book, participants will hear from local Indigenous artists who will share about their work and inspiration. From there, we will move into open studio time focused on creating art in response to the book or the artists. Registration is required.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents ‘Clue The Musical.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. This is a PG-13 production with mild adult themes. Tickets are available online at <https://our.show/clue23> or at the door.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Local Makers’ Fair. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

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.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone

Drive. This 13-week program provides support and encouragement after the death of a family member or loved one and offers biblical concepts for healing from grief. Contact Marie Rascoe at marierascoe67@gmail.com for more information.

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Celebration. Noon-3 p.m., Melt-down on Main, 257 Pagosa St. Celebrate the new art mural painted on the thrift store downtown, as well as the launch of the Humane Society’s new website.

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

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents ‘Clue The Musical.’ 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. This is a PG-13 production with mild adult themes. Tickets are available online at <https://our.show/clue23> or at the door.

DivorceCare. 4-5:30 p.m. Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This divorce recovery seminar and support group will meet at Centerpoint Church each Saturday. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include “Facing My Anger,” “Facing My Loneliness,” “New Relationships,” “Kid Care” and “Forgiveness.” For more information, call Lorena Medina at (970) 731-2205 or email her at loremedina0817@gmail.com.

Three Sisters at Your Thanksgiving Table. 4-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse. The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership will host a harvest party with live music, photography and great food. Tickets are \$50 for adults; \$20 for seniors, veterans and teens; and \$10 for children; kids 5 and under are free. Cooks who bring a dish to share will be admitted at no cost. Tickets are available at www.pagosagreen.org.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents ‘Clue The Musical.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. This is a PG-13 production with mild adult themes. Tickets are available online at <https://our.show/clue23> or at the door.

Monday, Nov. 13

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:30 a.m., advanced group 10:15 a.m. If you have not attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

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

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. Supplies

■ See Calendar on next page

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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

ANSWER:

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page will be provided.

Shakespeare Read Aloud Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join in reading aloud “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” together. For more information, call Jenny at (240) 426-7887.

Teen/Tween Art Camp. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Art classes for teens and tweens. Each month we will explore a different style or medium. This month, it’s cartooning and caricature with guest artist Dan Dempster. Registration is required.

Boy Scout Troop 807 Meeting. 4-5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Boys aged 11-17 are invited to attend meetings. Meetings are weekly on Mondays at 4 p.m. Scouts learn outdoor and leadership skills, teamwork, support our community and have fun. Contact Jennifer Walterscheid at (970) 986-0387 or scoutmaster807@gmail.com for more details.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

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.

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.

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.

Lunch and Learn. 11:30 a.m., Senior Center. U.S. Forest Service employee Kevin Conwell will talk about his backcountry travels in the San Juan National Forest.

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.

Adult DIY. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Dot painting on glass ornaments, traditional and heart-shaped. This makes a great holiday gift.

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

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

Ruby’s Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. This free book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and non-fiction titles, with snacks provided. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

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.

tion.

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

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

Therapy Dog Visit. 11-11:45 a.m., Sisson Library. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog.

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.

Pagosa Springs Athletic Booster Club Meeting. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School, 800 S. 8th St.

Thursday, Nov. 16

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.

Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School library. Hosted by the Pagosa Springs chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America. Visit vitalant.org for scheduling and additional information.

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.

Free Art Class: Christmas Kitchen Angel. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center dining hall. Make a festive Christmas kitchen angel. No art skills

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

required. Supplies will be provided.
Virtual Author Talk: Joy Harjo. 2 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring Poet Laureate Joy Harjo. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

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, Nov. 17

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

Community Thanksgiving Dinner. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Loaves and Fishes and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will be hosting the 18th annual early Thanksgiving meal. Everyone in the community is invited to come have a free, sit-down lunch with turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings. Jack Ellis will provide musical entertainment. Come, bring your family and friends, and enjoy the feast.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Read with Muppet or Maple, therapy dogs who love stories.

Board Game Central. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn to play a new board game or bring your own to share with others.

Tween/Teen Hangout. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Tweens and teens can hang out in the large meeting room and spend time with friends.

Saturday, Nov. 18

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This 13-week program provides support and encouragement after the death of a family member or loved one and offers biblical concepts for healing from grief. Contact Marie Rascoe at marierascoe67@gmail.com for more information.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your

own or use our LEGOs to free build.

Pokemon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon, too. No experience is required.

DivorceCare. 4-5:30 p.m. Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This divorce recovery seminar and support group will meet at Centerpoint Church each Saturday. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "New Relationships," "Kid Care" and "Forgiveness." For more information, call Lorena Medina at (970) 731-2205 or email her at loremedina0817@gmail.com.

Sunday, Nov. 19

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.

Monday, Nov. 20

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:30 a.m., advanced group 10:15 a.m. If you have not attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

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

Teen/Tween Art Camp. 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.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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New Great Stories Club for teens to launch tomorrow

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Our new free Great Stories Club for teens begins tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 10, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for ages 13 and up.

Pizza and beverages will be provided.

Your Ruby Sisson Library was selected as one of 58 libraries nationwide to participate in this innovative reading and discussion program sponsored by the American Library Association with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As part of the Great Stories Club effort, staff from the Ruby Sisson Library will partner with the San Juan Mountain School and Pagosa Community Initiative to work with teens to read and discuss stories that explore questions of race, equity, identity and history.

Tomorrow's book is "Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native Voices," edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale. Our discussion will celebrate Indigenous voices and artists in our community.

The other three books will be "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates, "Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A." by Luis J. Rodriguez and "American Street" by Ibi Zobo. The titles were selected to inspire teens — especially those facing difficult circumstances or challenges — to consider "big questions" about the world around them and their place in it. The books will be gifted to club participants.

There will be one separate discussion per book, plus a final gallery at the end of all four sessions.

Library News

Teens can sign up just for the sessions that interest them, based on the subject matter of the book being discussed, or for all four.

Early library closure

Your library will close early on Monday, Nov. 13, for a staff meeting at 5 p.m. This is our regular new staff meeting schedule — on the second Monday of the month.

Lifelong Learning lectures

This evening, Nov. 9, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. is the last talk in our free fall Lifelong Learning series that offers talented speakers talking about a wide variety of interesting topics.

We are showcasing the Project Healing Waters fly-fishing program for disabled veterans and wounded warriors with Paul Wilson, the program lead and a retired wildlife biologist. No registration is required.

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular free virtual author talks continue with two more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions this month. For details and to register go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Thursday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. will feature a conversation with Poet Laureate Joy Harjo.

On Nov. 30 at 1 p.m. you can

interact with bestselling author Naomi Alderman, who will focus on Writing Dystopian Worlds.

■ See Library on next page

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\$849,000

MLS 807957

Located in the desirable neighborhood of San Juan River Resort. Located between Wolf Creek Ski Area and Pagosa Springs. Built in 1994, open concept kitchen, dining and living room. Hardwood floors throughout. Primary bedroom and bath located on the main floor with French doors out to a deck. Two bedrooms upstairs share a full bathroom.

1304 & 1402 Hersch Avenue
\$1,093,337

MLS 797954

This home with amazing valley views was built in 1976 — located on 10± acres. 2,518 sq. ft. with 4 beds/3baths. Upgrades include an attached garage and a formal dining room. The adjacent land of 6± acres has a 2,000 sq. ft. barn built in 2006.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1304Hersch>

165 Big Horn Court
\$750,000

MLS 805023

3 Bed, 3 ½ Bath, 2,286 Sq feet and 3.3 Acres in Holiday Acres. Also, a 1,500 Sq foot shop and garage.

For a tour of this home go to:
<https://vimeo.com/368622052>

3440 Running Horse Place
\$840,000

MLS 803367

3 bed, 2 bath, 1,566 sq feet on 35+ acres. Also has a 1,500 sq ft shop/garage and Borders 70 acres of BLM.

To tour this home go to:
<https://vimeo.com/827436529?share=copy>

2453 Running Horse Place
\$2,400,000

MLS 806520

35.2 Acres with guest house, set up for horses. Property comes with workshop/garage, growing dome, round pen, 3 stall + barn and numerous outbuildings.

To see this property go to:
<https://vimeo.com/850327930>

Cloman Industrial Park
\$400,000

MLS 807337

.68 acre, 1,440 sq. ft. building. Room for additional building. 3,000 BTU gas heater, sink, stove, half bath, 8'x10' overhead door.

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219 Lakeside Drive —MLS 800074, \$190,000
30 High Drive — MLS 794628, \$59,900

72 High Drive — MLS 803168, \$39,000
17736 County Road 500 — MLS 804532, \$87,000.
.82 acres on Montezuma Circle. MLS 804537, \$174,000.
X Montezuma Circle —MLS 804535. \$87,000.
153 Greenway Drive — MLS 805178, \$25,000.
147 Cat Creek Overlook MLS 806842 \$25,000

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Library

■ continued from previous page

Messy art tomorrow

Let's get messy and make sculptures out of natural materials tomorrow, Nov. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at this free art session. All ages are welcome and all supplies will be provided.

Beginning chess Saturday

Learn how to play chess with free quick lessons and game time to practice your skills on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters this Saturday, Nov. 11, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, Nov. 13, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.

Shakespeare read-aloud

Shakespeare fans of all ages are invited to join in reading aloud "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Monday, Nov. 13, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.

Tween/teen art camp Monday

Monday free art classes from 4 to 6 p.m. (4 to 5 p.m. today, Nov. 13) for teens and tweens will explore a different style or medium. This month it is cartooning and caricature by guest artist Dan Dempster. Participants will draw basic portraits and create a flip-book animation. Registration is required.

Adult DIY

At the free adult DIY next Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., you will experience dot painting on glass ornaments, traditional and heart-shaped. This makes a great holiday gift for that special someone in your life. All supplies will be provided. Note the time and day change this month.

Ruby's Book Club Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. next Tuesday, Nov. 14, to discuss "The Yellow House" by Sarah Brown. Copies are available at your library. This free book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles, with snacks provided. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Tuesday, Nov. 14, 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.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., you are invited to come to the library for a free visit with a certified therapy dog. Visits are limited to 10-15 minutes—just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi." This is an all-ages activity.

Elementary tutoring sessions

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

■ See Library on next page



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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Christian's "Ford v Ferrari" co-star
- 5 Present occasion
- 10 Flower stalk
- 14 Bounce back
- 15 Strong dislike
- 16 Tuesday treat?
- 17 Large amount
- 18 Vegas' Park MGM, previously
- 20 Guaranteed
- 22 Caning need
- 23 Panache
- 24 Drops a hint
- 26 "Elementary" actress
- 28 Grocery carrier
- 30 Soothsayer
- 31 Safe to swim in
- 34 "Beetle Bailey" dog

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54						55	56						57	58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

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- 38 Potbelly, for one
- 39 Convent dweller
- 40 Islamic text
- 41 Sharpen a knife
- 42 Type of camp
- 44 Ceremonial act
- 46 Windsor, for one
- 47 Freudian topic
- 48 Repairs the wall
- 52 Diner dish
- 54 Alternative word
- 55 Compromise
- 59 It often replaces human labor
- 61 Run the show
- 62 The Bee Gees, e.g.
- 63 Prey grabber
- 64 Computerphile
- 65 Diplomacy
- 66 Fluid buildup
- 67 Part of G.M.T.

- 4 Beach accessory
- 5 Small, as a fee
- 6 Nostril wrinkler
- 7 Middling poker pair
- 8 Studio shout
- 9 Came into view
- 10 Officer's quarters, at sea
- 11 Fruity desserts
- 12 Striking success
- 13 Mars has two
- 19 Parakeet keeper
- 21 Aesop piece
- 25 Early online forum
- 26 Luxurious
- 27 Very fond of
- 29 Artillery unit member
- 32 Go farther than intended
- 33 Egyptian boy king
- 35 Kid's backyard retreat

- 36 Astronaut drink
- 37 Not taken in by
- 40 Work with dough
- 42 Say again
- 43 "Love on the Brain" singer
- 45 Big-ticket ____
- 48 Chris of "The Magnificent Seven"
- 49 First lady after Hillary
- 50 Room at the top?
- 51 Subway entrance
- 53 Antidote
- 56 Motel offering
- 57 Dog parasite
- 58 Spore producer
- 60 Youngest Lincoln

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

■ continued from previous page

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.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources. No appointment needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring your device's charger with you.

PALS/GED adult education

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

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.

DVDs

"Ghosthunt" is the complete season. "Picture Perfect Mysteries" is a three-movie collection. "The Crown" is the complete fifth season. "So Help Me Todd" is season one. The Cornetto trilogy — "The World's End," "Hot Fuzz" and "Shaun of the Dead" — are in one

DVD collection. "Interview with the Vampire" is season one.

Nonfiction

"To Infinity and Beyond" by astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson and StarTalk producer Lindsey Nyx Walker is an interstellar odyssey. "Making It So" by Sir Patrick Stewart is a memoir by this renowned British actor. "On Censorship: A Public Librarian Examines Cancel Culture in the U.S." by James LaRue highlights the dangers of book banning and censorship. "Why We Love Baseball" by Joe Posnanski is a history of 50 major moments in the sport. "The Masters" by Rolling Stone editor Jann S. Wenner is a collection of interviews with the greatest rock 'n' roll artists and cultural icons of our time.

"Alfie and Me" by Carl Safina is the story of a couple saving of an orphaned screech owl and her impact on their lives. "Thicker than Water" by Kerry Washington is a memoir by this award-winning actor, director and activist. We have two new Rick Steves travel guides: "Vienna, Salzburg and Tirol" and "Spain." "Head over Heels" by Melissa Newman is a look at the life and love of Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman by their daughter that includes photographs by some of the world's best photographers.

Novels

"Dragonfly's Question" by Darcy Hitchcock includes a chapter-by-chapter discussion guide to help readers share the author's principles for a more sustainable way of life. "Let Us Descend" by Jesmyn Ward is a reimagining of American slavery, told through the eyes of a young woman.

Large print

"The Traitor Among Us" by Anne Perry is book five of the Elena Standish series. "Flop Dead Gorgeous" by David Rosenfelt is an Andy Carpenter mystery. "The Armor of Light" by Ken Follett is the latest in the Kingsbridge historical saga. "Collision of Power" by Martin Baron is an insider's chronicle of the clashes between former President Donald Trump and Jeff Bezos after the Amazon founder bought The Washington Post. "The Watchdog" by Steve Drummond details how the Truman Committee battled corporations and the Pentagon and helped win World War II.

Books on CD

"Up on the Woof Top" by Spencer Quinn is a Chet the dog and Bernie Little mystery. "Blood Lines" by Nelson and Alex DeMille features special agents Brodie and Taylor. "Judgment Day" by John Sandford is a Lucas Devenport and Virgil Flowers mystery.

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Joann Ferko

for her materials donation.

When we are open, material 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

■ See Library on next page

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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 4. CONSUMING LARGE PORTIONS

It isn't just the type of food that you eat; it's also the amount that's important. Jumbo-sized meals, especially those that are high in fat and sugar, will cause you to gain weight. But it's not only fatty junk foods that do this. Excess calories from good foods also will cause your body to store fat. When you eat more calories than you burn off, your body stores the excess as fat. It will struggle just to burn off the fat you eat, to say nothing of the fat around your middle! You will also feel sluggish when you overeat and have less energy as your body works to digest the excess food.



What you can do: The serving size you need depends on your age, gender, and activity level. While you don't need to go hungry, it makes sense to limit your total food intake and practice those habits that will help your body burn fat.

"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: 2 Timothy 1:5 is the only place where the word "grandmother" appears in the Bible.

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Photo courtesy Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

On Dec. 9, a “Paint Your Pet” night will be held to benefit the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs. The deadline to register is Nov. 22.

Paint your pet on Dec. 9 in support of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has been forging great partnerships with a number of local businesses this year.

Its latest partnership with Pi-

casso and Vino will be a fun and creative way for friends of the Humane Society to show its support for our community’s only animal shelter while painting a personal pet portrait as a keepsake.

On Dec. 9, Picasso and Vino,

located at 450 Lewis St., will help you tap into your inner artist as its

■ See Paint on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page
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; or 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

“Often, when you’re reading a novel that appeals to you, you feel a sense of connection to the author

in a way that is different from any other form of literature. And as you become more aware of how the characters in the novel are feeling and thinking, you also become more aware of how you’re feeling and thinking. So reading novels is a form of emotional education.” — Pulitzer Prize-winning American author Jane Smiley.

Website

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Giving thanks for our blessings

By **Rose Chavez**
PREVIEW Columnist

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) would like to thank the community for their support of our inaugural Dia de los Muertos Dance Party that was held on Nov. 3 at the Colorado State University Extension Building.

The intergenerational, family-friendly event featured a beautifully handmade community ofrenda loaded with pictures of departed loved ones, music and Spanish tunes from DJ Marcus Rivas, a cookie contest, a costume contest, and handmade posole by the beloved Guadalupanas and Ablaze Catholic youth group with all net proceeds raised to support ASI and the older adults and families of Archuleta County.

We would also like to thank our many sponsors, the Ruby M. Sisson library, countless volunteers and community members who came together for this cultural event.

And if one holiday event was

Senior News

not enough, your friends at ASI brought you the second annual Holiday Market in partnership with Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association with more 30 small businesses that were featured this last Saturday.

We had a great turnout. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped us bring the event together this year.

Keeping with the holiday spirit, we are still on the lookout for a few volunteers to help with our Festival of Trees decorating. Please give us a call (970) 264-2167 if you have any questions.

Lunch and Learn set for Nov. 14

Join us for lunch starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center on Nov. 14 as U.S. Forest Service employee Kevin Conwell talks about his backcountry travels in the San Juan National Forest.

Through photos he's taken, see a side of the forest not normally seen from the highways and byways that run through it, and experience the natural and recreational diversity the forest has to offer.

Free art class to be held Nov. 16

Join us to make a festive Christmas kitchen angel at 1:15 p.m. in the dining hall. She is guaranteed to bring blessings and joys of the season to your kitchen as you prepare your holiday treats. No art skills are required. All supplies will be provided, and there is no cost or registration required. Just show up and have fun.

Senior conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for
■ See Senior on next page

Paint

■ continued from previous page
instructors show you how to paint your pet step-by-step and create your own personal masterpiece. All supplies, instruction and fun will be provided.

As a part of the event, enjoy a glass of wine or a cold brew to get your creative juices flowing. Enjoy a libation among friends while you paint your personal pet portrait, with a portion of the profits from the night going toward the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs to benefit the care of our community's animals.

The cost to paint your pet will be \$150.

The deadline to register as a participant is Nov. 22 as Picasso and Vino's artists need time to create your custom painting canvas. You will submit a photo of your pet for the artists to prep for your painting.

The "Paint Your Pet" class will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 9. For anyone wanting to learn more about Picasso and Vino or the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, there will be an open house happy hour from 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 9 where anyone can come enjoy a glass of wine or a beer to learn more, all in support of the Humane Society.

"Paint Your Pet" night will be a great way to either paint your own unique pet portrait, or to paint someone else's pet and give the gift for Christmas. Limited spots are available. To reserve your spot to paint your pet, visit <https://picassoandvino.com> and register by Nov. 22. Instructions about what's needed for the class and other

details will be provided once you register.

If you have any questions or for more information, contact hsfundraising@humanesociety.biz or call (970) 264-5549.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is a local, private non-profit organization that operates the only animal shelter in Archuleta County. It does not receive funding from the Humane Society of the United States, Ameri-

can Humane, ASPCA or any other national animal welfare organizations. Private donations, grants, and thrift store revenues cover only a portion of animal shelter operating expenses. The remainder of shelter costs must be met through fundraising events and community support. It is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com.

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 nutritious 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 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. 9 — Teriyaki beef with peppers, coconut rice, broccoli, garden salad, fruit, milk and fortune cookies.

Friday, Nov. 10 — Closed for Veterans Day.

Monday, Nov. 13 — Swedish meatballs, egg noodles, lingonberry jam, coleslaw, garden salad, milk and carrot cake.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 — Mahi-mahi with mango salsa, quinoa rice pilaf, cauliflower, garden salad, milk and brownies.

Wednesday, Nov. 15 — Chicken piccata with lemon caper sauce, broccoli, roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Nov. 16 — Pork adovada, Spanish rice, squash casserole, avocado, garden salad, fruit, milk and flan.

Friday, Nov. 17 — Pasta primavera with penne and marinara sauce, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, milk and banana brunch cake.

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. 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.

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

The Mobile Food Pantry Service has been discontinued due to funding shortages. Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

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.

COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick

up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests kits for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the public who needs affordable access for health promotion and disease prevention.

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.

■ See Senior on page 22

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

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- AGE IN PLACE
- AGING
- CAREGIVER
- COMPASSION
- CONTINUING
- COORDINATOR
- DAYCARE
- EQUIPMENT
- FAMILY
- GERIATRIC
- HOME HEALTH AIDE
- HOSPICE
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Freeing Bob the dog

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

Bob, the dog, had really become part of the family, saving 5-year-old Joyce from the bull and showing that he could bring the cows from the pasture for milking, even closing and latching the gate. Sometimes the family members wondered how he had learned to do everything he did. Then, one day, they got an inkling.

Joyce was brushing Bob after a bath. The brushing he liked; the bath not so much. She was still trying to get the burrs out of his fur when a pickup pulled into the yard.

Gas was hard to pay for during the Depression, so when any vehicle came, it caused great curiosity. Arden, Joyce's father, went to meet the visitors. Though they were quite a distance away, Joyce could hear the conversation. The man said he was from the circus, and they had just arrived in town. He needed some hay for some animals and had heard word that Arden had some he might sell.

Cash was in short supply, so Arden was happy to sell what they could spare from feeding their own animals. He invited the man to the house. As they approached, suddenly Bob jumped to his feet and started barking. He moved into attack position and bared his teeth.

The man stopped. His face deepened into an angry scowl. "Shadow, you stupid mutt. How did you get clear out here from Chicago?"

"Shadow?" Arden asked.

"Yes," the man said. "That is my dog. I trained him to do all sorts of tricks." The man then turned to Bob and commanded, "Shadow, lie down."

But Bob didn't lie down. If anything, his growl became lower and more threatening. The man pulled a whip from a loop on his belt. "I'll teach you to growl at me."

But as he brought the whip back

to strike, Arden grabbed the man's wrist. "If you touch that dog with a whip, I'll use it on you."

The man jerked his wrist from Arden's grasp. "That is my dog, and I will have him back."

"That dog is not leaving this farm," Arden said.

"We'll see," the man said. He then went to his truck and left.

"Daddy, you aren't going to let that mean man take Bob, are you?" Joyce asked.

"No," Arden said. "He is part of the family."

Bob had barely calmed down when the man returned with the sheriff following close behind. After they had both exited their vehicles, the man pointed at Bob, who bristled again. "That is my dog, and I demand to have him returned."

"Can you prove it?" the sheriff asked.

"I have lots of papers," the man said.

"Papers mean nothing," Arden said. "If a dog belongs to a man, he should be able to call and have him come."

"That's true," the sheriff said to the man. "Why don't you call him?"

The man took a deep breath, turned to Bob, and commanded, "Here, Shadow."

Bob bared his teeth, got into an attack stance, and growled.

"But I can show you markings that will verify he is my dog," the man said.

"Like the whip marks all over him?" Arden asked. "I knew they were familiar. I recognize them from the dogs and horses we worked with in the Great War. Some men mishandled them."

"Well," the sheriff said, "I am not inclined to believe you have proven he is yours."

"Look," Arden said. "I am an honest man. Even if he is yours, as you claim, maybe we can trade some hay for the dog. You wanted four wagon loads. How about we give you one for free for the dog?"

"How about three?" the man said.

"You haven't even proven he is yours," Arden replied. "I can't go higher than two."

"OK," the man said. "Two it will be, and you can keep the ungrateful mutt."

When the wagons arrived to pick up the hay, Arden's wife was concerned. "Can we spare two loads of hay to them for free?"

Arden smiled. "We'll be OK, and it is a small price to pay to free Bob from the life he has had."

To be continued.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Pre-approval and
24-hour notice
required.



Thanksgiving issue Thursday, November 23 Early Deadlines

Display Advertising

Noon, Friday, November 17

Classified Advertising

10 a.m., Monday, November 20

Too Late to Classify 10 a.m., Monday, November 20

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters

Noon, Thursday, November 16

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed Thursday, November 23
and Friday, November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

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Senior

■ continued from page 22

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

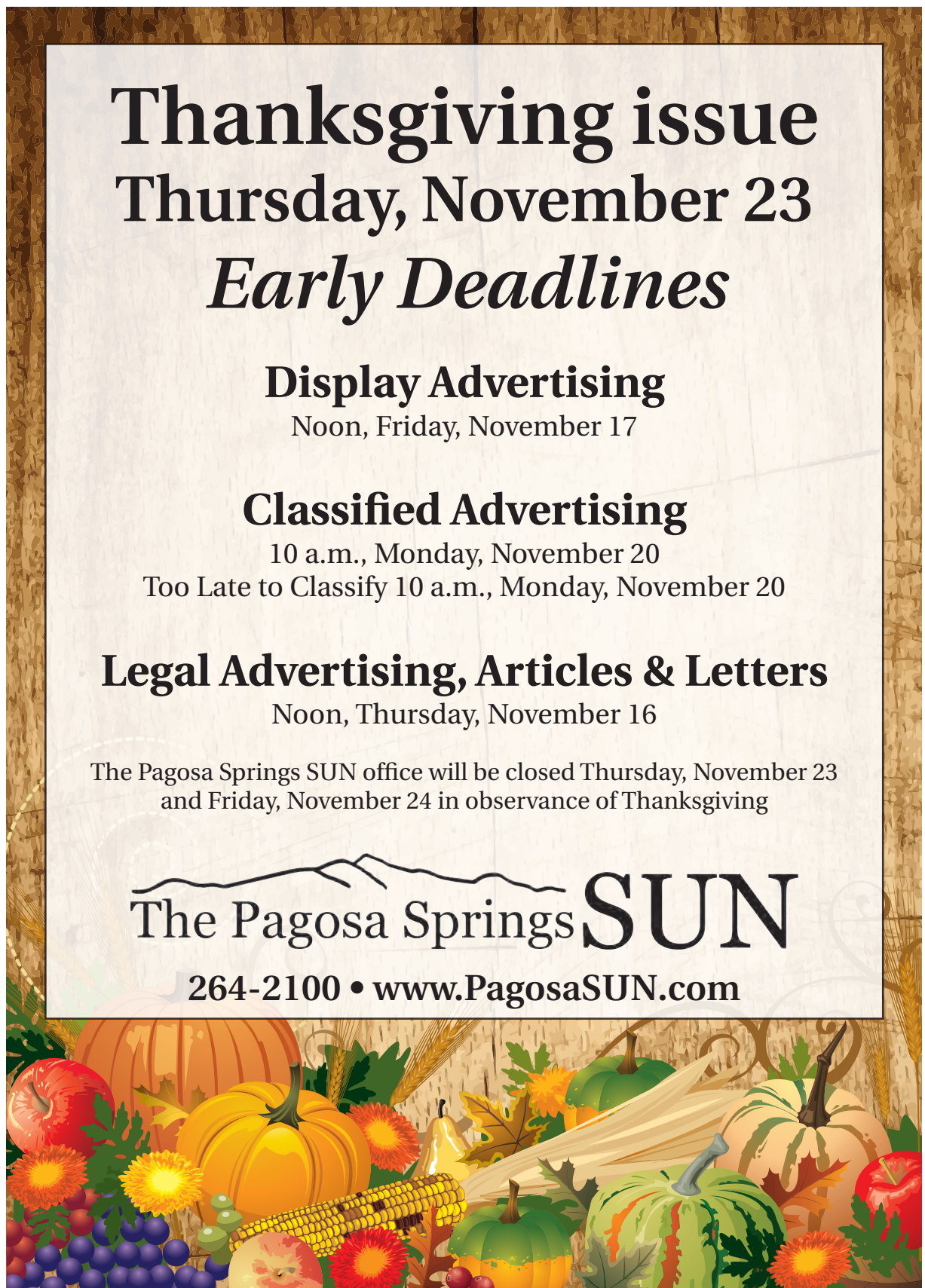
1:15 at the Senior Center.

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.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100





FOOD FACT!

DESPITE BEING CALLED A "NUT," THIS FOOD IS ACTUALLY A LEGUME, OR A MEMBER OF A BEAN/PEA FAMILY OF PLANTS.

ANSWER: PEANUT

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

0		8	11
	2		17
1		4	12
7	12	21	

4	7	1
9	2	6
8	3	0

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

O T H M S O N D A R C A E Y M

Answer: Smooth and creamy

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1924: NELLIE TAYLOR ROSS BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED AS A GOVERNOR IN THE UNITED STATES.
- 1966: THE ARNO RIVER FLOODS FLORENCE, ITALY. IT LEAVES THOUSANDS HOMELESS AND DESTROYS MILLIONS OF MASTERPIECES OF ART.
- 1980: RONALD REAGAN IS ELECTED AS THE 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



BUTTER

creamy spread made from different ingredients

Classifieds

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THINK ELIZABETH
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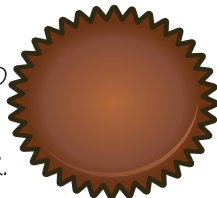
SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ADS — tinyurl.com/d64deel9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

How they SAY that in...

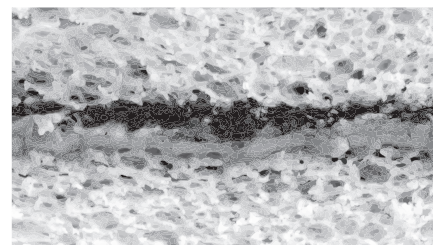
- ENGLISH:** Lunch
- SPANISH:** Comida
- ITALIAN:** Pranzo
- FRENCH:** Déjeuner
- GERMAN:** Mittagessen

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GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

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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.

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING November 21, 2023 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 25-10-103(12) that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider the new local On-site Wastewater Treatment System Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department (970)264-1390 & in the news announcements on the County Website.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, **November 21, 2023**, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing.

FREE ISRAELI FOLK DANCE CLASS at Ross Aragon Community Center every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. Ages 13 and up. Come in comfortable clothes. No experience necessary. Call Kim at (970)946-7285 or Jasmine at (276)730-4408.

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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Pagosa Springs FLOWERS/ANGELA'S FLOWERS is having a big plant sale on all big plants. Up to 50% off marked prices of 12 inches and up! Huge savings on Colorado grown indoor specimen plants for your home or office. Sale runs through December 2nd. Call (970)731-1183 for appointment to see. 23 years at 2035 Eagle Drive, Suite 101. Sometimes, I am on a delivery so call (970)731-1183 for time to check them out!

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GARAGE SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

ESTATE SALE. Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11, 8a.m. sharp. Garage fun, household items, stackable washer/ dryer, garage shelving, treadmill, beds, bedding, dressers, sofas, yard stuff, patio furniture and more. Highway 160 west, right on North Pagosa, left on Hidden (Hatcher area), right on Flintlock, right on Osprey, house number 20, rain or shine. AEHPOS.

INDOOR SALE. Saturday, November 11, 9a.m. sharp. Furniture, household items, garage stuff, and more. Highway 160 west, left on Great West Avenue, house number 870. Rain or shine. AEHPAE.

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CARPENTER(S) - TWO CARPENTRY POSITIONS. Background with finish carpentry, light framing, drywall and painting. Email resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com, (970)264-5000.

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HELP WANTED

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

HOUSEKEEPING. Full-time position. MUST be able to work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays along with holiday shifts. We are looking to add one more team member to our current housekeeping staff. If you have a friendly attitude, an eye for detail, and a strong work ethic, we'd love to hear from you! Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Email: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Housekeeping, or stop by to fill out an application. Puesto de limpieza a tiempo completo. Debe poder trabajar los Viernes, Sábados, y Domingos. Junto con los turnos de vacaciones. Estamos buscando un miembro mas del equipo a nuestro personal de limpieza actual. Si tienes una actitud amigable, un ojo para los detalles y una fuerte ética de trabajo. Nos encantaría saber de ti en Healing Waters Resort and Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd, Email: sales@pshotsprings.com. Atención al Servicio De Limpieza. O pástate por aquí para rellenar una aplicación.

MARKETING COORDINATOR. We are looking for a dependable, innovative person to help us grow our expanding brand as we look for new opportunities and creative ways to edge out the competition. Do you work well with others? Are you a creative thinker? Come work for a great company that continues to grow and thrive in our ever-changing economy. Duties and responsibilities include: Must have experience in marketing involving both print and digital mediums. Adobe and MS Office skills required. I.T. experience is a plus but not required. Previous experience in the cannabis industry is preferred but not required. A Colorado M.E.D. Badge is required before you can start work. Please submit your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16-18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT, 35 Mary Fisher Circle or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a person for a yard associate/ driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL license is a plus, but not necessary. Duties may include delivering loads to job sites, as well as helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and Medical/Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

SERVICES

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN seeks a general assignment reporter who can do it all. If you can write strong news stories and compelling features, take solid photographs and are comfortable using digital tools, then you might be a good fit for our newsroom. A passion for community journalism, inspired storytelling and public service is essential for a successful candidate. Self-motivation and excellent time-management skills are a must. You must be proficient under pressure and consistent at meeting deadlines. Common topics in a week would include meeting coverage, coverage and photos from significant community events, school sports and more. The position is for 30 hours per week and would rarely involve overtime, though night and weekend working hours are common. However, the position offers some day-to-day flexibility in work hours. The pay is \$17 to \$18/ hour. Benefits are included. Email resume with cover letter to Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com.

TIM BROWN CUSTOM HOMES is looking for a few high quality, detail oriented craftsmen to help in the framing, interior finishing and painting of our custom homes. We have been building homes in Pagosa Springs for 23 years. Work year around with us and enjoy top pay, paid holidays, paid vacation and a retirement plan. Please call (970)731-7071 or stop by the office at 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B16.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

COLORADO MOUNTAIN DOG. (Anatolian Shepherd, Great Pyrenees mix) Red Heeler mix puppies, 3 male, one female, born August 23rd available for their loving forever homes! These babes will make great family companions as well as farm and ranch dogs. Please contact Michelle at (970)901-8758.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

1999 JAYCO EAGLE 5th wheel, 26'. Great condition. \$7000. 5360 Hwy 160E. (970)946-6091.

2 SNOWMOBILES AND TRAILER, 1997 Arctic Cat 500 ZL, 1992 Ski-Doo Skandic II, 2000 Triton tilt bed trailer. \$4000 Firm. (940)453-5013.

CARS FOR SALE

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

TWO VEHICLES FOR SALE. 1st is a 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. 2nd is a 2001 Buick LeSabre, 123,000 miles. Runs well. Could use some work. \$2200 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACES for rent in Historic downtown. Rent includes all utilities and internet. Call (970)585-6513 for more information.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering Lewis St. Office Suites available from 238 SF to 755 SF, and priced from \$400 - \$700/ mo. Excellent for a studio or professional office space. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

HOMES FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH apartment, centrally located. Ground floor entry. Water, sewer, gas, fiber optic Internet included. (970)946-8687.

2 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH condo on Lake Pagosa \$1800/month. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or pagosaspringsrealty.com.

3 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH, 2-car garage, 3,343 sq. ft. beautiful home on remote 35 acres. \$4,500/ month. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or pagosaspringsrealty.com.

BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath single story 2 car garage lakefront property. Beautiful landscaping. A must see property \$4750/ mth. Call Team Pagosa 970-731-8599 to set up a viewing or enter a guest card at pagosaspringsrealty.com

BEAUTIFUL 4 BED, 3.5 BATH 2 car garage on 3 lovely and private acres. This is a must see property. Available now. \$5,000/month. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. To set up a viewing - pagosaspringsrealty.com.

FULLY FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM 1 bath 1 car garage home located downtown. \$1950/mth. Team Pagosa 970-731-8599 pagosaspringsrealty.com

FURNISHED LOFT BEDROOM CONDO Also has a Murphy bed. Available November 1st. \$1450/month. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. pagosaspringsrealty.com.

HOMES FOR RENT

FURNISHED STUDIO APARTMENT, Ten miles north, fenced yard. Could take a dog or cat. AWD or 4WD, need to know how to drive in the snow. \$1300 per month. First, security, half of last month. Good well water. No washing machine. Smoke outside. Quiet and private. Please leave a message (970)731-2010. Available second week of November.

HOUSE FOR RENT on three acres on Hwy 84. 3 bedroom/2 bath. \$2000 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 1BD/1BA fully furnished apartment 4 miles from uptown, available for 6 month lease, Nov.-April/May. Includes everything. \$1300/mo + security deposit. NS/NP (970)393-2278.

PARTIAL TRADE: 1+ BEDROOM. Furnished, \$500 per month plus first, last, security deposits plus 4 hours per week computer or snow removal help. No pets/ smoking/ Dish. 4WD needed to haul your water. (970)731-5098.

REMOTE AND PRIVATE 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage and carport home in gated community Elk Park. \$2,500. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 pagosaspringsrealty.com.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOMES. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 baths. Open floor plan with gas fireplace, oversize 2-car garage. Close to the bike path, uptown City Market and rec center. \$2,550/month includes: water/sewer, lawn maintenance, snow removal. Call/text (512)626-8499.

STORAGE FACILITY RENTALS AVAILABLE — #6 10x10 \$90.00, #39, 10x15 \$100.00. Please call (970)731-4344 or visit us on our website at Sunethaproperties.com.

SWEET UNFURNISHED 3 BED, 2 bath, 1 car garage duplex unit across from Lake Pagosa. Fenced yard. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 to schedule a viewing. pagosaspringsrealty.com.

TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT. Washer, dryer, \$1,200 per month, utilities included. Call (970)946-7190.

TWO BEDROOM SMALL CABIN. Ten miles north of town. Fenced yard, wood stove, could take a dog or cat. Need AWD or 4WD vehicle. Washer/dryer and dishwasher. \$1500 a month. First, security, half of last month. Smoking outside. Background check. Quiet, private, beautiful, good water. Please leave a message. (970)731-2010.

UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, unique rustic cabin with modern amenities. Lots of privacy. Available around 10/01/23. \$1800/month. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. pagosaspringsrealty.com.

UNFURNISHED 3 BED 2 BATH Duplexes, 1 car garage. Newly remodeled and updated. Washer/dryer - pets allowed. 3 available, November 1st. \$2200. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. pagaspringsrealty.com.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 1 car garage home on 4 acres. Country living and beautiful views. Newly remodeled. \$2400/month. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. pagosaspringsrealty.com.

WANTED

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with possibility for
full time available

Salary based on experience.
Bi monthly and Quarterly bonuses.
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Plus cash tips possible.

Please apply within.

WJP/PRO
3505 W. Hwy. 160
in the lobby of the Pagosa Lodge



SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping/ snow removal. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL is accepting proposals for snow plowing of its parking lot in Pagosa Springs for the winter season 2023-24. Details of the RFP is located at pagosapeakopenschool.org > School Community > Career and Contract Opportunities > Current Requests for Proposals > RFP for Snow Plowing. All proposals are due by 1p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2023. Please contact Jennifer Mitchell at business@ppos.co with any questions.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba

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OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

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(970) 759-8672



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PROPERTIES

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LOWEST PRICE 4 BEDROOM, 3 bath, 2 garage townhome, \$500s. (MLS 805422). Home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus additional lot, \$500s (MLS 804454) Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

SELLER FINANCE CONDO! Well below current interest rate! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, lake access steps away! (MLS 804403) \$300s. Purchase for rental, renovate and flip next year! Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

WANT TO HUNT on your own property??? 36.42 acres backs to NF w/ Amazing Views. Private 3br/3.5ba/2G Log home on secluded 36+ acres, backs to NF, Amazing Views. \$2.095M. Call Carol Peterson Jim Smith Realty (480)213-0511.

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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

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.

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.

DOWNTOWN, FLAT, BUILDABLE .52 acre lot, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND BARGAINS! (Irwin's) Use private hot springs, mountain views, 1.8 acres, \$50s. With city water: (Dandelion) 3.04 acres, excavated for build, \$100s. (Paradise) 1/4 acre, \$50s. No HOA, Bring seasonal RV: (Crooked) 1.17 acres, \$30s. **SOUTH FORK, COLORADO:** (Vail Pass) 1/3 acre, wooded, mountain view, \$7,000. (Loveland) 1/3 acre, 2 lots, wooded, \$14,000. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

ONE ACRE LOT, all ready for your new home with newly installed all utilities, four bedroom permitted septic system, power and insulated pump house. \$165,000. 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.



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

HOMES FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 ACRE with great cell service, country views and 10 minutes from town. \$250,000. 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

LOG HOME ON THE BANKS of Stollsteimer Creek. 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home, 2-car garage, 2 acres with lots of extras. \$895,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

Submit your classified ad online.
PagosaSUN.com

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 wood duck.

We don't get to see wood ducks often here, but what a treat when we do. When one spent a few days recently on the river in town, gorgeous, beautiful, incredible and awesome were adjectives used on ebird reports to describe it. This male on the river treated us to close views when he hung out near the shoreline.

Almost every feather on the male has an intricate pattern of color that is iridescent in sunlight. His boxy-shaped crested head and mane are glossy green cut with white stripes. Feather colors on his body show chestnut, purple, browns and shades of blue. Both the bright red eyes of the male and the white teardrop patch around the eyes of the brownish female confer a startled look.

True to their name, wood ducks are at home high in trees near water. Their webbed feet are tipped in strong claws that allow them to grip bark and perch on branches. Their wings and tails are shaped for navigation through the woods. These are cavity-nesting ducks who cannot hollow out a hole and prefer trees which are over or close to water. Cavities used are often in trees where the heartwood is rotted and a hole exists where a branch broke off.

Incubation and raising of young falls on the female. One day after the young have hatched, the mom waits below the nest and calls "jump." Nest cavities may be very deep and hatchlings use their clawed feet to crawl up the inside and perch at the hole before jumping 50 feet or more to the ground or water below.

Wood ducks are omnivores that dabble for aquatic plants and seeds, insects, snails, tadpoles and salamanders. They most often inhabit water around the edges of swamps, sluggish streams, beaver ponds or marshes fringed with woods. If aquatic resources are scarce, they forage on the forest floor for nuts, or for grains in fields. Acorns are a favorite food.

Once headed toward extinction due to uncontrolled hardwood deforestation and market hunting, wood ducks are now one of the species that is a conservation success story due to wetland and waterfowl protections.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

Blood drive to be held at high school

Future Business Leaders of America, Pagosa Springs chapter

The Pagosa Springs chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is hosting a blood drive at the high school on Thursday, Nov. 16. It will be in the school library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Before donating it is asked that

you eat a good meal, drink plenty of water and bring an ID with you. Our staff will provide a beverage and a snack for after you donate.

Anyone in the community 18 years old and older can donate, and 16- and 17-year-olds can do so with a signed parent permission form, which can be found at the high school outside of room

B13.

Please visit vitalant.org for scheduling or for additional information.

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

John Ranson Announces Candidacy for County Commissioner District 2



"I am excited to announce my candidacy for Archuleta County Commissioner because I believe in the resiliency and potential of our community."

— John Ranson

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

With a long history of public finance experience and a proven track record of financial stewardship, John brings a wealth of experience to the Board of County Commissioners. His leadership in 2008 was instrumental in helping Archuleta County navigate through one of its most challenging periods ultimately leading to a period of stability and growth.

COMMITTED TO SERVE

John volunteered to serve as a Financial Task Force member in 2007 when Archuleta County discovered a serious financial crisis. Following that, John served for a period of time as County Commissioner. In addition, he recently sat on the committee to form, and budget for, Archuleta County's new Health Department. He has an unwavering commitment to the fiscal health and well-being of our County. John's leadership, as Commissioner and Task Force Member, not only rescued the county from financial turmoil, but also set the stage for a prosperous future.

KEY PRIORITIES

- 1) Provide focus and financial restraint in order to invest the amount required, not only to maintain, but improve OUR ROADS.
- 2) Invest more into TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE that can add to our economic growth.
- 3) Build stronger and better WORKING RELATIONSHIPS.

PERSONAL

John and Angie have been married for eight years. Both are long-term residents of Archuleta County: John since 1996 and Angie since 1986. Both raised their children in Pagosa Springs and the Archuleta School District. Together, they have 4 grandchildren, all living in Archuleta County.

Having been a dedicated member of the Archuleta County community since 1996, John understands the local values, concerns and aspirations of its residents.



To learn more about John Ranson's campaign for Archuleta County Commissioner, District 2, please feel free to contact John at: RansonforBoCC@gmail.com

Advertisement Paid for by John and Angie Ranson

BRAND NEW HOME!

Brand new home. Pricing adjustment! Home came in under budget, price now \$499,900. 3 bed, 1-3/4 baths, 9' ceilings, low maintenance exterior, 2 car garage, upgraded white cabinets, luxury vinyl flooring and much more near Lake Hatcher.

BACKS TO NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS!



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