

Let the holidays begin
Give the gift of local — A5

Report of shooting incident
Investigation reveals no firearms discharged — A3

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

\$1

PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com

VOLUME 116 — NO. 8, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

PAWSD receives \$1 million grant for Snowball plant expansion

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At the Nov. 14 Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors meeting, District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey announced that PAWSD received a \$1 million grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) for construction on the Snowball Water Treatment Plant expansion.

In an interview with The SUN, Ramsey explained that the grant funding will support the installation of “floating slabs” of concrete as part of the foundation for the expanded plant.

He explained that the grant funding will help make up the gap between the \$38 million loan PAWSD acquired for the project and the final project cost of just over \$40 million.

PAWSD obtained “well over \$6 million” in grants and principal forgiveness for the project in the last year, Ramsey highlighted.

He explained that, in addition to

■ See PAWSD A9



Photo courtesy Terri House

The mountains around Pagosa Springs began taking on their winter hue in recent days. As of Tuesday morning, more moisture was predicted late in the week and into the weekend.

County approves dog ordinance

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 8 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a county ordinance for the control of dogs and other pet animals following three readings of the ordinance and citizens expressing concerns about various elements of the ordinance.

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux presented the latest version of the ordinance, noting changes from the previous version of the ordinance, including adding language specifically indicating that the definition of animal used in the ordinance — “any living dumb creature” — does not include humans, and removing language exempting governments and governmental subdivisions from the definition of persons in the ordinance.

Both these sections previously generated concerns from public commenters at other BoCC meetings.

He also presented a proposed change to the language surrounding impoundment facilities, which would alter the ordinance language from designating the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs as the impoundment

■ See Ordinance A8

‘Building Roots’: Ben and Cristi Dozier aim to tell stories, invest in community

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

HGTV’s “Building Roots,” now in its second season, features Pagosa Springs husband-and-wife duo Ben and Cristi Dozier designing and remodeling homes, and making dreams come true along the way.

They, like many, found the area through vacations before opting to move to Pagosa Springs. Ben and Cristi were both born and raised in Austin, Texas.

“Ben grew up coming to this area of the San Juan Mountains,” Cristi said. “He grew up coming to South Fork as a kid, and his family had the family cabin over there.”

Vacationing in South Fork, just over Wolf Creek Pass, Cristi noted, allowed Ben to fall in love with the mountains — fly-fishing, skiing and all things outdoors.

“Once we were grown and had gotten married and lived in Austin, Colorado kind of became our vacation as well,” with the couple and their kids spending time during the summers at the family cabin, or coming up

■ See Dozier A6



Ben and Cristi Dozier of HGTV’s “Building Roots.”

Photo courtesy HGTV

LPEA anticipates rate increases

By Hailey Sams
SUN Intern

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is anticipating an increase in its rates starting Jan. 1, 2024.

According to a public notice in this week’s issue of The SUN, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc., LPEA’s wholesale electricity provider, is attempting to increase the rate LPEA pays for its services by 6.2 percent.

The notice states that Tri-State “announced on June 16, 2023, that it had submitted a new formula rate filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to take effect on January 1, 2024.”

A 4 percent Tri-State pass-through rate increase has been proposed by LPEA’s board of directors to cover this increase from Tri-State.

According to the notice, “If FERC rejects Tri-State’s new rate, LPEA will maintain its 2023 rates.”

The proposed rates for 2024 include:

General Services, which, according to the LPEA website, are the standard rates for single phase home, farm and business uses:

- Base charge: \$23 per month.

- Peak power charge: \$3.30 per kilowatt (kW) per month.
- Energy - \$0.1206 per kW hour (kWh).

Primary Services, which are the standard rates for commercial and industrial customers:

- Base charge: \$100 per month.
- Demand: \$7.85 per kW per month.
- On-peak energy: \$0.0905 per kW.
- Off-peak energy: \$0.0609 per kWh.

The rest of the proposed rates, as well as the present ones, can be found at lpea.coop and at 45 Stewart St. in Durango and 603 S. 8th St. in Pagosa Springs, according to the notice.

Comments about the proposed changes can be filed as written comments at 45 Stewart St., Durango, or by emailing memberservices@lpea.coop. This must be done on or before Dec. 3, according to the notice, which is 10 days before LPEA’s December board meeting, where the “LPEA Board of Directors will consider the written comments.”

“The changes ultimately authorized by the board may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect,” the notice states.

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Opinion

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11/16	57	30	-	-	-
11/17	57	27	R	-	.01
11/18	51	26	-	-	-
11/19	41	32	R	-	.06
11/20	47	24	NA	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

A season of thanks

"We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown." — Marcie, "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving."

Despite holiday merchandise appearing on store shelves months ago and a seemingly never-ending supply of catalogs arriving in the email and sale emails arriving in our inbox, it's Thanksgiving that really kicks the holiday season into high gear.

Along with the holiday season comes long to-do lists, a calendar that's rapidly filling up, trying to think of the perfect gifts to purchase or make (and that can be finished in time to meet the shipping deadlines on the mailer received from the U.S. Postal Service recently) and more.

It seems this season arrives earlier each year, especially since the pandemic hit and people started looking for the holiday cheer to brighten things up a little sooner (we admit to being one who decorated for Christmas earlier than ever the last few years).

But while we love the meals, festive lights, the decorations, adorning our homes for the season, holiday parties and giving gifts, the thing we love the most is what these activities often have in common — time spent with loved ones.

We also love that it's a time dedicated to

looking on the bright side, focusing on what we're thankful for and grateful for (things we strive to do regularly).

There are many things we're thankful for, including our readers, our staff, our contributors, the beautiful place we call home and those who work to make it the best it can be, our health, our families and so much more.

As Norman Vincent Peale wrote, "The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for."

We also, however, recognize this is a difficult and lonely time for many.

There are many who have recently lost loved ones, live alone with little family around, are no longer able to travel or get out of the house as much, have recently been sick, or for so many other possible reasons, are more likely to find themselves alone.

Reach out to them. Let them know you're thinking of them and you're thankful they're in your life. It might mean the world to them.

We are also grateful and thankful there are people in our communities here in Archuleta County and elsewhere who are giving up their time this Thanksgiving to serve others and give them a place to go

for friendship, fellowship and good food. Others serve up free meals and food in hopes their neighbors are able to have good (and ample) food on their tables, both for Thanksgiving and year-round.

We sincerely thank these volunteers for their service and their gift of time.

Loaves and Fishes and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church again teamed up to host the community's early Thanksgiving dinner last week, and, after years of missing in-person fellowship due to the pandemic, we heard many mention how nice it was to again share the meal in person.

For nearly two decades these groups have selflessly teamed up to dish up hundreds of free plates.

Volunteers will also be providing a free Thanksgiving meal at the TARA Community Center in Arboles on Thanksgiving in what the organizers hope will become an annual tradition of people coming together who might otherwise spend the holiday alone.

Information on that event was included in the Nov. 2 issue of The PREVIEW and in recent issues in The PREVIEW's calendar of events.

We wish you the happiest of Thanksgivings.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 23, 1923

The Rumbaugh well had reached a depth this noon of 286 feet, but only a light flow of warm water, registering 100 degrees, has thus far been encountered.

Walter Zabriskie came up from Pagosa Junction last Friday evening and spent the weekend installing a fine new radio at the E.D. Holowell home.

The Pagosa Springs telephone office will be closed on Thanksgiving day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Muyerial, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Amyx of Blanco Basin, was severely burned about the body and face last Saturday at the ranch home when her clothes caught fire while she was standing in front of an open stove. Before the flames could be extinguished, the greater part of the child's clothing was destroyed and severe burns inflicted on the entire right side of the child. Her mother also received several burns about the hands while rescuing the girl. She was brought to the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Henry Vader, for medical care and was able to return to the ranch yesterday.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 26, 1948

Worthe Crouse has completed a major portion of his new building on the highway and will move in on next Saturday. The building is of rock construction and will make a desirable addition in the business buildings of Pagosa Springs. It is located just at the west edge of town on the highway and will be a very good location for that type of business.

Mr. Crouse states that he will be all moved and ready for business by Saturday. His business was formerly located in the old Denver and Rio Grande railway depot.

There will be three prizes awarded for the best decorated and lighted home in Pagosa Springs during the Christmas holidays. First prize will be fifteen dollars, second prize ten dollars and third prize five dollars. There will also be an honorable mention award.

Mrs. Aubry Fowler, chairman of the Lighting Contest, urges everyone in Pagosa to take part in order to make the town more beautiful for Christmas. The lighting-up date will be December 19th. The judging will take place a few nights before Christmas.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 22, 1973

Worthe Crouse was named "Man of the Year" last Saturday night by the Beta Sigma Phi sororities of the community. A plaque, signifying the honor, was presented to him at a party and supper sponsored by the sororities.

Mr. Crouse was selected for the honor, the sorority citation said, because of his service in civic affairs, such as the Town Board, Sanitation District Directors, his work with young people as a teacher and in the Job Corps, his assistance to the elderly, and many helpful acts to many in the community.

The citation also pointed out that Mr. Crouse had been instrumental in getting various town streets constructed, a bridge built across the San Juan River, in establishing wrecker service on Wolf Creek Pass, and many other projects, including the downtown parking fill.

At the present time he is serving on the Town Board, is chairman of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation District, teaches in the local schools and is supervisor of transportation for the school district. He is one of the early day residents of the community and is widely known throughout the area.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 25, 1998

Archuleta County's fledgling recycling program has been put on hold for one year, an action taken in the face of considerable public opposition.

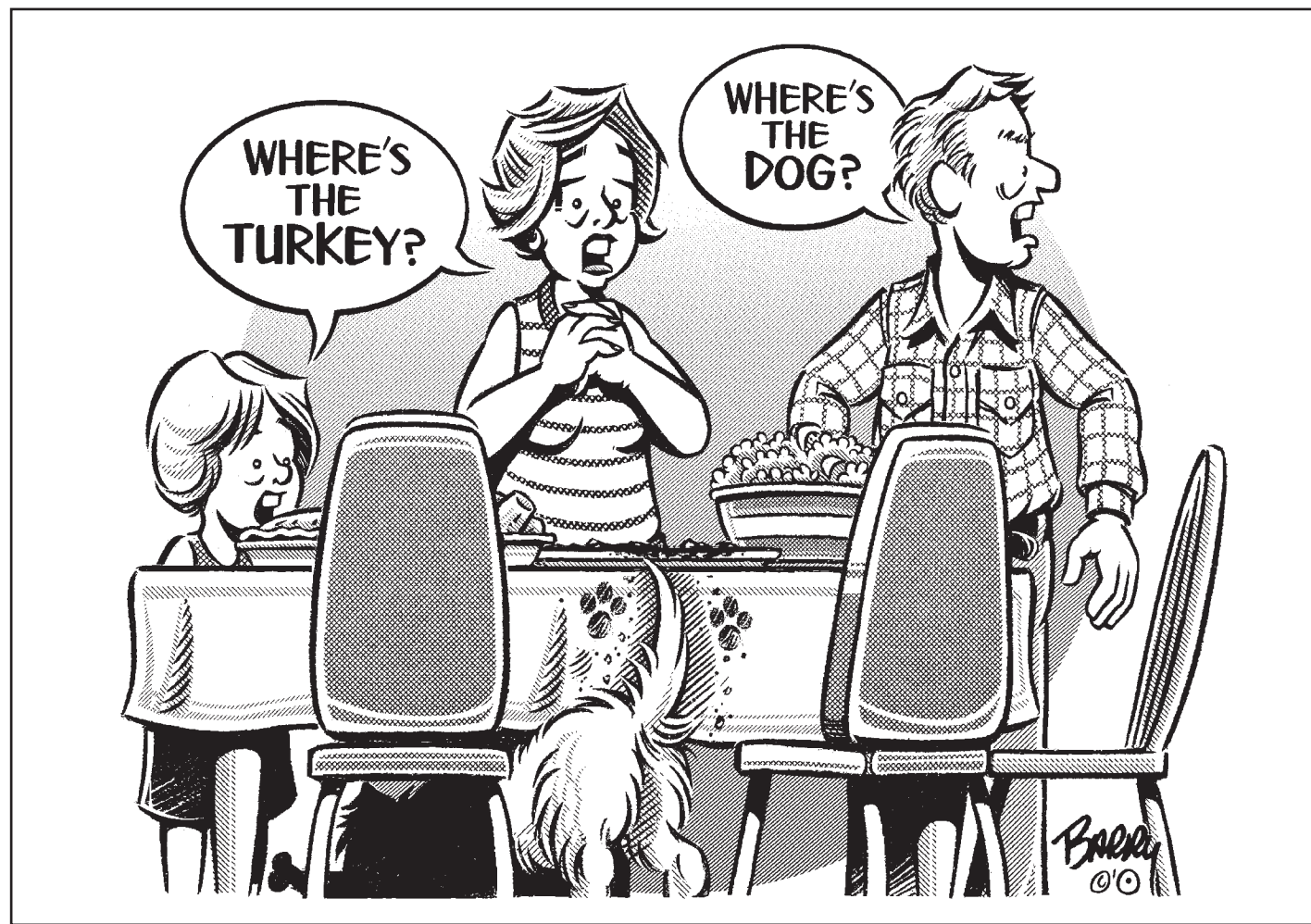
At Monday's regular county commissioners meeting, a vote was taken placing "a moratorium" on the program for one year. The same motion requires the county to purchase dumpsters connected with the recycling effort, because the county has been paying for two years on those dumpsters and doesn't want to lose their investment.

The action was based on a recommendation from County Manager Dennis Hunt. Hunt said, "We and the contracted are disorganized. The market for recyclables is not good. In my opinion, the contract is not enforceable. We are paying all of the costs and most of the recyclable materials are being put into the county dump instead of sold."



From the April 18, 1963 Pagosa SUN — THE MEASURING rod showed 66 inches of snow when the reading was made last Friday by Bud Patterson and Bob Deizell of the local Soil Conservation office. This reading was made east of the highway on Wolf Creek Pass very near the top of the Continental Divide. The snow showed almost one-third was moisture content, and the ground underneath was not frozen, showing that the moisture is going into the Soil.

<p>Archuleta County Commissioners</p> <p>Ron Maez, Chair rmaez@archuletacounty.org • 264-8303</p> <p>Warren Brown warren.brown@archuletacounty.org • 264-8300</p> <p>Veronica Medina veronica.medina@archuletacounty.org • 264-8305</p>	<p>Pagosa Springs Town Council</p> <p>Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov</p> <p>Mat deGraaf mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov</p> <p>Brooks Lindner blindner@pagosasprings.co.gov</p> <p>Leonard Martinez lmartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov</p> <p>Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov</p>
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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.

Federal farm bill

Dear Editor:
The delayed federal farm bill should include increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce the suffering we inflict on animals, as well as our greenhouse-gas emissions and pandemic risk.

The Department of Agriculture has provided billions of dollars of subsidies to livestock producers. Surely, it can offer some assistance to the nascent cultivated-meat industry, which holds so much promise. Forward-thinking legislators should make certain this happens, by including more government money for cellular-agriculture research in the farm bill.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Support group

Dear Editor:
We are fortunate to call this beautiful area and Pagosa Springs our

home, but if you or a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis Pagosa Medical Center provides exceptional medical care.

For a community of our size, it is reassuring to be able to take advantage of our local Oncology Clinic. Under the guidance and leadership of Dr Bill Jordan the clinic was originally founded and continues to serve our community well. Dr Andrew Buck DO, Kelly Cesary Oncology Nurse Practitioner, Oncology Nurses and their support staff provide excellent and compassionate care.

We want to publicly thank them for being not only knowledgeable, but willing to listen to patient concerns at a most vulnerable time. Their compassion and excellent care allow us to be treated close to home. We also want to commend Dr Rhonda Webb CEO of Pagosa Medical Center for her outstanding leadership especially during the recent COVID challenges.

If you are not aware a Cancer Support Group meets weekly on Wednesdays at noon at the Pagosa Medical Center Board Room. The group is expertly moderated by Marcia Newth, Social Worker and Mental Health Provider. It is a welcoming, non judgemental and confidential group. Open to anyone who is affected by cancer in anyway, including patients, recently diagnosed, those undergoing treatment past or present and their caregivers. There is no reason to feel alone with your diagnosis as our group offers invaluable insights, opportunities to share, support and additional resources. We would like to encourage you to join us on any Wednesday.

Best Regards,
Pagosa Springs Cancer Support Group

and corporations, insinuating that media bias supports conservative viewpoints. Incredibly, he says "... all major media outlets and over 90% of local radio and TV stations are owned by just a few conservative billionaires and corporations." NEWSFLASH to Mr. Butcher : The major media outlet ABC is owned by Disney stockholders , NBC is owned by Comcast stockholders , and CBS is owned by ParamountGlobal stockholders. Thus ABC, NBC and CBS are not controlled by conservative billionaires. Lastly, if these corporations who do own ABC, NBC and CBS are conservative, why then have they reported only positively on Democrats (liberals) and only negatively on Republicans(conservatives) for the past 10 years?

Alas, Mr. Butcher's concerns about media bias are very valid. However, it's a shame that his own bias blocks him from seeing the clear mainstream media bias against conservatives and Republicans.

Charles Newton
Highlands Ranch

Questions

Dear Editor:
How come you support the protests of Israel, but don't support Israel's right to defend itself, up to, and including going after the hospital, but not Hamas' 'right to build fortifications' under hospital...?Where are your protests of Hamas...??

How come you think it's O.K. for Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, who may be considering a run for President of the United States, to clean up San Francisco, to remove the tents, clean up the poop, needles, and the homeless on the sidewalks, for President Xi, of China, and not for the citizens of the town, that has it's businesses there, and pay taxes for it...??

Just a couple of questions from an unbiased observer.....

Sincerely,
Daniel Norton

Law enforcement responds to report of shooting incident

Investigation reveals no firearms discharged

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Friday, Nov. 17, at approximately 9:38 a.m., Archuleta County Combined Dispatch received a call relating to a shooting incident at a local residence within the county, according to a press release from Sheriff Mike Le Roux.

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the call, with mutual aid response from Colorado State Patrol and Pagosa Springs Police Department, states the press release.

The first-responding units immediately secured the scene, including a larger incident perimeter. Upon arrival of additional law enforcement units, access to the residence was initiated with the assistance of a drone, the release states.

The residence was cleared and

declared safe, it notes. An investigation revealed that no firearms were discharged prior to law enforcement response nor during the response to the call.

One male subject, uninjured, was transported to Pagosa Springs Medical Center for a mental health evaluation.

All units cleared from the scene at approximately 12:14 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, Undersheriff Robert Hill indicated no charges will be filed in the case.

randi@pagosasun.com

Community news.
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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
PO Box 9,
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e-mail:
editor@pagosasun.com

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.

Bias

Dear Editor:

In a letter in the Nov. 2nd Sun editorials, Dave Butcher is very upset about the very ordinary occurrence of donors giving trips and other gratuities to Supreme Court Justices. He is specifically bothered by donors giving these gratuities to conservative judges, but never mentions the gratuities that liberal justices have accepted for many years. It would take a lot of space to even begin covering liberal justice's receipt of gratuities so I'll mention just a few. The New York Times has reported that liberal Justice Sotomayer has taken numerous trips paid for by donors and liberal Justice Kagan has taken such a trip to Jerusalem. According to Open Secrets, liberal Justice Breyer took paid trips to Spain and Ireland courtesy of the wealthy Pritzker Family and even esteemed liberal Justice Ginsberg took gratuities such as a paid trip to Israel courtesy of billionaire Morris Kahn. Thus, it is clear that both conservative and liberal justices receive gratuities from donors. Sadly, Mr. Butcher's biased editorial only mentions conservative justice's receipt of gratuities.

Mr. Butcher's editorial then says that the mainstream media is controlled by conservative billionaires



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Obituaries

William J. (Bill) Clark

William J. (Bill) Clark, who served 38 years in various roles as an educator, passed away Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at his residence. He was born in Warren, Ohio, Aug. 5, 1926, and graduated from Braceville (Ohio) High School in 1944. While in the third grade he met his beloved wife, Glenda Colton, and shortly thereafter started a lifelong partnership filled with love.



Bill entered active duty in the United States Navy on July 1, 1944, the same day in which Glenda started as a worker on the B-29 bomber. Dr. Clark's service included duty aboard a minesweeper, the USS Vigilance AM 324 and was awarded the American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and World War II Victory medals.

Bill and Glenda were married during the war on Oct. 29, 1944. They have 17 descendants, including two children: Cheryl Clark, of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, and Jim (Rita) Clark, of Brecksville, Ohio; four grandchildren: Kirk (Lisa) Risseler, Bay Village, Ohio; Cari (Kirk) Maggio, Glen Arm, Md.; Tracy Clark Mora (deceased); and Kim (Ted) Wypasek, Strongsville, Ohio; 10 great-grandchildren: Mia, Lexi, Julia and Nick Mora, Parma, Ohio; Dom and Danielle

Maggio, Glen Arm, Md.; and Kayla, Sean, Justin and Brayden Wypasek, Strongsville, Ohio; and their first great-great-grandchild, Leo Ricci, Parma, Ohio. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Lulu Clark; a sister, Doris DeForest, and husband Bob; and a brother, Bob, and wife Isamae.

After honorable discharge from the Navy, Dr. Clark returned to Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, to complete his degree, graduating in 1948. His educational career began at Clearview High School, Lorain, Ohio, and included service at six northern Ohio high schools and two colleges as a coach, teacher and administrator. He was rewarded as a teacher with a National Science Foundation Fellowship; as a coach with baseball titles at Clearview and Painesville (Ohio) Riverside High School and basketball championships at Bay Village (Ohio) High School, Mansfield (Pennsylvania) State College and Baldwin-Wallace; and as a principal with a state-awarded Certificate of Educational Excellence at Ashtabula Harbor (Ohio) High School. His 1963-1964 Mansfield State basketball team was chosen as the institution's Team of the Twentieth Century in 2000.

Bill's leadership has been recognized in diverse organizations, having served as president of the Cuyahoga County Basketball Coaches Association, the Ohio Athletic Conference Basketball Coaches and the Pagosa (Colorado) Fire Protection District Board; as vice president of the Ashtabula Area Middle Management Association and the Archuleta

(Colorado) Water Company Board; and as a member of the UPI Small College Basketball Rating Board, consultant to the Ohio Department of Education, and as a member of the State Athletic Committee of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Clark was appointed as trustee and sergeant-at-arms of the Naval Mine Warfare Association (NMA) and in 2014 was named editor of The Silent Defenders, the periodical published by that group. He served the NMA as national president, chaplain and convention coordinator before its member death rate forced its closure.

Bill has been honored by election to the LaBrae High School and Mansfield (Pennsylvania) University Athletic Halls of Fame; by receiving the Golden Deeds Award from the Greater Cleveland Basketball Coaches Association; and being named the 2004 Distinguished Board Member by the Colorado Special District Association. In 2021, the lifelong contributions of the Clarks to their various communities were honored by Bill's induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, becoming one of only six selected from Lorain County in history.

The partnership of the Clarks has been demonstrated publicly in many ways: Glenda was Bill's game photographer throughout his college coaching career and magazine photographer for the NMA; they were both officers of the Echo Fire Protection Committee, which brought fire protection to their Colorado neighborhood; they were co-presidents of the Community

United Methodist Church's Supper Fellowship, which converted native blue spruce into Christmas wreaths, a project whose net profit help support many organizations in Pagosa Springs, Colo.; and with their WWII backgrounds they were happy to serve as co-chairpersons of Archuleta County's very successful drive to help fund the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Not only did they graduate together at Braceville (Ohio) High School, but again in 1973 at Ohio State University as Glenda earned her M.A. and Bill his Ph.D.

Bill Clark served as elder in the Westlake (Ohio) Christian Church, the First Christian Church in Ashtabula, and the Washington Avenue Christian Church, Elyria, Ohio. Funeral services were at the James Funeral Home in Newton Falls on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, at noon with the Rev. Dr. William L. McFadden officiating. Bill was laid to rest beside his wife Glenda at Braceville Cemetery in Braceville, Ohio. The family has requested that all donations please be made to the Stockton Maritime Museum 4290 Cherokee Road, Stockton, CA 95215 in an effort to restore the USS Lucid.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the James Funeral Home, 8 East Broad St. Newton Falls, OH 44444, (330) 872-5440. Family and friends may view his obituary online or to send condolences. Please visit www.jamesfuneralhomeinc.com.

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In Memoriam

Jerry Buckley

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Jerry Buckley
Forever loved
Forever remembered
Forever missed
11/24/48-1/31/13

Muriel Buckley, Nicole, Melissa and family



Services

Evelyn L. Teague

Evelyn L. Teague was taken to her forever home in Heaven on Oct. 28, 2023. Please come share singing of some of her favorite hymns and remembering her can-do spirit with family and friends. Services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Archuleta County Planning Commission. 6 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Upper San Juan Health Service District meeting. 5 p.m., 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join the meeting on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83611276692>, meeting ID: 836 1127 6692.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 29

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

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County facility, 95 County Road 973, Arboles. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>

eGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 7

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

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

Monday, Dec. 11

CSU Advisory Committee meet-

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

Tuesday, Dec. 12

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

Archuleta School District Board of Education meeting. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School library, 309 Lewis St. See www.mypagosaschools.com for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation meeting. 5 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://pagosaspringscdc.org/events/>.

Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School, 3133 Cornerstone Drive. For more information, visit <https://pagosa-peakopenschool.org/>.

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

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Santa Claus is coming to town!

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- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soups (meat and vegetarian)
- Canned Tomatoes (all styles)
- Canned Vegetables (mixed veggies or individual such as green beans, carrots, or corn)
- Carton Milk (non-refrigerated/aseptic containers)
- Crackers, Saltine
- Dried Pinto Beans
- Dry Breakfast Cereal (such as cheerios or corn flakes)
- Dry Milk Powder
- Jelly
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Noodles, dry
- Peanut Butter (crunchy or creamy)
- Spaghetti Noodles, dry

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Business

Community Development Corporation looks at first draft of budget

By Hailey Sams
SUN Intern

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) met for a monthly board meeting Wednesday, Nov. 8, where the board discussed the first draft of its proposed budget for 2024.

The PSCDC board is set to further discuss the budget at a work session on Nov. 29.

That meeting is scheduled at 5 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., or on Zoom with the meeting ID 82506618987 and passcode 860971.

The proposed 2024 budget draft includes increases in grants and income compared to the 2023 budget, as well as decreases in broadband and equipment expenses.

Projected income

The 2024 proposed budget shows a decrease in total broadband income compared to the 2023 budget, listed as \$567,640 for 2024, compared to

\$1,128,533 budgeted for 2023.

Broadband income is set to be composed of an American Rescue Plan Act grant, which has decreased to \$400,000 for 2024 from a budgeted \$974,933 for 2023. "Fiber Lease Revenue Share" is budgeted for \$17,640 for 2024, an increase from 2023's \$3,600. Finally, \$150,000 is budgeted for broadband from the Town of Pagosa Springs' and Archuleta County's even split.

Real estate income is budgeted for about \$4.4 million if 10 homes are built through the PSCDC's housing program and about \$3.7 million if eight homes are built.

The final number of homes to be built will be determined and reflected in the final budget, according to Emily Lashbrooke, executive director of the PSCDC.

The projected income for the houses was discussed, with Sherry Waner, board president, commenting, "I have never seen [a house] be done in nine months."

She suggested that the houses be estimated to take a minimum of nine

months to build.

Lashbrooke commented, "I'm pretty optimistic that I can guarantee on all of them this year."

Waner responded, "There's all kinds of things that happen in building homes, so you might have a couple that are going to close Jan. 5 or 1 instead of Nov. 1."

Total grant funding is reflected as \$164,000 for 2024, an increase from 2023's \$75,000 budgeted funding. Grants include \$75,000 from a Reskilling, Upskilling, and Next-Skilling (RUN) Grant/Innovation Grant, which is a Workplace Development Grant with half used for 2023 and half budgeted for 2024, as well as \$89,000 from other grants.

The PSCDC is projecting an increase in membership for 2024, with partnership income set at \$22,250 for 2023 and budgeted at \$31,000 for 2024.

Total income overall is budgeted to be about \$5.3 million, if 10 houses are built, an increase from 2023's budgeted \$1.4 million.

Projected expenses

The PSCDC budget reflects a proposed \$506,000 in broadband expenses — a decrease from 2023's \$1.1 million budget. This would leave \$61,640 left from projected funding.

A total of \$75,000 is budgeted for 2024 to reimburse the Workforce Innovation Grant, and is the only grant expense projected.

If 10 homes are built, \$4.3 million is budgeted as real estate expenses, with \$3.6 million budgeted if eight homes are built.

Another point of discussion in this area was insurance for the houses to be built.

"Anything can happen in nine months," board member Chelle Keplinger commented on the need for insurance for both owners and buyers.

Lashbrooke responded, "Let me get with an insurance agent that does construction, finance or insurance and talk to them about what would be our liability, what would be our concern and what we need to factor in."

Total budgeted expenses add up to about \$5.2 million for 2024, if 10 homes are built. This is an increase from last year's \$1.3 million in budgeted expenses.

County unemployment declines in October

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

According to a Nov. 17 press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Archuleta County's unemployment rate dropped from 3 percent in September to 2.9 percent in October.

County unemployment also dropped in recent months, going from 3.4 percent in July to 3 percent in September.

From September to October, Archuleta County's labor force declined from 7,181 to 7,032.

For the month of October there were 6,828 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release. This figure is down from September's report of 6,966 individuals employed in Archuleta County.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

According to the press release, the counties with the highest unemployment rate for October were Huerfano County and Las Animas County, both at 4.8 percent, followed by Fremont County at 4.7 percent.

Pitkin County is next at 4.5 percent, with Pueblo County following at 4.3 percent.

The state's unemployment rate increased from 3.2 percent in September to 3.3 percent in October.

The state's labor force decreased by 5,600 from 3,252,600 in September to 3,247,000 in October.

The press release notes, "Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in October to 3.3 percent compared to the September rate of 3.2 percent. The number of unemployed individuals grew by 2,400 over the same time period to 105,900. The national unemployment rate also increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.9 percent from September to October."

Employers in Colorado added 1,500 nonfarm payroll jobs from September to October, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 2,917,700.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers. The private sector lost 200 nonfarm payroll jobs and the government sector gained 1,700 jobs.

The private-industry sector with significant job gains in October was leisure and hospitality, which added 1,500 jobs.

The construction private-industry sector lost 1,400 jobs in October, while

the trade, transportation and utilities sector lost 900 jobs.

"Since October 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 33,100, with the private sector growing by 13,000 and government adding 20,100 jobs," the press release notes.

Since October 2022, the largest private-sector job gains include:

- Leisure and hospitality at about 17,000.
- Educational and health services at about 8,000.
- Professional and business services at about 6,900.

Since October 2022, the largest private-sector job losses include:

- Financial activities at about 7,500.
- Construction at about 7,200.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 6,900.
- Information at about 300.

According to the press release, "Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose from 34.0 to 34.1 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$35.08 to \$36.31. Colorado average hourly earnings are two dollars and thirty-one cents higher than national average hourly earnings of \$34.00."

josh@pagosahun.com

Let the holidays begin, give the gift of local

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Thanksgiving is here, when the holiday season typically and officially begins. Pagosa Springs is ripe with activities and events all throughout the season. We often mention that there are a number of low-cost and no-cost activities for people to participate in. We're here to review a few of the activities.

Holiday Lighting Contest

Beginning on Nov. 24, the annual Holiday Lighting Contest begins. There are a number of homes and businesses to get out and see the lighting themes and beauty of the displays. The entities that have entered will keep their lights on until Dec. 31; however, voting for your favorite display is only available until midnight on Dec. 17.

Bundle family and friends into the car and head out and about town.

Easy instructions: Download the visitpagosaprices app. When that is loaded, go to the tours tab and click on the Holiday Lighting Contest. A map of the lighting (residential, business and storefront) will be on the app as well as the actual address of the entry.

From there, you can just vote for your favorite entries.

You can also download the voting form at <https://bit.ly/2023holidaylightingcontest>. A map of the entries can also be found in THE PREVIEW.

This is a no-cost activity that you can enjoy while seeing some of the community at its most colorful during the holiday season.

Festival of trees

Starting Nov. 30, the 17th annual Festival of Trees will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Beginning at noon until 6 p.m., the viewing of the trees and voting for your favorite tree will be open to the public. Hot chocolate and treats will also be available.

If you want to add a little more magic to the event, stop by from 3 to 6 p.m., when Santa will make an appearance. You can vote for your favorite tree for \$1 a vote. Voting is also available online Nov. 27-30.

On Friday evening, Dec. 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the actual Festival of Trees auction will take place. Tickets for this event are on sale at the Community Center or online with tickets being \$30 per person. There will be delicious

food, a cash bar and, of course, the auctioning of the trees. There are 20 trees this year, and you know they are going to be beautiful and creative. Get your tickets now for this magical event or stop by and view the trees and contribute just a few dollars to the organization that created your favorite tree.

Shop small this holiday season

Support shopping small this holiday season.

Small Business Saturday is held on Saturday, Nov. 25, between Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Make out your gift list and give the gift of local. Know that in supporting shopping local you support your neighbors, friends and our local economy. The more local sales we have, the more money returns to this community for services and infrastructure.

Slide these events into your busy schedule of holiday and work parties, family time and taking time for yourself. We will be sharing many more activities for the upcoming weeks, including getting your tickets for the Adventure Raffle being drawn on Dec. 16 at the third annual Old Fashioned Christmas event. Stay tuned.

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Aspen House welcomes new executive director

Aspen House/Aspen Services

Aspen House/Aspen Services welcomed Pattie Copenhaver onto its team as its new executive director in late September.

Copenhaver brings to Aspen House/Aspen Services over 25 years of marketing and communications background working with large corporations, local governments, a multitude of small businesses and their owners, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations.

Her goal is to help Aspen House grow by working closely with the board and the community to develop plans for an affordable, safe, permanent home for adults with developmental disabilities where they can live and thrive within the community they love.

Copenhaver will be focusing her efforts on initiating Aspen House's upcoming capital campaign. This campaign will raise the funds needed to help finally break ground on the home for adults with developmental disabilities. This has been a long-held dream for the founders of the organization, Patty Brown and Carolyn Paschal,

along with everyone who has supported Aspen House in so many ways over the years.

Aspen House will be located at 2079 Vista Blvd. The land was acquired in 2019 and the plans for the nine-room home have been approved by the homeowners' association. Local contractors have already committed to providing essential elements of the build with significant discounts to support the nonprofit.

Now the money needs to be raised through the capital campaign to purchase materials and begin construction.

This is where our community, friends of Aspen House and PS Froyo, local and statewide organizations, and our community partners come into play. Everyone's support will be needed to make this dream a reality.

Additional information will be forthcoming about how to get involved and help build Aspen House. The capital campaign will be launched next year. Sign up for the monthly newsletter to stay on top of the latest information on Aspen House and the capital campaign at www.aspenhousepagosa.org.



Pattie Copenhaver

Aspen House approved as Enterprise Zone contribution project

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc., doing business as Aspen House and Aspen Services, was approved in November as a new Enterprise Zone Contribution Project by the Colorado Economic Development Commission.

This capital project was extended to support the construction of Aspen

House, a safe, affordable home for adults with developmental disabilities in Pagosa Springs. This designation allows donors of \$250 or more to claim a 25 percent state tax credit and a 12.5 percent state tax credit on in-kind donations. This credit is in addition to the federal tax deduction for contributing to any 501(c)(3) organization.

"Currently, there is no housing in this area for adults with developmen-

tal disabilities, and it is so critically needed," said Patty Brown, founder of the organization. "This population of adults need a place where they can live and thrive, and become independent productive contributors of this community."

This project was extended another five years as fundraising efforts were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

There are currently 32 Enterprise Zone projects designated in Southwest Colorado. A list of eligible Enterprise Zone projects and program information is available at www.region9edd.org/contribution-tax-credits.

For more information about Aspen House or to donate, please contact Pattie Copenhaver at (970) 398-1636.

Health and safety advisory issued for marijuana sold locally

Colorado Department of Revenue

The Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), is issuing a Health and Safety Advisory due to the identification of potentially unsafe levels of total yeast and mold and aspergillus on regulated marijuana flower (bud/shake/trim) produced by Boone Farms LLC.

The CDPHE and DOR deem it a threat to public health and safety when marijuana is found to have total yeast and mold and aspergillus levels above acceptable limits established in Colorado Marijuana Rule 4-115.

Through an investigation, DOR has identified harvest batches produced by Boone Farms that initially passed contaminant testing, but subsequently failed retesting.

The contaminated harvest batches listed below were sold to consumers

between Nov. 13, 2020, and July 28, 2023. The Pagosa Springs locations where the affected product was sold are below.

Consumers who have this affected marijuana in their possession should destroy it or return it to the regulated marijuana store from which it was purchased for proper disposal. If consumers experience adverse health effects from consuming this marijuana, they should seek medical attention immediately and report the event to the Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) by submitting a MED Reporting Form.

All affected marijuana has a label affixed to its container that, at a minimum, indicates the license number of the regulated marijuana business that cultivated the marijuana as well as the harvest batch number assigned to the marijuana.

Consumers should check the label of their container of regulated mari-

juana flower (bud/shake/trim) for the following license numbers and harvest batch numbers:

Retail marijuana cultivation facility: 403R-00467.

Total-yeast-and-mold-contaminated retail marijuana harvest batches:

- 9-30-20I95.
- 10-13-21KK (failed for total yeast and mold and aspergillus).
- 10-19-21SPOG (failed for total yeast and mold and aspergillus).
- 10-19-21Maui.
- Aspergillus-contaminated retail marijuana harvest batches:
- 9-29-20DB.
- 10-5-20D14.
- 10-5-20JU3.
- 10-9-20KK.
- 10-19-21SPOG (failed for total yeast and mold and aspergillus).
- 10-13-21KK (failed for total yeast and mold and aspergillus).

Contaminated marijuana was sold at the following retail marijuana

stores locally:

- HGS LLC (402R-00247), doing business as High Grade Specialists, 600 Cloman Blvd., Units 1 and 2.
- J and J Enterprises Inc., doing business as Pagosa Therapeutics, 235 Bastille Drive.
- J and J Enterprises Inc., doing business as The Green House, 270 E. Pagosa St.
- Joe Cal Enterprises Inc., doing business as Pagosa Craft, 127 Goldmine Drive.

Dozier

Continued from front

over winter or spring breaks to ski. But it wasn't until 2012 the family really discovered Pagosa Springs.

"Fast forward to around 2012, we had four kids and we were working for a client in Austin, and she had a home here in Pagosa on one of the lakes that she had wanted to remodel, and had recently lost her husband in a tragic accident," Cristi said, relaying the couple formed a relationship with the client over time.

She ultimately asked them if they would be willing to relocate to Pagosa for a year to do the project.

"And with us being mainly familiar with the South Fork side, we were not too familiar with Pagosa in general, just kind of South Fork and Wolf Creek. Ben already knew he loved the region, loved the area, and this was an opportunity to come live here in this area for a full year, experience every season, and have ... a job doing it lined up. So, we jumped in without much forethought. We were just kind of in a space in our lives where we were like, 'Well, that sounds like a fun adventure,' and we did it," Cristi said.

The rest, the couple said, is history. The family rented a house that they now own and have found success in a variety of areas.

They still have Root Design Company, having opened an office in Pagosa in 2012.

Ben explained they finished the initial project and did a few others here and there while continuing to

be based out of Austin.

In 2017, Cristi relayed, they went "all in" and sold their home in Austin to be in Pagosa full time.

They noted they weren't sure how the design business would transfer and if they would continue to have clients.

"It was kind of after we decided to take that next right step and take that leap to the draw to this area that we had had for so long that things started falling in line more," she said.

The design projects continued to come, and they also later purchased a coffee shop now known as Root House Coffee + Shop.

"It's been a fun story," Cristi said. It also blossomed into the couple getting their own show on HGTV.

"The TV show was something we never imagined in a million years," Ben said. "It was never on our radar, our dream world or anything like that."

The Doziers explained the TV project started with an Instagram message from a production company.

That, Ben relayed, turned into a conversation, which turned into a Zoom meeting, which then turned into a sizzle reel, then a pilot.

"It definitely took some time. It was probably about a two-year process from the first message to the pilot," he said.

It also took some time for the couple and their kids to determine whether or not they wanted to do it.

"The story we were telling ourselves is we moved here to tell a better story, invest into the community, and build others up around us — not just the buildings we were building or designing, but to build others because the community built us up so wonderfully since 2012, everybody we've met and the small town feel

See Dozier A7

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County holds budget hearings

Discusses public health, sheriff's office, water quality

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

This article covers the hearings from Nov. 6 and Nov. 9 chronologically. The remaining hearings, including discussions of public works and the potential integration of Pagosa Senior Center staff into the county, will be covered in the Nov. 30 issue of The SUN.

Attorney

The attorney's budget was presented by County Attorney Todd Weaver.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$3,548 and \$336,123 in expenses.

Speaking to The SUN, Woodman indicated there were minimal changes in Weaver's budget, although he is requesting increased funding for outside legal services.

Weed and Pest

The Weed and Pest Department budget was presented by Weed and Pest Director Ethan Proud, and the 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$72,732 and \$264,469 in expenses.

Proud requested an additional

part-time seasonal compliance and education staff member, although the commissioners expressed support for making this employee a full-time, permanent position.

Building

This part of the budget was presented by Building Inspector Tim Hatch, with the 2024 draft budget indicating the department is expecting revenues of \$400,000 and \$359,947 in expenses.

Hatch requested a new building inspector position, and increases in training and vehicle budgets to accommodate training the new inspector and buying a vehicle for them.

He also noted that training and education costs for inspectors have risen and that training includes staff attending an International Code Council conference in addition to online training.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez expressed support for the requests, noting that the education is necessary and that many of the department's vehicles are aging.

Hatch also noted that revenues for the department are approximate given construction activity is "like a roller coaster."

Planning

The planning budget was presented by Planning Manager Owen O'Dell.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$350,000 and expenditures totaling \$355,723.

O'Dell noted that public notice expenses for plan reviews will shift to applicants in 2024.

He commented that the department previously paid for the required notices, but that the noticing expenses have risen.

He added that other operating expenses have also risen.

Water Quality Division

The water quality budget was presented by Water Quality Manager Kevin Torrez.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have no revenues and \$265,337 in expenses.

Torrez explained that the department includes three staff members and that the 2024 budget includes increased training and travel funding and decreased office supply costs.

He also explained that the budget includes funding for three iPads and three cellphones for department staff, as well as capital outlay for a vehicle.

Commissioner Veronica Medina suggested the county has additional vehicles that can be shared between

departments if necessary.

Development Services administration

This portion of the budget was presented by Development Director Pamela Flowers.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have no revenues and \$257,919 in expenses.

Flowers explained that code enforcement staff will be brought under the administration budget in 2024 and that there is revenue included in the budget for code enforcement.

She also indicated that two leased vehicles would be included in the capital outlay for the department to replace aging vehicles for code enforcement staff.

Administration

The administration budget was presented by Woodman, with the 2024 draft budget indicating the department is expected to have revenues of \$66,385 and expenditures of \$495,666.

Woodman highlighted that the budget includes increased training and education costs and \$75,000 for the strategic planning process for the county in 2024.

He added that funding for audio-visual upgrades to the commissioner meeting room was removed due to the potential transition to a new county administrative building.

Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services (DHS) budget was presented by DHS Director Isabel Vita.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have \$7,259,956 in revenues and \$7,554,172 in expenditures.

Vita highlighted changes in the budget due to expenses related to the department's new building and that training costs decreased due to the department securing increased grant funding for training.

She also explained that the department's legal services costs have decreased since it is now using the additional staff member at the county attorney's office for many of its cases instead of contract counsel, although she noted that there are still remaining professional services expenses, particularly for interpreters.

Additionally, Vita pointed out the challenges of retaining child protective services staff and that the department's budgeting has been more effective since securing an accountant to work at and manage the

■ See Budget A8

Dozier

■ Continued from A6

and the vibe, and the wide space, the mountains, the rivers, all that stuff," he said. "We were just shocked and taken back and couldn't believe it, and didn't know what to do with the TV invitation."

The family opted to do it and hoped to inspire others.

While the couple admits filming the show — the pilot and most of the first season were filmed during and right after COVID — has been challenging, as is building in Pagosa Springs, it has helped them hone their true missions of building up people and connection.

They also acknowledged there were adjustments made from season

one to season two of the show, and Ben noted it really helped them focus on their core values and on the fact that it's not what you build, but who you build up that's important.

The couple explained that, moving into season two, they also made adjustments on things like strategic partnerships with materials providers, with Cristi noting the first season was a learning experience.

The couple called season two a "wonderful blessing."

The couple explained they've also enjoyed getting to be a part of and share the "amazing" stories of the families they do projects for and helping their clients build homes they'll want to pass to future generations.

The couple also indicated they have received a lot of support from the community and want to do the same for the community.

Ben noted the community has come to support the company in "unexpected" ways and they are forever grateful.

Both also noted the intent to invest in the community that has invested in them, from striving to spend money locally when possible to being the stewards of what they've been given and telling the stories of their clients.

"We want Pagosa to benefit from this," Ben said, adding later they love this place and the people in it.

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Ordinance

■ Continued from front

facility to having the BoCC designated the impoundment facility on a yearly basis.

Le Roux commented that there were extensive meetings and discussion of the ordinance prior to the meeting and that he hoped to have the ordinance finalized at the BoCC meeting.

Commissioner Warren Brown thanked Le Roux for his effort to take "community input" and "put together this document in a way that is more palatable."

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that a constituent had suggested that the ordinance would take dog control violations from a misdemeanor to a felony and asked Le Roux if this is true.

He responded that is untrue and that there are provisions in the ordinance concerning vicious dogs and bodily injury that would be charged criminally, although this would be true whether there is an ordinance or not.

County Attorney Todd Weaver added that under state law a dog ordinance violation that does not involve bodily injury is a petty offense and a violation involving bodily injury is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Weaver also explained that a county is not required to adopt an animal control ordinance and that it may contain a range of elements enumerated in state law, including provisions for vicious dogs and licensing.

He added that an ordinance is more formal than a resolution and that the county could adopt animal-control measures through either mechanism.

Brown asked if the district attorney would be required to prosecute animal control cases under an ordinance while they would not be required to do so under a resolution.

Weaver stated that he could not speak to the district attorney, but that he feels an ordinance "raises it to a much more significant level" and that violations of a resolution would come to the county attorney while ordinance violations are more likely to come to the district attorney.

The board then heard public comment from Wayne Bryant opposing the ordinance and raising concerns about how the ordinance would create additional government, about how it would potentially cause people

to be deprived of their firearms, and about the origins and potentially "nefarious" goals of the ordinance.

In response to Bryant's comment, Le Roux indicated that only certain felony offenses require an individual to surrender their firearms and that it is not possible for the offenses covered by the ordinance to lead to such a surrender.

He also pointed out that the ordinance is intended to "clean up" the language in the previous resolution and ensure that rules involving the control of dogs and other animals are expressed in the same form as other county rules, which are contained in ordinances.

The board then heard comments from Betty Lee, who cited concerns about government being "militarized" against citizens, raised concerns about the definition of animal in the ordinance, objected to the use of the word "human" in the ordinance — which she suggested should be changed to "men, women and children" — and raised concerns about how the "pandemic treaty being pushed by [the World Health Organization]" is placing humans at "no greater value than animals."

She also raised objections to the language exempting governments, which was removed from the ordinance, suggesting that it would create a two-party system similar to Nazi Germany.

A subsequent comment from Roger Sanchez presented a "solution" that Lee intended to include in her comment but ran out of time for.

The solution called for implementing community policing and having a team trained to address dog issues instead of actions that are "destructive of people's rights."

The board also heard comments from Chalyn Fitzgerald, who raised concerns about typographical and grammatical errors in the ordinance, "vague" or conflicting language in the ordinance, incorrect definitions in the ordinance and if state statute allows the county to enact an ordinance containing all the regulations included in the proposed ordinance.

Le Roux then responded to the comments, highlighting that the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) generated 30 citations out of 628 animal calls this year and suggested "that's 600 community engagements that resulted in a positive solution at the level that it needed to be dealt with accordingly where ...

under the prior resolution enforcement action could have taken place and that might have resulted in a financial penalty."

He added that the ACSO is "doing what we can to not be governing where we shouldn't be" and that the new ordinance is not more restrictive than the previous animal-control resolution.

Le Roux indicated that he believes the citations that have been written were primarily for repeat offenders and problem animals.

In response to a question from Maez, Weaver explained that a felony conviction is required for a person to lose their right to possess firearms and that none of the offenses involved in the ordinance are felony offenses.

Le Roux added that an offense would have to be a felony and some additional crime, such as threats with a deadly weapon, would have to be involved beyond any dog-related violations.

He also emphasized that the removal of firearms would be connected to the additional crimes being committed and not to the animal offenses.

Fitzgerald and Maez noted that a misdemeanor while on probation could result in the removal of firearms, although Maez stated that that was a different situation and is intended to prevent conflicts or infractions between the person on probation and others in the community.

Le Roux also pointed out that the ordinance contains language indicating that a person being attacked by a dog can stop the dog by using lethal force, such as a firearm, and that this language is not included in the previous resolution.

Maez then asked Weaver for a justification of why the ordinance should only include the word human instead of using the terminology "man, woman or child" as Lee suggested.

Weaver explained that Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines a human as a "man, woman or child" and that expanding the definition would take the county down a "rabbit hole" of defining the increasingly granular constituent parts of each element of an expanded definition.

"It's a never-ending cycle that, from a drafting standpoint, is impossible to achieve," Weaver added.

Maez then ended the public comment portion of the meeting, noting

that there were no additional public comment forms filled out and "we need to get business taken care of."

Medina noted the language exempting governments from the definition of person was removed in the current draft of the ordinance.

"I think there's been a lot of good communication on this and I think we've actually kind of, in my mind, I think we've come to a good final product," Maez said.

Maez then called for a motion on the resolution, with Brown moving to adopt the ordinance and Medina seconding but noting a desire for additional discussion.

Medina commented that she agrees with the ordinance, but that there are grammatical issues that could potentially be corrected to "clean up" the ordinance.

Brown stated that, outside of grammatical errors in the document, he felt the BoCC had "with a very earnest and honest consideration of our constituents who cared to voice an opinion on this topic and ... changing it into an ordinance. I think we've gone to great lengths to take into consideration the views of other folks and also their concerns, and I think we've reached a middle ground that will allow the sheriff's office to more clearly define what their role is in this instance in dealing with dog cases."

Brown added that dog cases are difficult, and balancing the rights of all parties involved is important, but noted that the rights of those attacked by dogs are more rarely discussed.


"I'm grateful for the input, I'm grateful for the conversation and I think it's with very thoughtfulness that I made the motion to go forward with this," Brown concluded.

Maez stated that the ordinance provides protection for dogs as well and provisions for "getting them help."

"They're the ones that can't even speak up or say anything but ... it's like what I always say, the dog gets the short end of the stick when it comes around to it anyway," Maez said. "I do think we come to some good common ground on this and a lot of good discussion and I'm glad to move forward with it."

The board then unanimously approved the dog ordinance.

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Budget

■ Continued from A7

DHS budget.

Assessor

The assessor budget was presented by Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$10,000 and \$956,499 in expenditures.

Tully-Elliott explained that the budget proposal includes \$72,700 in funding for aerial photography to locate unlisted structures and other details, as well as \$77,000 to increase the staff salaries and pay for the data-collection specialist.

Commissioner Warren Brown questioned what the longevity of staff at the office is.

Tully-Elliott responded that the office has four long-term employees

and five with shorter terms of employment.

Medina expressed support for a potential increase to wages, but questioned the amount of the increase.

Airport

The airport budget was presented by Airport Manager Chris Torres.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$205,200 and \$495,633 in expenditures.

Discussion of the budget opened with Torres and Woodman explaining that the budget amounts are somewhat uncertain due to the need to fund new fire hydrants and accompanying water lines for the airport hangars, as requested by the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD).

Maez raised concerns about this request, commenting that many hy-

drants in the Town of Pagosa Springs do not provide the flow levels being demanded at the airport, despite being required to provide similar levels.

Woodman stated that the PFPD will not sign off on new hangar construction without the hydrants and water line being completed.

Medina raised concerns that many of the revenue numbers in the budget were inaccurate based on year-to-date income and requested that line items be changed to match the revenues actually received for them.

Torres indicated that the budget includes funding for the repair and maintenance of the interior roads at the airport in addition to increased funding for snow plowing to improve the speed of snow clearing.

■ See Budget A9

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Budget

Continued from A8

He also explained that the budget includes \$65,000 in capital outlay to purchase a vehicle, which he indicated would bring the airport up to its allotment of two vehicles.

Medina questioned why the airport has two vehicles.

Woodman and Torres explained that the vehicles are used to navigate the airport and perform maintenance.

Finance

The Finance Department budget was presented by Finance Director Chad Eaton.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$234,885 and \$611,187 in expenses.

Eaton requested the addition of a procurement officer to the department.

He also explained that the budget includes funding for ClearGov budgeting software for the county.

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

The eight budgets for the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) operations were presented by Sheriff Mike Le Roux.

He explained that the budgets had been condensed to clarify the revenue streams for the ACSO and that the budget includes increased revenues and grants.

He indicated that the budget includes no new positions, but does include efforts to retain staff, including a proposed per-hour wage increase of \$2.72 for all staff on top of the \$1.72-per-hour increase implemented earlier in 2023.

Le Roux indicated that this increase would be partially funded

by increased detention revenues, including revenue generated by hosting inmates from other counties and increased food revenues.

Maez commended the "self-sustainability" of the budget.

Le Roux explained that the ACSO has had a large amount of overtime expenses this year, but that the overtime expenses are expected to be lower next year due to the office having more deputies.

He stated that the budget includes \$119,000 in funding for a new evidence building.

Le Roux stated that the ACSO is running out of space for evidence and that the building would provide storage for narcotics, firearms and biological evidence.

Brown stated that the new building would improve safety for the evidence technician.

Le Roux indicated that the project is being partially supported by grant funding, which will pay for pass-through lockers for the facility.

He added that the building will help the office move into the "modern era" and that the building would include a vapor hood and a laser device for identifying substances.

He stated that the metal building will help reduce costs.

Le Roux highlighted the overtime required to relocate inmates and the high costs of juvenile detentions, although he stated that the ACSO has created a temporary juvenile detention area to help reduce overtime and juvenile detention costs.

He also noted that the ACSO has made improvements in its translation services and is working on securing medical services for drug treatment.

Le Roux then moved on to highlight the work of emergency management, noting that this year saw

a lower call volume for emergency management but included several high-intensity responses.

He indicated that the office received a \$91,500 state grant to support the purchase of a search and rescue pickup truck with a utility box and that the ACSO is also working to replace its fire vehicle due to the previous vehicle being involved in a crash.

Le Roux noted that Upper San Juan Search and Rescue is a separate nonprofit operated by volunteers and indicated that he would like to provide \$20,000 to the organization to assist volunteers in purchasing gear.

Woodman indicated that he encouraged Le Roux to make this request given the high requests made on search and rescue volunteers.

Le Roux added that search and rescue is a "force multiplier" for county emergency operations.

Brown commented that providing the stipend for search and rescue volunteers is a "good idea," and Medina proposed that the stipend funding should be \$30,000.

Le Roux thanked the commissioners for their support.

Brown commended Le Roux's presentation, his sensitivity for the budget and his consideration for the community.

"I was skeptical, but I'm impressed," Maez said.

Le Roux concluded his presentation by highlighting that the drone the ACSO acquired has assisted the office in locating wildfires and suspects.

Coroner

This portion of the budget was presented by Coroner Brad Hunt, and the 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have no revenues and \$136,747 in expenses.

ditures.

Hunt requested a new vehicle for the coroner's office to assist in transporting bodies.

Brown commented that the new vehicle would increase dignity for families.

Hunt pointed out an incident in the county where a body was delivered in the back of an ACSO vehicle and indicated that wants to prevent this from happening again.

Maez recommended that Hunt look into pricing options for the new vehicle.

Hunt added that the budget for autopsies is increased in the 2024 budget to accommodate the potential for a large number of autopsies.

He also noted that autopsies are now occurring in Durango instead of in Montezuma County.

Clerk and Recorder

This portion of the budget was presented by Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the office is expected to have revenues of \$498,000 and \$721,052 in expenditures in its main budget and \$10,000 in revenue and \$249,715 in expenditures in the elections budget.

Archuleta indicated that the budget includes no new staff for the office.

Medina asked if Archuleta has considered beginning to offer Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) services.

Archuleta responded that while this could occur in the future, it would not happen now because staff is "stretched thin" with the current workload.

Woodman noted that the proposed new county administration

See Budget A11

we can, because it is a huge amount of money."

In an email to The SUN, Lewis adds that any funding PAWSO can secure to reduce its debt burden will also reduce the rate and fee increases the district will need to implement to support the debt load.

josh@pagosasan.com

what those enterprise funds make in a given year.

Lewis stated that, because of these restrictions, the DOLA grant will "max out" the amount of grant funding PAWSO can secure for the water fund and the Snowball project in 2024, although the district will continue seeking grants for the regulatory compliance improvements to the Vista wastewater treatment plant.

Lewis indicated that the \$1 million award was the maximum award allowed for the EIAF grant in that funding cycle and that the grant is highly competitive, but noted that many projects that apply to the EIAF do not receive funding due to not fitting the parameters and timelines for the grant.

The \$1 million award is "substantial" for a state grant award, she explained, though she noted that many federal grant awards are far higher.

However, she indicated that, despite the higher award amounts and the fact that federal grants do not count towards TABOR limitations, federal grants are often not a desirable option for securing funding due to the additional stipulations they can impose on a project and the challenge of completing federal grant applications.

Even with higher awards, she explained, the stipulations often attached to federal grants, such as requiring new buildings to be LEED-

certified, can raise project costs enough to make the added funding barely contribute to reducing the overall financial burden of a project.

Lewis also commended the work of DOLA and other state grant providers, noting the clarity of state grant requirements and the availability of staff to answer questions or provide guidance on the grant process.

She stated that advocacy from the SRF was critical in PAWSO receiving \$5 million in principal forgiveness on the Snowball loan.

She attributed the success on the grant to PAWSO being further along on the expansion than many similar projects in the state, which allowed the SRF staff to advocate for the project.

Lewis commented that this principal forgiveness award is "really great" and a "really good portion of the funds available."

"I want to be really excited about the money that we're getting," Lewis said. "But, at the same time, we have to incur so much debt to get there. But it's like... at the end of the day, it's still going to end up being like \$6.6 million dollars of the project that we won't have to take on in debt... We won't have to pass that expense on to our rate and taxpayers, and that's really important to us, just kind of chipping away at the cost of this project to the extent that we can to just get our rate and taxpayers as much back as

PAWSO

Continued from front

the DOLA grant, PAWSO secured \$340,957 in grant funding for project engineering from DOLA, \$186,000 in project engineering funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and \$5 million in principal forgiveness on its State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for the project from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed by Congress in 2021.

PAWSO is "doing what we can to shift the expense of this plant off our ratepayers," Ramsey commented.

PAWSO General Manager Renee Lewis provided more context on the grant award and on the district's efforts to secure grant funding in an interview with The SUN.

She stated that the EIAF grant applications and awards typically occur in two to three cycles a year, with varying amounts of funding being available each cycle.

According to the DOLA website, the total funding amounts for the most recent three grant cycles varied from about \$70 million in the cycle PAWSO received a grant to about \$31 million.

The lists of awardees indicate that this funding covers a wide range of projects, from water and climate resilience infrastructure to recreation center and road construction projects, although Lewis indicated that water projects have become higher priority for the fund recently due to the increasing water infrastructure needs in the state.

She indicated that the EIAF grants have narrow timing parameters and that PAWSO will be awarded the grant funds in either December 2023 or January 2024, at which point construction can begin on the foundation elements that the grants will support.

She explained that PAWSO, due to its Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limitations, can only secure state grant funding for its water and wastewater funds up to 10 percent of

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Thanksgiving meal



SUN photos/Randi Pierce
Loaves and Fishes, along with St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, presented the 18th annual early Thanksgiving meal on Friday, Nov. 17, at the Ross Aragon Community Center. Attendees were treated to a free, sit-down meal with traditional Thanksgiving fare and live music from Jack Ellis and his band, as well as fellowship.



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Commissioner hear air show fundraiser proposal

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Nov. 21 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard a proposal from Wings Early Childhood Center board member Jim Garrett for an air show fundraiser at the Steven's Field airport for the school.

Garrett explained that Wings is seeking county support for its air show fundraiser, which he highlighted would potentially benefit the county and the "community as a whole."

He stated that the airport is a "substantial" community asset but that there is limited interaction between the airport and members of the community.

He indicated that the event would help people see the value of the airport, as well as promoting Wings.

He explained that Wings would like the air show to be an annual event, with the first show to take place in July 2024.

Garrett stated that a primary goal of the show would be to attract as much attendance as possible and that he feels interest in the airport and its operations will help attract attendees.

Garrett explained that the event would potentially include participation from wildfire suppression, search and rescue and medical evacuation aircraft in addition to local pilots, hot air balloons and potentially private jets.

He stated that these would primarily be local resources and would highlight the value of the airport to the community.

Garrett explained that the event would also likely include a dance, food and alcohol in addition to contests.

He indicated that he would support a "fairly low" admission price for the event.

To get the project started, Garrett stated that the Wings committee organizing the event would like to meet with the airport manager to set a date and learn about the parameters of what

would be possible for the event.

He added that he would like the commissioners' support for the event and for them to encourage the airport manager to work with Wings.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that the event "sounds like a great idea" and noted that Veterans for Veterans holds a similar event.

In response to a question from Medina, County Attorney Todd Weaver stated that he is unsure what the rules surrounding alcohol at the airport for the event would be, although he noted that the dance and alcohol could be located in the nearby Cloman Park.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez recommended that Wings work with the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board on the event.

Garrett stated that having involvement from the tourism board in addition to other groups such as the Pagosa Springs Medical Center or the school district could be beneficial.

Maez stated that he would support

the event, although he pointed out that it would need to be carefully scheduled to work around other events in July and attract tourists.

"Instead of just getting the local money, let's get the tourist money," Maez said.

Commissioner Warren Brown expressed support for the proposal and requested "timely updates" on the progress of the event planning.

Garrett asked how the BoCC would like these updates and Brown indicated that they could be delivered at BoCC work sessions.

County Manager Derek Woodman stated that he could facilitate a meeting about the event with the airport manager and the manager of the fixed-base operator.

Following a discussion of selecting a time for this meeting, the commissioners concluded by expressing support for the event and curiosity about how it might evolve.

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For more information, visit USPSOperationSanta.com.

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Dec. 11: Last day to send letters to Santa.

Dec. 18: Last day to adopt letters and the recommended date to ship packages.

Budget

Continued from A9

building would include a window for providing DMV services, and Medina recommended that Archuleta investigate what would be needed to implement DMV services in 2024 and potentially start them in 2025.

Archuleta noted that the budget also contains \$59,000 for an Agilis-Duo ballot processing machine, which she stated would reduce the amount of time spent scanning the signatures on ballots.

She added that the office would supplement the machine by continuing to perform independent random audits.

Treasurer

The treasurer's budget was presented by Treasurer Elsa White.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the office is expected to have revenues of \$1,090,000 and \$700,568 in expenditures in its main budget and revenues of \$20,000 and expenditures of \$32,550 in the public trustee budget.

White forecasted that public trustee revenue is expected to fall in 2024 although COLOTRUST revenues remain substantial.

She added that the budget contains funding for ACSO staff to escort treasurer's office staff when posting notices of delinquent taxes in areas of Aspen Springs.

Medina raised concerns about whether the ACSO has the capacity to do this and recommended that White could investigate contracting out this service.

Transportation

The transportation budget was presented by Transportation Director Kevin Bruce.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$82,480 and \$115,384 in expenditures in its administration budget, and revenues of \$5,628,185 and expenditures and capital outlay of \$6,949,605 in the Mountain Express Transportation (MET) budget.

Bruce explained that the administration and MET operations budgets are likely separate due to federal grant matching requirements.

He highlighted the multiple bundled capital grants totaling \$5.468 million included in the MET budget for the construction of the new county transit facility.

Eaton commented that Bruce was

"on top of his budget" and had effectively prepared it.

Bruce noted that the Town of Pagosa Springs will cease supporting the MET in 2024 due to it cutting funding for service organizations, although Bruce added that 17 out of the MET's 26 stops are in town limits, with the Senior Center and City Market being particularly high volume stops.

Bruce requested a bus driver position to be expanded from part-time to full-time to improve coverage and help reduce the amount of time that bus dispatching is down or Bruce is driving a bus.

He added that most bus drivers for the MET are seniors and that the pay is \$18 an hour.

Woodman and the commissioners expressed the opinion that bus driver pay should be increased.

Bruce also requested a new lead mechanic position, noting that the department will have a shop at the new transit center as well as additional buses, including electric and propane buses.

Speaking to The SUN, Woodman explained that Bruce requested funding for engineering and design for a park-and-ride location in Aspen Springs as well as funding for a replacement bus and two low-emissions, propane-fueled buses.

He added that all of these projects

are supported by grants.

Public Health Department

The budget for the new department was presented by Public Health Director Ashley Wilson.

The 2024 draft budget indicates the department is expected to have revenues of \$630,805 and \$925,306 in expenditures.

In an interview with The SUN, Woodman noted that the public health budget is constantly evolving and that the county recently received a grant opportunity which will provide three years of funding for an additional position working on promoting clean air.

At the hearing, Wilson noted that the budget will include \$18,000 in contract services costs.

Eaton commented that the public health budget is "more on the bare side" due to uncertainties about costs and funding amounts for the new department.

Wilson highlighted a range of grant funds and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment funds that will support the department.

She noted that there will be a new funding formula for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in 2024, which may decrease the funds that the county will receive and potentially mean that the funds received will not fully cover program costs.

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Fall concert

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Members of the Pagosa Springs Community Band, part of the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society, present the group's fall concert on Saturday, Nov. 18. The fall concert is one of four the band presents each year.



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- Jelly
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Education



Photo courtesy Ken Beesley

Rotary exchange students stand after the presentation of country flags at the annual district conference in Pueblo in October. There are 13 students in the region for the 2023-2024 academic year. Charlotte Duranton, seventh from the left, is the student in Pagosa Springs and is standing with the French flag. All exchange students are presented with a blue blazer at the start of their year which have the Rotary International and Rotary Exchange Student emblems. Students then exchange and collect pins from other students they meet and places they travel throughout their year.

Charter school looking to amend budget, hears proposal for fundraising

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors heard that the organization is looking to cut \$100,000 from its budget by the time it considers an amended budget in January.

The news came as part of the treasurer's report at the meeting, where board treasurer Pamela Meade discussed that the school is developing a trend of not bringing in enough revenues to cover expenses and has reduced the amount of cash it has on hand.

Meade's written report states the "Budget was created and expenses planned on 125 students. On October 1 the school had an enrollment of 105. Around \$100,000 will need to be cut from the existing budget."

It further notes the budget revision will be presented to the board of directors in January 2024.

As part of her report, Meade noted the Finance Committee has discussed several potential ways to lower the budget, including the potential sale of the school's older bus, reducing staffing as people leave and more.

During discussion on the matter, School Director Angela Reali-Crossland noted there are also other things she would like to auction off and the school may keep the bus.

Earlier in the meeting, during her report, Reali-Crossland indicated that the school is down to 99 students, but that some students who previously left are coming back.

She noted that, as the school is developing and identifying what it is, students and families who the school isn't a right fit for will leave, but that the school is doing "amazing things."

She added the school is looking into doing a video series.

At the same meeting, the board also heard a proposal from members of its parent council that the school have a fund development manager.

After reporting that PPOS's recent casino night gala was a "smashing success," parent council member Abbie Karas implored the board to look at expanding the school's staff to have a fund development manager on staff who focuses on fundraising, events and grants.

Karas and Courtney Pogue reported that a small group of volunteers spent approximately 600 hours orga-

nizing the event, which they noted has a lot of potential for the organization.

They indicated this year's event looks to net more than \$22,000 for the school.

The pair also suggested finding ways for the school and parent council to be more united, such as having staff support the events through sending information home to students and families.

Karas also suggested the parent council could cease to exist without more support.

"The event itself was wonderful," board president Lawrence Rugar said, adding the event was well-received and the council should be proud.

The pair also suggested planning needs to start earlier in the year, with many businesses having expended their sponsorship budgets by late in the year.

As discussion continued, Rugar touched upon the lack of volunteers and suggested PPOS needs to look at the root cause of why parents aren't meeting requirements for parent involvement and what it might do to incentivize that involvement.

Karas suggested there needs to be constant contact and follow up with parents to encourage them to meet the required volunteer hours.

Karas also discussed the timing of the event, noting that the event was moved to a new month this year, but that many people, including sponsors, couldn't make it, which was unexpected.

PPOS board member Elly Osmera thanked Karas and the committee for its work.

She also noted that a fundraising plan would give the organization a clearer view of what people would be getting into and would help with recruiting help for each effort.

She suggested coming up with a fundraising plan should be a priority.

She also noted the growing pains the committee is working through are a good learning opportunity for the school and will help with the future success of fundraising.

"I just want there to be a continuum of this culture that is supporting the school," she said, noting it will get easier and easier if the work continues instead of being picked up fresh each year by new people.

She also acknowledged the need for volunteers to set boundaries and the lack of support structure.

Reali-Crossland noted that employment agreements state that evening hours are required, noting that has been interpreted as school events such as presentation nights.

She noted the concerns of the parent council on lack of support are valid, as are the concerns of the teachers, and suggested the need is to find out how to bridge the gap and support the students.

"Everybody loved it," Reali-Crossland said in response to a question about the event, suggesting the interactivity of the casino theme was an improvement over previous years' themes.

The group also discussed teachers volunteering at events.

Reali-Crossland noted she'll meet with Karas to help capture the best practices to help with continuity.

PPOS board member David Pribble asked what the fund management position would look like over the whole year and how much money would be brought in.

Karas noted she was not prepared to answer that question.

Reali-Crossland noted the school previously had that role and it became difficult during the COVID pandemic, and that she has had success with grants.

"We were not meeting the projections in any way," she said later, reit-

erating that was during COVID, but that the organization could again talk about funding a position.

Rugar suggested the position could be combined with other roles that would be helpful, such as a volunteer coordinator.

"I think a volunteer coordinator would help drastically," he said, adding that a dedicated marketing person would also be useful.

Osmera noted that supporting the person who organizes support for the school would help with the culture of support, suggesting people are willing to give more if they feel supported.

Rugar then drew the discussion to a close, with Karas again asking the board to mull the proposition over and suggesting there's a lot of potential there for the school.

Later in the meeting, PPOS board member Bill Hudson suggested that there would have been more help available for a spring event, and Rugar suggested a spring casino night could be a good idea.

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Outdoors

Everyone invited to join Audubon's Christmas Bird Count

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

Members of the Weminuche Audubon Society chapter are inviting you to help us count birds for this year's Christmas Bird Count, Audubon's 124th annual census of winter birds.

You don't need to be an experienced birder; we welcome participation from all interested community members and visitors. Make it a part of your holiday traditions; volunteer help is critical to the success of this annual event.

In preparation for the count, Keith Bruno, Audubon Rockies Southwest Community Naturalist, will lead us in three bird identification classes to review species that we may encounter here during the winter.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street. We will start promptly at 6 p.m. and be done by 8 p.m. The first of these classes will cover waterfowl in time to visit local waterways and test your identification skills.

On Dec. 16, teams will split up to record all of the birds that we identify by sight or sound in our local count circle, following protocols established by the National Audubon Society. Be a part of this important endeavor carried out by people just like you all across the Western Hemisphere.

The Pagosa Springs count is conducted within a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight zones, and centered on Trujillo Road near downtown. Areas covered include

town, about 6 miles east; most of Pagosa Lakes including Meadows subdivisions; west to Elk Park, Alpha, Rockridge, Timber Ridge, Mill Creek and Holiday Acres areas; Snowball, Cemetery and the first part of Four-mile Roads; Loma Linda; south to the Lower Blanco area; Trujillo Road to Burns Canyon; and areas in between. It's a lot of ground to cover in one day.

If you live within the count circle, you can also participate by counting birds at your feeders using the forms provided, or let us know that we are welcome to stop by and tally what we see in your yard. Please keep your feeders full that day.

For further information on the count or to sign up as a volunteer, email weminuche.audubon@gmail.com.

Forest Service, National Park Service seek public input on proposed guidance

USDA Forest Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS) are seeking public input on proposed guidance that would guide agency personnel in managing climbing opportunities on national forests, grasslands and parks.

The public is invited to provide input on both agencies' guidance through Jan. 16, 2024.

Climbing activities (including rock climbing, snow and ice climbing, mountaineering, canyoneering and caving) are popular in national forests, national parks and across public lands. Fixed climbing equipment, also referred to as fixed anchors, includes bolts or other equipment that is left permanently in place after the climb. Some fixed anchors may be necessary for safe public use of the resource.

The proposed guidance affirms that climbing is an appropriate use of public lands, including in wilderness

areas, and should be managed in a manner that helps protect cultural and natural resources.

The draft guidance reflects input received during NPS- and USFS-held tribal listening and tribal consultation sessions for tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Alaskan tribes and organizations.

Following the public comment period, the NPS and USFS will develop and publish final policy and guidance informed by public comments.

USFS

The proposed USFS guidance will clarify management and provide specific guidance for climbing on National Forest System lands, including within congressionally designated wilderness areas.

The proposed guidance includes language that highlights the need for climbing area management plans that balance objectives with site-specific needs and opportunities, including alignment with the Wilderness Act. Currently, national guidance is not in place regarding acceptable

climbing practices on national forests and grasslands.

"Climbing is a popular way to enjoy the outdoors and recreate on public lands," said Forest Chief Randy Moore. "The proposed directive would ensure the Forest Service supports world-class climbing opportunities while also protecting natural and cultural resources for future generations."

Like any recreational activity, best practices for climbing can help climbers avoid damage to natural and cultural resources. The proposed guidance will provide local Forest Service land managers with direction on how to guide climbers on the most appropriate places and practices to recreate responsibly and protect resources.

The proposed guidance follows the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which directs the Forest Service to develop guidance to manage climbing on national forests and grasslands.

■ See Input A16

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Local people • Local news • Local reporting

Public Notices

ARCHULETA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE 23-2023: ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS AND OTHER PET ANIMALS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
INTRODUCED AND READ ON FIRST READING ON the 14th day of August 2023 and which was published in full on August 24, 2023 in the Pagosa Springs Sun in Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, Colorado.
ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING ON the 8th day of November 2023 and ordered published by reference to title only with the following amendments:

- Added Ordinance Number 23-2023.
- Changed the word "officer" to "deputy" in sections 2.3, 6.3, 8.1, 8.2, 10.1, 10.2.A, 10.5 and 13.
- Revised section 2.2 to read: "Animal" shall mean any living dumb creature, and as used in this Ordinance shall encompass domestic animals and livestock or farm animals, but shall not include any human being."
- Revised section 2.16 to read: "Person" shall mean any natural person or individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, business, or other legal entity."
- Revised section 2.19 to read: "Trained dogs owned or kept by and assisting a federal, state, or local governmental agency in the performance of its official duties shall not be deemed vicious dogs for purposes of this Ordinance and are exempt from the requirements of this Ordinance."
- Changed title of section 4 from "Dog Running at Large Prohibited" to "Prohibitions."
- Added section 4.3 to read: "No owner shall willingly and knowingly permit a Dog to be a Nuisance Dog as defined herein. Willingly and knowingly shall be defined as the Owner of the Dog having received one prior warning, verbally or in writing, given by any peace officer or animal control deputy, notifying the Owner that the Dog is considered a Nuisance Dog."
- Added section 4.4 to read: "It shall be unlawful to own or possess a Vicious Dog as such term is defined herein."
- Added section 4.5 to read: "It shall be unlawful for a Dog to be allowed to defecate on public or private property and the Owner or responsible person does not remove the waste in a timely fashion."
- Added section 4.6 to read: "It is unlawful for any Owner to permit the accumulation of a Dog's feces on the property on which the Dog is kept such that it is detectable visually or odoriferously by neighbors."
- Revised section 11 to read: Designated Impound Facility. The Board shall designate, on an annual basis, the facility that shall serve as the Designated Impoundment Facility for purposes of this Ordinance and that is authorized to impound dogs pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance.
- Revised the Certifications pages to reflect the dates of the first reading and publication in the newspaper. Published November 23, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (221884)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2023-008

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On August 31, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.
Original Grantor(s) Joe P Manzanaras and Dora Pauline Manzanaras
Original Beneficiary(ies) Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS")
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt NewRez LLC, F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC, D/B/A
Date of Deed of Trust April 03, 2003
County of Recording Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust April 16, 2003
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 20303834
Original Principal Amount \$77,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance \$43,948.49
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(f), you are hereby notified

that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.
THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
LOT 10, BLOCK 53, TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED AS PLAT NO. 25, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO.

Also known by street and number as: Lot 10, S. 6th Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.
NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 12/28/2023, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorney's fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 11/22/2023
Last Publication 11/30/2023
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 08/31/2023
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: Elisa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
Ilene Dell'Acqua #31755
McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369-6122
Attorney File # CO-23-964016 -LL
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
Published November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (219073)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Case No: 2023CV30080
Court Address: 449 San Juan Street
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Phone Number: 970-264-5932
BERNADETTE M. GONZALES ALSO KNOWN AS BERNADETTE M. CANDELARIA GONZALES, Plaintiff
vs.
ELVIRIA M. CANDELARIA AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PERSONS WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION, Defendants.
Attorney for Plaintiff:
The Law Firm of Maria C. Underell, LLC Maria C. Underell, Atty. Reg. No. 31076 101 West 11th Street, Suite 104
Durango, Colorado 81301
Office Phone Number: 970-403-8093
Cell Phone Number: 970-317-0341
FAX Number: 970-403-8091
E-mail: maria@underell-law.com
SUMMONS TO QUIET TITLE BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF: BERNADETTE M. CANDELARIA GONZALES
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and

defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after the service of this summons upon you in the State of Colorado or within 35 days after service of this summons upon you outside the State of Colorado. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 21 or 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action to quiet title to: The NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 24, Township 34 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M., South of the Ute Line TOGETHER WITH all water and water rights, wells, ditch and ditch rights, groundwater rights, and related easements and infrastructure appurtenant to, historically used on or associated therewith, and any and all water rights adjudicated to the Subject Property, including but not limited to 1 and 1/2 c.f.s. of water equivalent to 70 acre-feet of irrigation water, in the Riverview Ditch, a/k/a Ditch No. 182 off the Piedra River, pursuant to Priority No. 258, with an historic date of June 1, 1912, and a decreed date of June 1, 1921; ALSO TOGETHER WITH all surface and subsurface mineral interests, of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to oil, gas, CO2 and their constituents and all other minerals owned by Grantor that may be produced from the property.
Dated this 7th day of November, 2023. Published in the *Pagosa Sun Newspaper*.
First Publication: November 23, 2023.
Last Publication: December 21, 2023.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 7th day of November, 2023. THE LAW FIRM OF MARLA C. UNDERELL, LLC

/s/ Marla C. Underell
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Marla C. Underell, Atty. Reg. No. 31076
101 West 11th Street, Suite 104
Durango, Colorado 81301
Office Phone Number: 970-403-8093
Cell Phone Number: 970-317-0341
FAX Number: 970-403-8091
E-mail: marla@underell-law.com
Published November 23, 30, & December 7, 14 & 21, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (222005)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2023CV030030 DIVISION NO. 1
COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEEM
Sheriff Sale 2023-17
Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association v. Defendants, CAROLINE LEE; CHRISHNA WALKER et al.
Regarding: Sheriff Sale of Real Property Under Decree of Foreclosure, pursuant to Court Order and C.R.S. §38-38-101 et seq., County of Archuleta, State of Colorado.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, Please take notice:
This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated August 23, 2023, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of a lien according to the plat thereof filed for record March 13, 1970 as Reception No. 72998 through 73013 and pursuant to Resolution No. 99-39, A Resolution Approving the Consolidation of Certain Lots in Archuleta County, Colorado filed for record, June 22, 1999 as Reception No. 99006078.
Regarding: Lot 18x of Block 8, a consolidation of Lot 18 and half of Lot 19, Block 8, of LAKE PAGOSA PARK Also known as: 98 Carefree Pl, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

NOTICE OF SALE
You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff's Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office of Archuleta County, Colorado at 10 a.m., on the 10th day of Janu-

ary 2024, at 85 Harman Park Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; phone number 970-264-8434. At which sale, the above-described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder. Plaintiff makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection with this sale.

****BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CASH OR CERTIFIED FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO COVER THEIR HIGHEST BID AT TIME OF SALE.****
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
First Publication: 11/16/2023
Last Publication: 12/14/2023
Published In: Pagosa Sun
DATED in Colorado this 12th day of July, 2023.
Mike Le Roux, Sheriff
Archuleta County, Colorado
Signed 10/04/2023
By: Lorena Medina, Office Manager
ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
1445 Market Street, Suite 350
Denver, CO 80202 (218330)

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON December 19, 2023

PROJECT SANCTUARY WILDERNESS LODGING, has requested a VARIANCE regarding CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR A BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, on a Rural Tract Sec: 13 Twn: 34 Rng: 2.5W 34-1W SEC 13 SW4NE4; 13-34-1W #20507547, at 1099 Blue Creek Road, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN23-153). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-8341 or to odell@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Adjustments on **December 19, 2023**, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting in person only.
Published November 23 & December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (221670)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Billy Ray Kendrick, Sr. Case Number 2023 PR 30039
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before March 23, 2024, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published November 23 & 30, December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (222049)

The Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs Blvd to take public comment on the 2024 proposed budget for the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District. Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection on the Town website pagosaprices.gov and in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.
Published November 23, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (220456)

The Town of Pagosa Springs Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs to take public comment on the 2024 proposed budget and capital program for the Town of Pagosa Springs. Copies of the proposed budget and the proposed capital projects programs are available for public inspection on the Town website pagosaprices.gov and in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.
Published November 23, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (220455)

Notice
Notice of a change in the tariffs of La Plata Electric Association, Inc.
You are hereby notified that the above-named Cooperative has proposed the following changes in its tariffs due to the Tri-State rate increase, which will become effective on January 1, 2024, following approval by the LPEA Board of Directors at its regular meeting on December 13, 2023.

Summary of Proposed Changes:
LPEA's wholesale electricity provider, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Inc. (Tri-State), announced on June 16, 2023, that it had submitted a new formula rate filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to take effect on January 1, 2024. The new rate, if approved by FERC, would increase the rates LPEA pays to Tri-State by an estimated 6.2%. LPEA's Board of Directors has proposed a 4% Tri-State pass-through rate increase to its members solely to cover the rate increase from Tri-State. If FERC rejects Tri-State's new rate, LPEA will maintain its 2023 rates.

Proposed 2024 Rates:

Rate Schedule	Description	Component	Rate
A-10	General Service	Base Charge	\$23.00 / month
		Peak Power Charge	\$3.30 / kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1206 / kWh
GSD-10	Large Single Phase	Base Charge	\$23.00 / month
		Demand	\$8.00 / kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1020 / kWh
OPT-10	General Service AMI Opt Out	Base Charge	\$45.21 / month
		Energy	\$0.1206 / kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0620 / kWh
RTOU-15	General Service Time of Use	Base Charge	\$21.50 / month
		On Peak	\$0.2714 / kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0620 / kWh
B2-21	Small Commercial Three Phase	Base Charge	\$50.00 / month
		Demand	\$3.25 / kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1100 / kWh
LP-30	Large Commercial	Base Charge	\$100.00 / month
		Demand	\$15.21 / kW / month
		Energy	\$0.0672 / kWh
B5-28	Three Phase Time of Use	Base Charge	\$50.00 / month
		Demand	\$7.03 / kW / month
		Off Peak	\$0.2132 / kWh
EV-28	Three Phase EV Time of Use	Base Charge	\$100.00 / month
		On Peak	\$0.2714 / kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0620 / kWh
LP-31	Primary Service	Base Charge	\$100 / month
		Demand	\$7.85 / kW / month
		Off Peak Energy	\$0.0905 / kWh
CP-34	Snow Making	Base Charge	\$10,382 / month
		On Peak Energy	\$0.1132 / kWh
		Off Peak Energy	\$0.0630 / kWh
TCP-36	Transmission Coincident Peak	Base Charge	\$500.00 / month
		Coincident Demand	\$23.84 / kW / month
		Energy	\$0.0434 / kWh
C-40	Irrigation	Demand	\$15.93 / kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1350 / kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0620 / kWh
SR-41	Sale for Resale	Base Charge	\$175.00 / month
		Energy	\$0.1624 / kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0620 / kWh
SL-50	Street Lighting	Service Light	\$12.57 / month
		Small Light	\$14.84 / month
		Medium Light	\$23.38 / month
		Large Light	\$32.33 / month

The proposed and present versions of these tariffs are available for examination on the Cooperative's website (lpea.coop) and at each business office of the Cooperative: 45 Stewart St. Durango, CO, and 603 S 8th St. Pagosa Springs, CO.

Anyone who desires to submit comments about the proposed changes, as a result of the Tri-State rate increase, shall file a written comment with the Cooperative at 45 Stewart Street, Durango, Colorado, 81303, or by email to memberservices@lpea.coop, on or before December 3, 2023, 10 days before LPEA's December board meeting. The LPEA Board of Directors will consider the written comments at its December meeting. The changes ultimately authorized by the board may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect.

IS/ Jessica Matlock, LPEA
Chief Executive Officer
Published in the *Pagosa Sun*
November 23, 2023 (222027)

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Sports

UNIFIED BOWLING



The Pagosa Springs High School Unified bowling poses before heading for the state championships recently. The team placed 11th out of 27 teams at state. Pictured are coach Ben Vaughan, Unified partner Lupe Rivas, Justus Carter, Juriah Carter, Samuel Kelly, Reece Hammer, Carson Pilgrim and teacher Cyndi Figaro.

Photo courtesy Cyndi Figaro

'An accomplishment to be proud of': Pirates finish 11th at state tournament

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate Unified bowling team took 11th out of 27 teams at the state tournament on Nov. 17, advancing the team to the state competition for the second consecutive year.

The top three teams from each of the nine Unified bowling regional championships advanced to the state championships — the largest field in the sports' history.

The Pirates garnered the 11th-place finish with a total pinfall of 485. "We are all so proud of these kids," PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell

wrote in a statement to The SUN. "They made a significant jump from last year on their score, and taking into consideration there is only one state classification for bowling, to finish 11th is an accomplishment to be proud of."

The Pirates previously took first in Region 5 with a score of 448 over five games to earn a spot at the state tournament.

Unified bowling is played in the Bakers Format, where a team, typically of five bowlers, rotates bowling each frame in a game.

Cyndi Figaro, special talents teacher at PSHS, notes in an email to The SUN this year's squad has

five returning players: sophomores Carson Pilgrim, Samuel Kelly, Justus Carter and Juriah Carter, and senior Reece Hammer. Lupe Rivas is the team's Unified partner and is also a senior.

What is Unified bowling?

Unified bowling became a sanctioned sport under the Colorado High School Athletics Association in 2019, with play beginning during the 2020-2021 season. It is in partnership with Special Olympics Colorado.

Special Olympics Unified sports combine students with intellectual disabilities and Unified partners without intellectual disabilities on

bowling teams for training and competition.

The Archuleta School District Board of Education added Unified bowling as a sport at PSHS in the fall of 2021.

randi@pagosasun.com

RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for youth basketball, arts and crafts

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.

embodywork

Welcoming Our Newest Therapist, Kevin Davidson, LMT!

Kevin's Grand Opening Special
Receive a 30-minute complimentary upgrade when you purchase a 60-90 minute Integrative Therapeutic Massage!
Offer ends November 30th, 2023. Limit one per person.
9 Solomon Dr. #3, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Book an appointment today at embodywork@pagosacolorado.com

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We Make Gift Giving Easy.

<p>Love to Soak</p> <p>Local Frequency Card</p> <p>Regular price \$39. Sale Price \$29!</p> <p>Card-holder receives 25% discount on daily admission soaking rate.*</p>	<p>Stocking Stuffer</p> <p>Single Soak Passes</p> <p>Great addition to any stocking!</p> <p>1 Pass - \$20 5 Passes \$85!</p> <p>No restriction dates.*</p>
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PUNCH PASS SPECIAL
10-punch pass \$135! Regularly \$150.**

<p>A Gift for You ...</p> <p>Christmas Massage Special</p> <p>Can be added to any 60 or 90-minute massage treatment for add-on fee of Only \$20!</p> <p><i>Warm Peppermint or Ginger Spice</i></p> <p>Foot Therapy!</p> <p>Feet are massage with your choice of peppermint or ginger-spice salt scrub then wrapped in warm towels. <i>A sensational treat for the feet!</i> Massage services start at \$105 for 60-minute therapeutic massage. Limited time special!</p>	<p>Gift of Relaxation</p> <p>Massage Gift Certificates</p> <p>Buy 2 Get 3rd for \$25 Off!</p> <p>Every massage includes a FREE Soak at time of massage. It's like 2 gifts in 1!*</p> <p>Special offers end 1/3/24. *Frequency cards, massage gift certificates & single-soak passes expire one year from purchase date. **Punch passes expire 4 months from purchase date. See website for more details and restrictions.</p>
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970-264-5910 | 140 Hot Springs Blvd | www.pshotsprings.com
Office open 8am-10pm daily | Pools open to general public 11am-10pm daily

Give Today! Early giving has begun.

SW Colorado Gives Day

Support the causes you care about and keep your dollars local.
Visit swcogives.org to contribute to 150+ organizations that serve youth, the arts, animals, environment, human services, and more.

December 5, 2023
swcogives.org

THANK YOU FOR GIVING LOCAL!

the Community Foundation serving Southern Colorado
Ballantine Family Fund | 1st SouthWest Bank

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Order Fresh Groceries Online | Enter Your Information | We deliver to your home!

We proudly give 10% of all proceeds to our local food pantry!

BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs.

As long-time locals, we operate with small-town hospitality without the "Pagosa-time mentality." Your time is as valuable as ours, so we operate with punctuality.

Mountain Men Disaster Mitigation is here to service you and your family through providing quality in our work, and being timely and efficient.

Don't forget to check your crawl spaces for standing water. Water mixed with the normal environments produced in a crawlspace is the perfect breeding ground for microbial growth. We also offer sump pump system installations and repairs as well as moisture barriers. Call today for a free evaluation!

Spring is here. Don't forget to check your crawlspaces for standing water and microbial growth or call us for a free inspection!

Call us for 24/7 Emergency Response
Call 970-946-0238 or 970-749-9028

Mountain Men

Disaster Mitigation

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FLOOD MITIGATION
DUCT CLEANING

Fire Restoration | Mold Remediation | Smoke and Odor Removal
Water Extraction | Structural Drying

Lars Schneider 970-946-0238
MountainMenDM.com • mail@mountainmendem.com

BJ Jones 970-749-9028

Your source for community news:
The Pagosa Springs SUN



Photo courtesy Shanna Rob

Volunteers who put on the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Patriotic Order's Veterans Day dinner pose for a photo. The event was reported to be very successful, with Catholic youth group members and Knights serving the meal and enjoying the company of the veterans. Jim and Theresa Bryan prepared a traditional Italian spaghetti and meatball dinner, which included a special cake with all the military service emblems on it. The event served more than 100 veterans and family members, and Gene Tautges put together a moving military video honoring past and present veterans that reportedly did not leave a dry eye in the narthex of Pope John Paul Church.

Rio Grande National Forest presentation: 'Wolves and the Rio Grande National Forest'

Rio Grande National Forest

The Rio Grande National Forest will be presenting this month's Forest Specialist Series on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 5 p.m.

Rio Grande National Forest Fisheries and Wildlife Program Manager Jason Remshardt and Colorado Parks and Wildlife Southwest Region Senior Wildlife Biologist, Jamin Grigg will be presenting information about gray wolves and their reintroduction.

They'll talk about wolves biology and identification as well as the reintroduction program managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

This online event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once-monthly online presentation in partnership with the

San Juan Mountains Association to share information with our community.

Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande>, or Facebook page for

event information.

We hope you'll join us online Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 5 p.m. to learn more about the new residents of the forest — gray wolves — and their reintroduction.

Input

Continued from A14

Learn more about the proposed USFS guidance and submit your comments online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=ORMS-3524>.

NPS

This draft NPS guidance will help NPS wilderness and climbing managers make informed decisions regarding the placement and/or replacement of permanent bolts, chains or other climbing equipment used in NPS wilderness areas.

The draft guidance outlines the processes for managing existing and new climbing routes in wilderness.

The analysis will help NPS determine what level of fixed anchor use best preserves the totality of wilderness character while taking account of human safety concerns.

"Like many in the climbing community, I share a lifelong love and appreciation of outdoor recreation sparked by a childhood spent exploring and enjoying the natural world," NPS Director Chuck Sams said. "The proposed guidance will help provide a consistent process for installing new or replacing existing fixed anchors in wilderness and ensure that we are managing these important areas for the benefit of current and future generations."

Learn more about the proposed NPS guidance and submit your comments online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=132387>.

Thanks

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes extends its sincere thanks to The Ross Aragon Community Center for graciously allowing the use of its facilities for serving the early Thanksgiving meal to the community on Friday, the 17th. We also thank Jack Ellis and Friends for providing their amazing music which was so enjoyed and even had guests up dancing! Additionally, we thank The Pagosa Sun for its support in getting the word out about the meal to our guests. And to all who helped plan, cook, serve and clean up, thank you. Happy Thanksgiving Pagosa!

Ken Young,
Board President

Join Us
for Our

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Holiday Open House

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Christmas in Pagosa



Healing Waters Resort & Spa



Terry's ACE Colorado Home Supply



Pike Interiors



Two Old Crows



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Heralds of Christmas, a favorite local Christmas tradition, will once again be hosted by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Heralds of Christmas right around the corner

By Rick Artis
Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Heralds of Christmas concert series will once again be hosted by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 3 p.m.

The church is located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., just south of the hospital.

This year's event promises to be better than ever. More than 15 musicians, featuring many of Pagosa's favorite performers, will fill the hall with a variety of holiday music. Festive seasonal favorites combined with a few less traditional arrangements promise to delight the audience.

Heralds of Christmas is presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society. The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society is dedicated to music education in Pagosa Springs, providing equipment, instrument repair, private lessons and more to several of the schools in town. This year, the schools have a variety of needs, from providing pairs of drum sticks or a series of lessons to a set of chimes and many items in between. Donations to help fill these needs will be graciously accepted.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us next month at the Heralds of Christmas. This is a free event. As a holiday favorite, the church will fill quickly.

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

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Wednesday
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Christmas in Pagosa

An old-fashioned celebration

Support our community by attending the events and sales at these local establishments this holiday season. These businesses have worked hard to make this a magical shopping season for you!

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN ENCOURAGES YOU TO SHOP AT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Creation Care Pagosa to offer program on sustainable holidays

By Sarah Riehm
Creation Care Pagosa

Creation Care Pagosa is an ecumenical organization dedicated to Christ-centered environmental stewardship. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

Do you get stressed out during the holiday season? Are you feeling frazzled over the strain on your finances, time and emotions during this time of year? Do you sometimes wonder why people call this “the most wonderful time of the year”?

Come to our meeting to find out practical ways to enjoy a stress-free and joyful holiday season. We'll discuss tips that will help sustain your emotional and spiritual health, while also sharing ideas on how to celebrate the holidays in more eco-friendly ways.

Why don't you take a break from the holiday hubbub and join us? We offer a free, environmentally friendly (and delicious) meal to all who attend. Everyone is welcome.

If you plan to attend, please email Laura Lunsford at lunsfordu-wf@gmail.com so we have enough food.

Creation Care is a group of dedicated Pagosans who meet to discuss and take action on environmental issues in our community and beyond. There are no dues, no bylaws, no corporate structure, no hidden fees. All are welcome. Please join us on Nov. 30.

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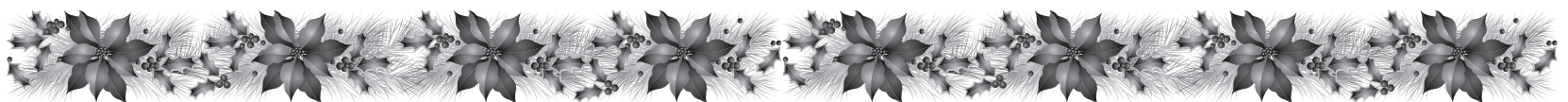


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Four holiday party themes

Special to The PREVIEW

The holiday season is a festive time of year filled with plenty of opportunities to socialize with friends and family. Parties abound this time of year, and many people may find themselves hosting everything from intimate gatherings to large family dinners.

As people will be attending many different events in the weeks to come, savvy hosts and hostesses may want to set their occasions apart in different ways. One option is to pick an entertaining party theme that guests can get excited about. A fun theme can provide a break from the standard traditions.

Consider these four party themes when planning holiday parties.

1. Ornament exchange.

Decorating the home is commonplace this time of year. Who couldn't use a new trinket for the mantle or an ornament to adorn the tree? Ask all guests to bring a gift-wrapped ornament to the party. Then place numbers in a bowl and have each guest draw a number; this is the order in which they will then select an ornament. After the first person makes their selection, subsequent guests can choose a new ornament from the pile or "steal" one from those already picked. The guest who picked first then has one last chance to keep or steal at the end.

2. Tropical holiday.

The weather outside may be frightful, but a tropical island party can be utterly delightful. Give the event an island flair with fruity drinks, grilled kabobs, coconut desserts and steel-drum music.

3. Grinchy party.

A party devoted to the Dr. Seuss character the Grinch can be a fun way to pass time together. While the holidays are supposed to be holly and jolly, a Grinch-themed party can put the emphasis on being a little bit more naughty than nice. And who doesn't enjoy an ample serving of roast beast? Have guests come decked out in Grinch costumes or Grinch-emblazoned T-shirts or other clothing.

4. Christmas karaoke.

Set up the karaoke machine or utilize one of the services available online, and make sure that guests are prepared to belt out their favorite holiday tunes — whether traditional carols or pop hits. A group of ladies can join together for The Waitresses' "Christmas Wrapping" or guests can try their hands at hitting the high notes of Mariah Carey's ubiquitous "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Chances are serving some liquid courage will help guests loosen up and be more inclined to grab the microphone.

These are just a few different party themes that holiday hosts can consider this season.

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Wreaths Across America sponsorship deadline Nov. 28

By Linda Hobbs

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Wreaths Across America Wreath Sponsorship deadline is Nov. 28.

Please join area neighbors and businesses in supporting our veterans who are buried at Hilltop Cemetery and beyond.

Volunteers are busy this week marking the graves of known veterans whose final resting place is at Hilltop Cemetery. With your help we will be able to place a fresh balsam remembrance wreath at these graves of the fallen. These wreaths will remain in place until the weather is nice enough to recover them.

The Children of the American Revolution have joined as a local sponsorship group this year in addition to the Vets 4 Vets and the Daughters of the American Revolution. These groups can assist in your sponsorship wishes at participating cemeteries, whether it be here in Pagosa Springs or elsewhere.

With your help, it is our goal to once again cover all known veteran

graves at Hilltop. Any sponsorship overflow will assist our neighbors in Bayfield, Durango and Ignacio. About 2,300 wreath sponsorships are needed for complete coverage.

Sponsored wreaths are \$17 and will be placed at gravesites on Wreath Day, Dec. 16, at Hilltop Cemetery following the 10 a.m. Remembrance Ceremony. The public is encouraged to join for the ceremony and wreath laying.

Sponsoring wreaths through your favorite sponsorship group allows for these groups to continue their missions. Sponsorships are tax-deductible. Contact members of these organizations for assistance with your sponsorship wishes, use the Web address provided, or contact the local coordinator, Linda Hobbs, at (713) 304-2028 or lindahobbs713@gmail.com.

Sponsorships can be done via www.wreathscrossamerica.org/co0186P or www.wreathscrossamerica.org/co0258P.

Remember, honor and teach this Wreath Remembrance Day, Dec. 16.



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Season's Greetings



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir's annual Christmas concerts will be presented Dec. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. The free concerts will include popular and lesser-known songs celebrating Christmas.

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

By Heidi Tanner
Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The "Sounds of the Season" Christmas concerts will soon be presented by the Pagosa Springs Community Choir.

Our annual Christmas concerts are scheduled for Dec. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Admission is free, but the Community Choir graciously accepts donations which help to keep the organization running and funds our annual vocal scholarships.

Members of the Community Choir are Pagosa Springs residents who love to sing. The choir welcomes all singers and begins rehearsing for these concerts early in September. Our Christmas concerts are the culmination of many

hours of dedication from our members and our music director Dan Burch and our accompanist Venita Burch. And, we all have a great time preparing to share our musical gifts with the Pagosa Springs community at large.

These concerts have been occurring annually for more than 20 years and they are a special gift given to Pagosa Springs each year by the Community Choir.

Come see our sparkling attire, our stage beautifully decorated for the season and our voices raised in song, celebrating Christmas. You will hear many of your traditional favorites such as "Silent Night" and George Frideric Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah."

You will be treated to some lesser-known, but equally beautiful songs such as "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" whose melody

hauntingly caresses you while giving meaning to a hope for peace in our challenging modern times.

We look forward to greeting you and making this holiday season special for you and your family. Please come and enjoy these beautiful concerts presented by the Pagosa Springs Community Choir.

Save the dates for Dec. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 10, in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

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Tips for picking the perfect Christmas tree

Special to The PREVIEW

Christmas trees are among the most recognizable symbols of the holiday season, and the popularity of trees is undeniable.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year. Christmas trees also are big business in Canada, where Statistics Canada notes cash receipts from Canadian Christmas tree producers totaled nearly \$163.5 million in 2022.

Annual spending on Christmas trees underscores how important they are to holiday decor. Christmas trees serve as the centerpiece in millions of holiday home decor schemes, so it's important to pick a tree that can shine in that role.

This holiday season, celebrants can consider these tips as they look for the perfect Christmas tree.

- Measure the area where the tree will be placed. A large tree can be awe-inspiring, but also can stick out like a sore thumb if it takes up too much space. There should be enough room around the tree for families and their guests to sit around it. The home interior experts at Better Homes and Gardens recommend leaving a minimum of 6 inches between the top of the tree and the ceiling. If a tree topper will be added, make sure the top of the tree is at least 12 inches from the ceiling. Measure the area before leaving to get a tree so it can fit nicely into the room and the surrounding decor.

- Try the shake test. Anyone who has purchased a fresh-cut Christmas tree is undoubtedly familiar with the shake test, which remains an effective way to measure the

dryness of the tree. A slight shake will produce some fallen needles. If the needles are brown and few and far between, then the tree likely is not overly dry. However, a lot of falling green needles indicates the tree is already drying out, which means it could shed quite a bit and lose its looks before Christmas Day.

- Pick a tree with a symmetrical look. Trees are living things, so it's unlikely that buyers will find a perfectly symmetrical tree. However, a tree that's misshapen or already has some sagging branches won't make for an awe-inspiring addition to a home decor scheme.

- Find the trunk (if you can). A trunk that's visible through the branches indicates the tree does not have dense branches, which will be necessary if homeowners want to dress the tree with ornaments. If it's hard to find the trunk because of all the thick branches and green needles, then the tree is likely pretty healthy.

- Test the needles. The home improvement experts at Lowes note that needles should be flexible but still snap when bent sharply. Avoid trees with needles that are already losing their color and can easily be pulled off.

A Christmas tree garners a lot of attention come the holiday season, which only underscores the significance of finding a tree worthy of being the centerpiece of holiday decor.

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Keep growing this holiday season with festive plants

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

Holiday horticulture tends to revolve around the same handful of plants.

So, if you don't already have any or all of these five holiday plants, now is the time to get them.

Paperwhites

The bulbs of these daffodil family members are pre-chilled so they can be planted now and produce flowers in a month to six weeks. If you find them for sale, by all means buy as many as you can. The only caveat is that some family members may object to the unbelievably sweet smell of their blooms.

While you can grow these bulbs by setting their bases in just a bit of water, it is best to plant them in a shallow container of soil. They don't need much water and will perform well if given the best light you have. If yours sprouts, you are guaranteed flowers, at least the first year. People usually toss them when they are finished, as they're unlikely to flower again.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias, of course, are for sale in all manner of venues this time of year. Many of us buy them, keep them for the next few weeks and then toss them. The trick is to keep them alive for the holiday season. This requires first bringing the plant home with minimum exposure to cold air. If you live in a cold climate, consider warming the car before transporting them. Once home, the plants should not be exposed to drafts from doorways or windows. Place them where daytime temperatures are between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and with 60 as an ideal night temp. Soak the entire pot whenever the surface turns dry. Let them drain and keep checking the soil surface for the next dunking.

Poinsettias should never sit in water, so if you want to keep the decorative foil that accompanies many of them, poke a hole in it to let water out.

Christmas trees

These, too, are their own gardening activity. Make sure your tree is kept in plenty of water and pay the strictest attention to safety rules if you use lights. After Christmas, look for a place that will chip up and recycle your tree, or place it in a back corner of your yard as cover for birds.

Amaryllis

These are the easiest and showiest bulbs you can buy, and they produce the largest flowers you are

Extension Viewpoints

ever likely to grow. They are usually sold together with pot and soil, and all you need to do is ensure yours is planted so that one-third of the top of the bulb is above the soil line.

Keep the plant growing right through summer. Then put yours into a cool, dark location so it goes dormant, to be brought out again next holiday season for flowering.

Christmas cactus

Christmas cacti, Schlumbergeras, are another great plant that blooms during the mid-winter holidays. They will live for dozens of holiday seasons (some are passed on from one generation to the next) and bloom each year if exposed to shortening days. Rooting cuttings is easy using just a leaf, so it is not uncommon for a clone of the same plant to be in more than one family member's home.

Christmas cacti do best in bright light. When it is in bloom, a Christmas cactus should only be watered when the soil is dry. Too much water and the flowers will drop off, so this is one of those times when too dry is better than too wet. The rest of the year, water by soaking the pot when the surface soil dries out. Next fall, give your plants natural light and keep cool, up against a window, and they will bloom again.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month by the CSU Extension office, generally on the second Monday and Wednesday of each month from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on our website: <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.



This Thanksgiving, PSMC shares its gratitude for our employees and this wonderful community.

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23.

We will reopen on Friday, November 24th to serve you.

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How to survive the holidays when you are coping with trauma: a last-minute guide to making it through the merriment

By Amanda Briggs
Rise Above Violence

The season of good tidings and cheer is officially upon us. But what if you are not feeling particularly cheerful? What if you are still struggling through the aftermath of trauma? This happy time of the year can feel isolating for people who are feeling sad, angry, anxious or any other difficult emotion post-trauma.

Here are five ways to navigate the holidays in the aftermath of trauma.

1. You can say no.

If your friends or family are not behaving in a healthy and supportive manner post-trauma, you are not obligated to spend the holidays with them. You don't have to send a lengthy explanation. Something as simple as, "I won't be at dinner tomorrow, thanks for the invite" is perfectly fine. If your friends or family press you for an explanation, it is acceptable to say something like, "I don't have energy to talk through this at this time. I hope you have a fun get-together." If they continue to press you to talk about it, you are allowed to ignore calls and messages.

2. Surround yourself with healthy, supportive people.

Think of the healthy, safe, mature, trustworthy people in your life. The people who let you be who you are and where you are without judging you or trying to fix you.

Ask those people if you can spend the holidays with them. If you feel OK doing so, share what you're going through with these people ahead of time so they know you are struggling and can show you extra support.

3. Have an exit strategy.

Wherever you decide to spend the holidays, have a plan to leave if you need to. Large or loud crowds of people can be particularly stressful for someone who is recovering from trauma. If you can, share how you are doing emotionally with someone before the event. Ask them if they can leave with you or call you and give you an excuse to step out if you need to. It might be helpful to have a code word. Don't feel bad about calling it a night early if you need to.

4. It's OK to be sad and angry.

You do not have to be happy just because it is supposed to be a joyful time of the year. It is OK to be quiet and just sit and observe the festivities if you do not feel like participating. You are allowed to feel sad and angry that you experienced trauma. The time of year doesn't change that.

5. It's OK to allow yourself a

reprieve from the trauma.

It is also OK to give yourself permission to have fun, enjoy some good food, laugh, and catch up with friends and family. In general, making a list of things for which you are grateful is an instant mood boost. You are allowed to have fun, enjoy the season and partake in lighthearted festivities if it serves you. Doing so will not negate the legitimacy of your trauma. Your trauma is real, and that truth will stand no matter how you decide to approach the holidays. But it is also healthy and OK to take a moment to enjoy yourself this holidays season as you remember you are more than the trauma you have experienced.

Rise Above Violence wishes you peace, hope and safe people to surround you during this holiday season. And if you need support, our free and confidential 24-hour hotline can be reached every day of the year by dialing (970) 264-9075.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100



DECEMBER IS BUCKS FOR BIKES MONTH

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

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

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Thanksgiving gratitude to all who help us serve you

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

The staff at your library are thankful all year-round for so many people who make their jobs easier and their service better for you, our patrons. On this Thanksgiving week, we want to publicly acknowledge some of the very special among them.

We are thankful for the many volunteers who work every day to help us maintain the collection; shelve returned books, CDs and DVDs; and make sure all the books and materials are clean and in their proper place. Because of our small staff, these volunteers are vital to our service to you.

We are grateful for the time and dedication of our library board. They also are unpaid volunteers who are committed to making the library an essential hub of our community.

We appreciate the members of our library foundation board, also unpaid volunteers, with the mission to raise funds for information resources, programs, services and facilities. The foundation leaders are especially grateful for the generosity of those in our community who have supported our Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate your library.

We also want to pay tribute to the Friends of the Library. Their generosity, enthusiasm and creativity result in so many benefits to your library, especially with the proceeds of their summer and pop-up book sales.

Library director Meg Wempe said she has always appreciated the quote from Elizabeth Andrew, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart."

We are grateful for what all our many dedicated volunteers do for the library and our patrons.

Library News

We wish you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving closures

Your library will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 23-25 so that our staff can celebrate this national holiday with loved ones.

While the physical library is closed Thursday through Sunday, our downloadable items and on-line resources are available 24/7, as always.

Welcome to our new staff member

We look forward to welcoming Sherry Vanatta to our staff next Tuesday, Nov. 28. She will be responsible for our early literacy programs, and you'll have the pleasure of reading about her in next week's "Library News" column published on Nov. 30.

Save the date for library fundraiser

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

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

Tickets are \$50 per person in advance and \$60 at the door. They can be purchased online at pagosalibrary.org, or in person with cash or check at the library.

■ See Library on page 14

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Happy Thanksgiving

From Dan Power, your local RE/MAX agent for New Mexico and Colorado.

I am especially thankful for the Pagosa Springs Community and I will be providing a Free One Year Home Warranty for all of my Sellers and Buyers for the remainder of 2023 and all of 2024.



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750 Invitation Circle
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MLS 800525



31 Jubilee
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3 bedroom with fenced yard
MLS 808742



1147 Ute Drive
\$375,000
1 acre with 3 bedroom home
MLS 804876



130 Dylan Drive
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MLS 802870

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MLS 808838



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2 offices with reception area
MLS 808892



2240 Crooked Road
\$68,000
Lot with hiking trail on back
MLS 804819



301 N. Pagosa Boulevard
\$225,000
Great location, 1,000 sq. ft.
MLS 808387



62 Cactus Drive
\$46,000
1.1 acres with view, horses okay
MLS 808771

Library

■ continued from page 12

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular free virtual author talks continue with one more opportunity 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>.

On Thursday, Nov. 30, at 1 p.m. you can interact with bestselling author Naomi Alderman, who will focus on writing dystopian worlds.

Reminisce Club for seniors

Seniors aged 60 and up are invited to explore photos, magazines, special items, dates and events as we reminisce about the “good ol’ days” on Monday, Nov. 27, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Research shows reminiscing helps reduce symptoms of depression and boosts self-esteem.

Shakespeare read-aloud

Shakespeare fans of all ages are invited to join us in reading aloud “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” on Monday, Nov. 27, 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. 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.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Tuesday, Nov. 28, and Thursday, Nov. 30, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. There are two sessions next week to make up for missing the game Thanksgiving week. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Elementary tutoring sessions

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

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.

derie 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.

New requests for Tech Time participants

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 is needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring both your device’s charger and also your device passwords 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.

Nonfiction biographies and memoirs

“Hitchcock’s Blondes” by biographer Laurence Leamer explores the lives of eight legendary actresses behind the legendary director’s obsession. We have two books by Kevin W. Braun: “The Beveled Edge” is his memoir about self-discovery and “Sailing Adventures” tells of his aunt’s and uncle’s travels in the South Pacific. “Every

■ See Library on page 15




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Library

■ continued from previous page

Man for Himself and God Against All” by Werner Herzog tells of the filmmaker’s difficult childhood and multiple film successes.

Nonfiction self-help

“Be Useful: Seven Tools for Life” by Arnold Schwarzenegger reveals the secrets to his multifaceted life of success. “Damaged but Not Destroyed” by author and pastor Michael Todd shows how he learned to be H.O.T. — humble, open and transparent. “Law Forms for Personal Use” is the 12th edition of a NOLO guide and includes downloadable forms. “How to Write Your Own Will” by Paul C. Lambe includes templates for many situations. “How to Prevent Dementia” by Dr. Richard Restak offers practical steps to delay or help prevent Alzheimer’s and other thinking disorders.

Other nonfiction

“Extremely Online” by Washington Post reporter Taylor Lorenz documents the power of the Internet and the influencers who use it. We have five new travel guides: “Southern California” and “Northern California” from Fodor’s Travel, “Spain” from Rick Steves, “Ireland” from Lonely Planet, and the ninth edition of “Guide to National Parks of the United States” by National Geographic.

Thrillers, mysteries and suspense

“The Secret” by Lee and Andrew Child is a Jack Reacher thriller. “Long Shadow” by David Baldacci is an Amos Becker “Memory

Man” murder mystery. “Becoming the Boogeyman” by Richard Chizmar focuses on the relationship between an incarcerated serial killer and the only person he’ll talk to. “The Last Devil to Die” by Richard Osman is a Thursday Murder Club mystery.

Books on CD

“Dirty Thirty” by Janet Evanovich is a Stephanie Plum mystery. “Absolution” by Alice McDermott explores the lives of two women who meet in Saigon as their husbands play major roles in the Vietnam War. “Obsession” by Stuart Woods and Brett Battles is a Teddy Fay kidnapping mystery also featuring Stone Barrington.

New donation guidelines

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 new guidelines for what they will accept as donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2013 or later, nonfiction books published 2018 or later, and children’s and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

“You know it’s a good Thanksgiving when your heart is as full as your stomach.” — Richard Paul

Evans, American author.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.

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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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Photo courtesy Susan Marsh

Musk thistle blossom.

Pulling thistles, sowing hope

By Susan Marsh
PREVIEW Columnist

For the past few years I've participated in "Thistle Thursdays," targeting a popular trail near Jackson, Wyo. The weekly weed party was organized in 2019 by Morgan Graham, wildlife habitat specialist with the Teton County Conservation District, and it attracts more volunteers each year — 16 of us in 2023.

To slow the steady march of musk thistle, a fast-spreading weed from Eurasia, we spend Thursday morning each week bending down to tackle these interlopers. We know what we do is a drop in the bucket,

Opinion: Writers on the Range

but right here, along this trail, we see results.

Joining Graham is a mixed crew: native plant enthusiasts, elk hunters, employees of nonprofits and the Forest Service, plus "youngsters" in their 30s and retirees like me.

My friend Mary, nearly 80, wins

■ See Writers on page 17

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Bomb, as a mid-term
- 5 Lengthy narrative
- 9 Rustling sound
- 14 Latvian capital
- 15 Babe with a bat
- 16 "Deed I Do" singer Lena
- 17 Haughtiness
- 19 Love, in Lyon
- 20 Indian condiment
- 21 "Survivor" event
- 23 Entice
- 25 Trash bag closers
- 26 What bell-bottoms do
- 29 Camera stand
- 33 Abbr. in some military titles
- 34 Fast too long
- 36 Potted "pet"
- 37 Elevator pioneer
- 39 Cowpoke's charge
- 40 Potter's oven
- 41 Basketball defense
- 42 Donkey sound
- 44 Grant permission
- 45 Mesh, as gears
- 47 Save for later
- 49 Growing business?
- 51 Gets soupy, as ice cream
- 52 Yellow-flowered plant
- 56 Classical language
- 59 Watchful
- 60 Huge victory
- 62 Late newsman Morley
- 63 Parasitic insects
- 64 Had the answer
- 65 Contest submission
- 66 Multitude
- 67 Adriatic and Aegean

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18						19				
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		23			24		25							
26	27						28		29			30	31	32
33				34				35			36			
37			38		39						40			
41					42					43		44		
45				46			47				48			
			49			50		51						
52	53	54					55			56			57	58
59							60			61				
62							63				64			
65							66					67		

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DOWN

- 1 Peck film, "Cape _____"
- 2 Surrounding glow
- 3 Irsome
- 4 Riot opportunist
- 5 Memorable time
- 6 Use a comma
- 7 Monroe's "The Seven Year _____"
- 8 Swindle
- 9 Ship like Ahab's
- 10 Pining while away
- 11 Pressing need?
- 12 Tight
- 13 Roll-call response
- 18 Midway attractions
- 22 Able to read and write
- 24 Earthenware fragment
- 26 Stopped in one's tracks
- 27 Acknowledge

28 Arborist's concern

30 Goliath, e.g.

31 Drunk as a skunk

32 "Divine Comedy" author

35 Intensity

38 Ocean voyager

43 Room dividers

46 Sinclair Lewis' Elmer

48 Celery servings

50 "Pollyanna" actress Hayley

52 Bulk buy

53 Verve

54 Word before field or wing

55 Finger part

57 Brainchild

58 It's breaking, at times

61 Morning drops

Answers to Previous Crossword:

F	L	A	T		S	W	E	D	E		L	U	S	T		
R	A	S	H		M	A	R	I	A		A	S	I	A		
A	N	S	E	L	A	D	A	M	S		M	A	R	L		
T	E	E	T	E	R		S	P	E	C	I	F	I	C		
					M	A	T	T	D	I	L	L	O	N		
C	O	B			S	C	O	N	E		R	A	I	L	S	
O	W	L	S		A	L	G		C	A	T	N	A	P		
U	N	A	W	A	R	E		P	A	L	E	T	T	E		
L	E	G	E	N	D		C	O	M		D	A	T	E		
D	R	E	A	D		V	A	N	E	D		N	E	D		
					R	E	C	O	V	E	R	I	N	G		
S	N	O	W	S		S	H	O	E		A	G	E	I	S	M
H	O	B	O		A	D	M	I	S	S	I	B	L	E		
O	D	O	R		R	O	A	C	H		G	L	U	M		
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Writers

■ continued from previous page

the prize as the oldest and most enthusiastic of the crew. While we were waiting for a friend at a trailhead this summer, she spotted a musk thistle on a steep slope, went to her car for some gloves and signaled for me to follow.

“Let’s get that one,” she said. We ended up uprooting several. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) is an invasive weed, and like many invasive plants, it is adaptable and vigorous, producing prolific seeds. It competes for light and nutrients with native plants. Eventually, it can replace them.

To be fair, it has positive qualities. Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are attracted to its magenta flowers, and it blooms later than many native wildflowers, extending the season for insects. Songbirds eat its seeds.

But wildlife and livestock won’t eat musk thistle because of its spines. Where it grows, grazing animals must forage more heavily on other plants, reducing their vigor, which allows musk thistle to invade ever more space.

Tackling a stand of musk thistle requires determination. All flowers and buds are removed and placed in bags or bins. The plant, a long-lived biennial, must be cut off below the base, or pulled, to prevent further blooming.

All of us volunteers are suited up in protective gear that includes heavy gloves, long sleeves and sturdy boots. The work is hard, but the hours go quickly with conversation, laughter and impromptu contests to see who can pull out the largest thistle without tools.

We talk about plant ecology in general, but one question often comes up: “What makes it a weed?” Simply put, a plant is a weed if doesn’t belong where it’s growing. But as humans, we’re inconsistent.

To a farmer dependent on crops for a living, a weed is any plant, native or otherwise, that competes with the crop. To a hand spinner of wool, the invasive and noxious tansy is welcome for its rich golden dye. To a rancher whose cattle or sheep forage on public land, tall larkspur and several members of the pea family, all native plants, should be sprayed, for they are toxic.

We also pull out other invasives such as Canada thistle, hound’s tongue, salsify, toadflax and knapweed. Despite our best efforts, these plants are flourishing. As we work, it’s fun when bicyclists whizzing by yell out “thank you,” though some shake their heads.

“You’re pissing in the wind,” one called.

But before-and-after photographs show that our hours of work make a difference. There is satisfaction in seeing the beds of two pickup trucks filled with bags of musk thistle blossoms.

Part of me admits that I’m not making a huge difference, but a bigger part is glad I have done my little bit for however long its effects may last. My Thistle Thursday friends agree.

That’s why we keep coming back. It’s a way to say, “I’m just going to enjoy my life for as long as it lasts.” Pulling weeds and filling buckets with their flowers is a lot like tending a garden at home. We’re just tending a larger garden, the Eden we all inherited.

Most of all, we’re expressing what is perhaps the most precarious of human sentiments these days: hope.

Susan Marsh is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writer-sontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. She is a naturalist and writer for Mountain Journal, which covers Yellowstone’s wildlife, wild lands and culture. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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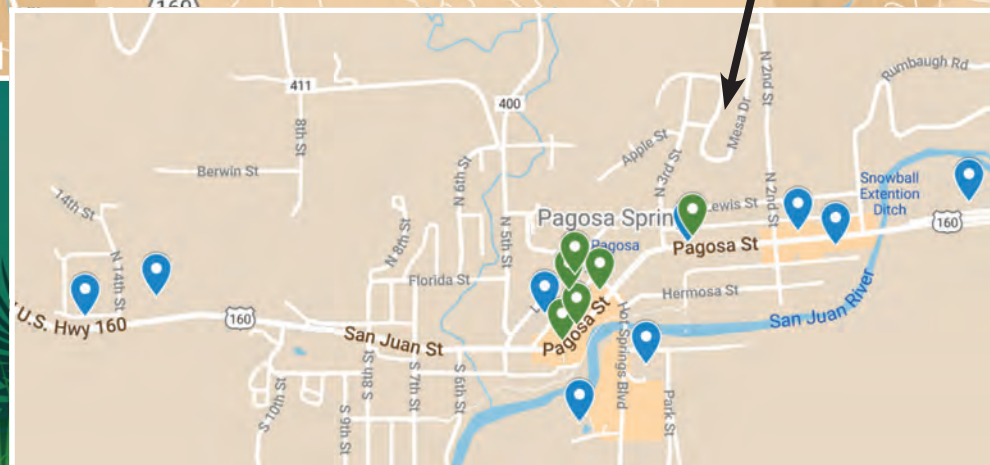
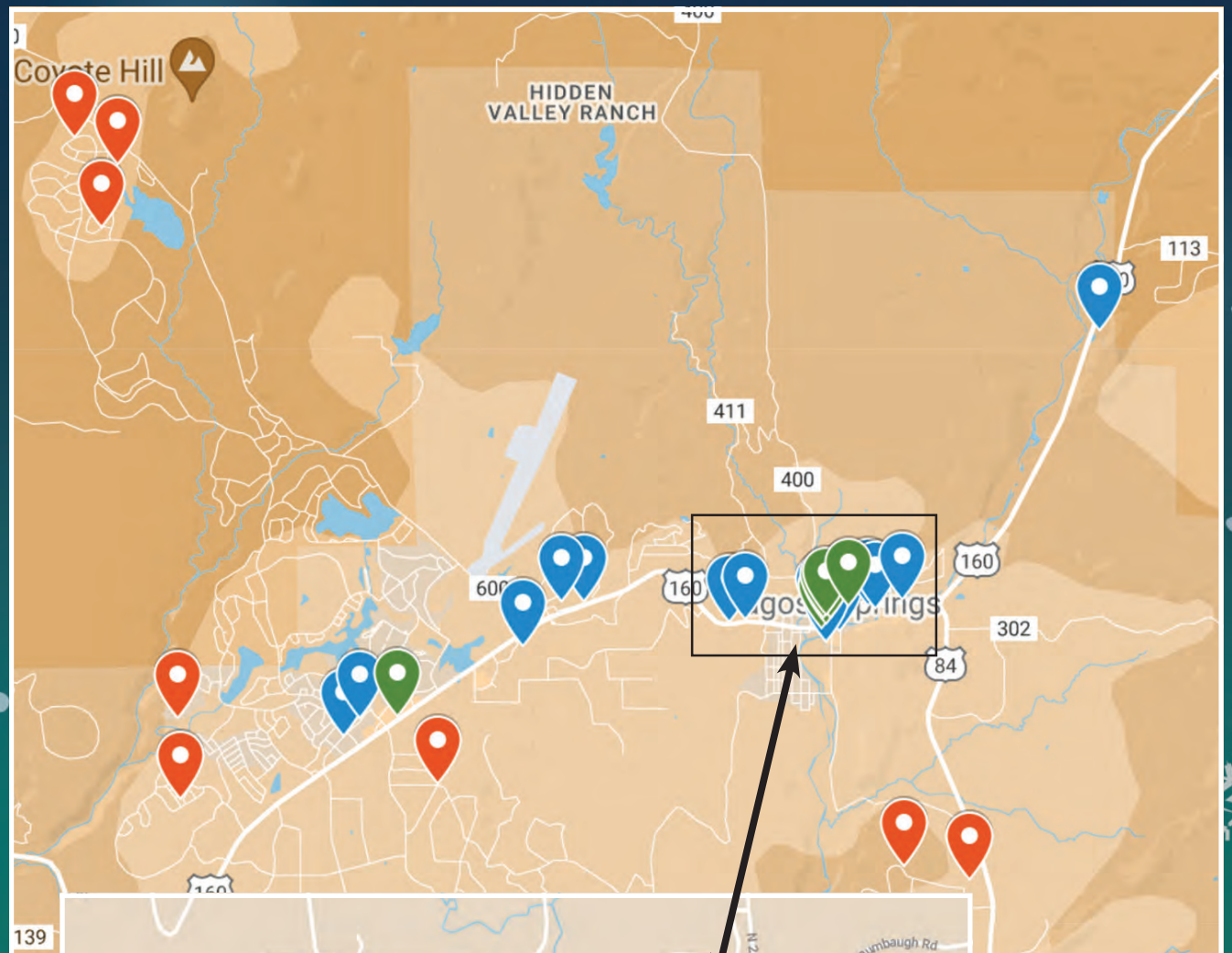
Entrants for the 2023 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

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

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

Business

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



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

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Herb Grover

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the Swainson's hawk.

"Back in the day," hearty family meals might be prepared in kettles. But, did you know that the term "kettle" applies to large groups of soaring hawks as well? The Swainson's hawk is among those hawk species that migrate from their breeding grounds across the plains of Canada and the western U.S. to as far south as Argentina in "kettles" of hundreds or thousands of birds, one of the longest migrations of any American raptor. When not migrating, they may be spotted in open areas on various perches, or even hopping on the ground as they feed on small mammals or insects.

The Swainson's hawk can be distinguished by having pointed wingtips with dark flight feathers on the trailing edge of their wings. The light-colored morph is shown in this week's photo, but their most distinctive pattern reveals a dark-colored hood and rust-colored breast.

For nesting, they gather twigs, rope and similar debris to construct a nest in the tops of trees that are either solitary or in small groves. Their nests may be a couple of feet in diameter and a foot or so high. If other raptors dare to occupy an existing Swainson's nest, the previous occupants may force the eviction of the newcomers. Laying one to five eggs per clutch, it will take 34 days or so for the eggs to hatch, and another three weeks or so before the fledglings leave the nest. During this time, the parents feed the young larger prey items, like small rodents, reptiles, etc. During the nonbreeding season, adults feed more commonly on smaller prey items, such as insects, although other, larger prey are always part of their diet.

Much of their historical plains habitat has been converted for agriculture, but they have adapted well and are often found in large groups following plows or harvesting equipment that flushes out their prey. Elimination of small woodlots and hedgerows by large-scale farming practices, along with pesticide use, however, represent potential challenges to their survival.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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Making the way back

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

Joyce's dog, Bob, had been with the family for six years. From the time he saved Joyce's life when she was 5, he had become an integral family member. But, one morning, right after they had finished harvest, Joyce called for Bob, but he never came.

She had never had that happen before. Sometimes, he might take a few minutes getting there. He might be far out in the pasture or finishing getting the cows in for milking, but he always came. She called many times. She went to all his favorite places and the ones they liked to visit together.

The last spot she checked was under the old apple tree. She and Bob spent hours there. Once she learned to read, she would read stories to him. He would lie with his head in her lap, and she would gently stroke his fur as she read.

But he was at none of these spots. Joyce went to find her father. He called the family together, and they made an exhaustive search. Her brothers even rode horses to ask the neighbors, but no one had seen Bob.

Joyce was heartbroken. "He wouldn't just leave."

"Maybe he decided his job was done here," her father said. "Perhaps he decided it was time to move on. After all, he just wanted in here when he came."

Joyce shook her head. "That doesn't sound like Bob."

It wasn't until later that she

learned her father assumed coyotes had killed Bob, as they had many other dogs in the area. But he said what he did because he felt it would be more comforting.

For a couple of weeks, Joyce went out every morning and called for Bob, hoping beyond hope that he had come home. But finally, she quit, sure he would never return.

Then, almost a month after he disappeared, the family was eating breakfast when they heard a scratch at the back door and a whimper. Joyce almost knocked her food to the floor in her haste to get to the door. She opened it, and there lay Bob. He was emaciated, could hardly move, and was covered with blood. Joyce hugged him. Her father patted her to have her move aside, then he gently took Bob in his arms and carried him inside. Joyce's mother got an old blanket and made a bed by the fireplace.

Joyce got Bob some milk and warmed it at her mother's suggestion. The temperature outside was below freezing, and Bob was shivering, though he didn't seem to have the energy even to do that. When Joyce gave him the milk, he tried to stand to drink but couldn't. Her mother got a cloth, soaked it in milk, then drizzled it into Bob's mouth. Joyce saw how and soon took over Bob's feeding.

Joyce's father checked Bob for wounds and found that the blood was coming from his feet, which were blistered and lacerated. They were cleaned and bandaged. It

was days before anyone was sure Bob would live, and it was more than a week before he could stand. But, within a month, he was again running with Joyce up the lane to the mailbox.

The next fall, when the immigrant crew that helped with the harvest came, Bob suddenly blocked their path, growling and baring his teeth at them. The men started backing away as Bob approached, looking like he would attack. Joyce's father called Bob back.

The men seemed confused and were babbling in their language. Luckily, one of Joyce's brothers understood them. The family learned that the men had admired Bob's ability with cattle and had stolen him the last fall. They had taken him nearly 2,000 miles away to their next harvest area. Bob had disappeared the minute the men let him go.

Once the harvest crew's leader realized the family knew what they had done, he begged forgiveness and asked that they still be allowed to work. Joyce's father was angry, but the family needed the help. However, they kept an eye on everything, and Bob slept in the house at night.

Joyce considered the distance and the time Bob was gone, and realized Bob must have traveled over 70 miles a day. But he did it to make his way home — his home and his family, and that made her love him even more.

To be continued.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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New Thought Center announces Sunday topic

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

At the Sunday service on Nov. 26 at 11 a.m., Shayla White Eagle McClure will speak on "Every Day Sacred- As we go into the Holiday Season we are reminded to Shine and Give to others."

"Universal harmony begins with recognition that the life in an ordinary pebble is as sacred as conscious selfhood. Appreciate the sacred life you have, it is a gift from God. The greatest blessing is the gift of life." — Anonymous ancient teaching.

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. 23, 3 p.m.: Thanksgiving

dinner potluck at the New Thought Center.

Nov. 26, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with White Eagle McClure.

Dec. 4, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Dr. Elaine Harding.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve celebration on Zoom. Join White Eagle McClure for a beautiful ceremony.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers.

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).

Give thanks

I wish you & your family a beautiful Thanksgiving. All my gratitude to family, friends and customers for your friendship and support.



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Preview Calendar

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

Wednesday, Nov. 22

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

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

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

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

Video Gaming. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. All ages are invited to play age-appropriate video games on Xbox, Wii and various other game systems. Team and active games will be featured.

Thursday, Nov. 23

TARA Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Noon, TARA Community Center. A free Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the TARA Community Center. Share a delicious Thanksgiving meal together. The TARA Food Pantry will provide turkey and ham, and there is a sign-up sheet for those who can bring a dish. Please call, text or

email Shawna Lora if you would like to attend at (575) 590-8421 or shawnaleighlora@gmail.com.

Friday, Nov. 24

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

Saturday, Nov. 25

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.

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.

Monday, Nov. 27

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.

Reminisce Club. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Seniors aged 60 and up are invited to explore photos, magazines, special items, days and events and reminisce about the past.

Shakespeare Read-Aloud. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Shakespeare fans of all ages are invited to join in reading aloud "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

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

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

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

Pagosa Duplicate Bridge. 12:30 p.m. PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

■ See Calendar on next page

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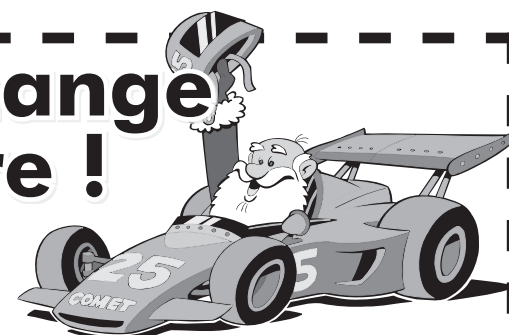
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

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. 29

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Nov. 30

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

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

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

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

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

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Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Delta.

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

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Delta.

Friday, Dec. 1

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

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs

High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Montrose.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Montrose.

■ See Calendar on next page

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Santa Claus
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to town!



& he is stopping by
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between Noon and 3:00 PM

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Have a photo taken with Santa
and tell him what you are wishing to get for Christmas.
Enjoy some Hot chocolate and cookies!

Food drive!

We are collecting food for the Healthy Archuleta FSFE Food Coalition. Donate one of the items below or give a cash donation and be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Gift Certificate to Wolf Creek Ski Area

- Canned Beans (black and pinto)
- Canned Fruit (in fruit juice)
- Canned Meats (tuna and chicken)
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soups (meat and vegetarian)
- Canned Tomatoes (all styles)
- Canned Vegetables (mixed veggies or individual such as green beans, carrots, or corn)
- Carton Milk (non-refrigerated/aseptic containers)

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



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Saturday, Dec. 2

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Wolf Creek Classic. Pagosa versus Rocky Mountain.

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

Sunday, Dec. 3

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

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

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

Monday, Dec. 4

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

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

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, Dec. 5

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

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

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

Pagosa Duplicate Bridge. 12:30 p.m. PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Duplicate players new and experi-

enced 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.

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Wednesday, Dec. 6

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 7

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

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

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

to learn.

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

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Parade of Lights Fri., Nov 24

Holiday Market Sat., Nov 25 | Sat., Dec 9 & 16

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Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol
Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre
Nov. 24 - Dec. 16
Fridays @ 7pm
Saturdays @ 2pm & 7pm

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Friday, Dec. 8

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 9

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.

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

Late Night at the Library. 5 p.m., Sisson Library. The fundraiser for the Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate the library will feature hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fun turning old books into repurposed treasurers. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. They can be purchased online at pagosalibrary.org, or with cash or check at the library.

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

Sunday, Dec. 10

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

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

Monday, Dec. 11

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, Dec. 12

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

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

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

more details.

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

■ See Calendar on next page




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Downtown .52 acres, location, location, location. MLS 809064 ■ \$500,000



1.11 acre commercial property with highway exposure and 53x39 building. MLS 802695 ■ \$300,000



35.81 acre horse ranch property, ag status. Survey completed. MLS 797745 ■ \$300,000



3 bedroom, 2 bath, oversized carport on one acre, views. MLS 806370 ■ \$250,000

10 acres, just west of Arboles, prime commercial location, huge metal building, 3-phase power. \$650,000. MLS 807868


1.45 acres, 200 feet San Juan River front beauty. A great place to build. \$289,900. MLS 799749

5 acres with spacious mountain views, newly surveyed. \$250,000. MLS 802696

1.1 acre, newly installed 4 bed septic, 1800 gal cistern, power, ready for your home. \$165,000. MLS 807665

1.21 acres, great building spot with views of Navajo Lake, Water and power available. \$75,000. MLS 806728

1.21 acres, No HOA! Trees galore. \$35,000. MLS 798589



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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.

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, Dec. 13

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 14

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

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

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

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Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Salida.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Salida.

Friday, Dec. 15

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Buena Vista.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Buena Vista.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Wreaths Across America Wreath Day Remembrance Ceremony. 10 a.m., Hilltop Cemetery. The public is encouraged to join for the ceremony and wreath laying.

Monday, Dec. 18

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, Dec. 19

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger.

■ See Calendar on next page

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Tricia G. Vega - Health Insurance Agent — CO License #252560

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—Kanaka Perea



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We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

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guage 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.

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Wednesday, Dec. 20

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

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

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

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Golf Course, 3/3, single story on triple lot, made for entertaining, 3-car garage. MLS 805566 • \$1,284,900



Great 2/2 with 2-car garage, new flooring, fenced backyard, easy lock-n-go. MLS 808890 • \$385,000



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on 80 acre ranch with barn and hayfield, 4/5, open concept with water/ditch rights, one-of-a-kind home. MLS 808285 \$1,938,000

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

CLUE: THE MUSICAL

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... solving the whodunit mystery during Curtains Up Pagosa's production of "Clue: The Musical." The recent production invited the audience to play along to help solve the mystery like in the classic board game.



Senior Center announces December art classes

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Senior News

There will be two free art classes in December because there are two wonderful Christmas projects and both need to be created.

On Monday, Dec. 4, we will be making a small box suitable for giving a gift card. We will be using old Christmas cards, so bring some if you have them. But, there will be plenty of cards if you don't. Everyone will end up with at least one very special gift card box.

On Dec. 14, we will be making a globe out of old Christmas cards. This involves cutting 20 circles, all the same size, and gluing them together in a specified way. It's easy to do and the results are gorgeous, so come join in on the fun.

Both classes will begin at 1:15 and are free to attend. All supplies will be provided. No reservations are required, but space is limited, so be sure to be there by 1:15.

Our teacher will be Denise Fisk, who is a retired elementary art teacher from Iowa. She loves sharing art techniques with her classes. So, come to the Pagosa Senior Center with a friend and see how your old Christmas cards can be turned into useful pieces of art.

Senior conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of "Senior Conversations" with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

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 copenhaver-creative@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 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. 23 — Closed for

Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 24 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Monday, Nov. 27 — Chipotle lime tilapia, brown rice, glazed carrots, garden salad, fruit, milk and lemon tart.

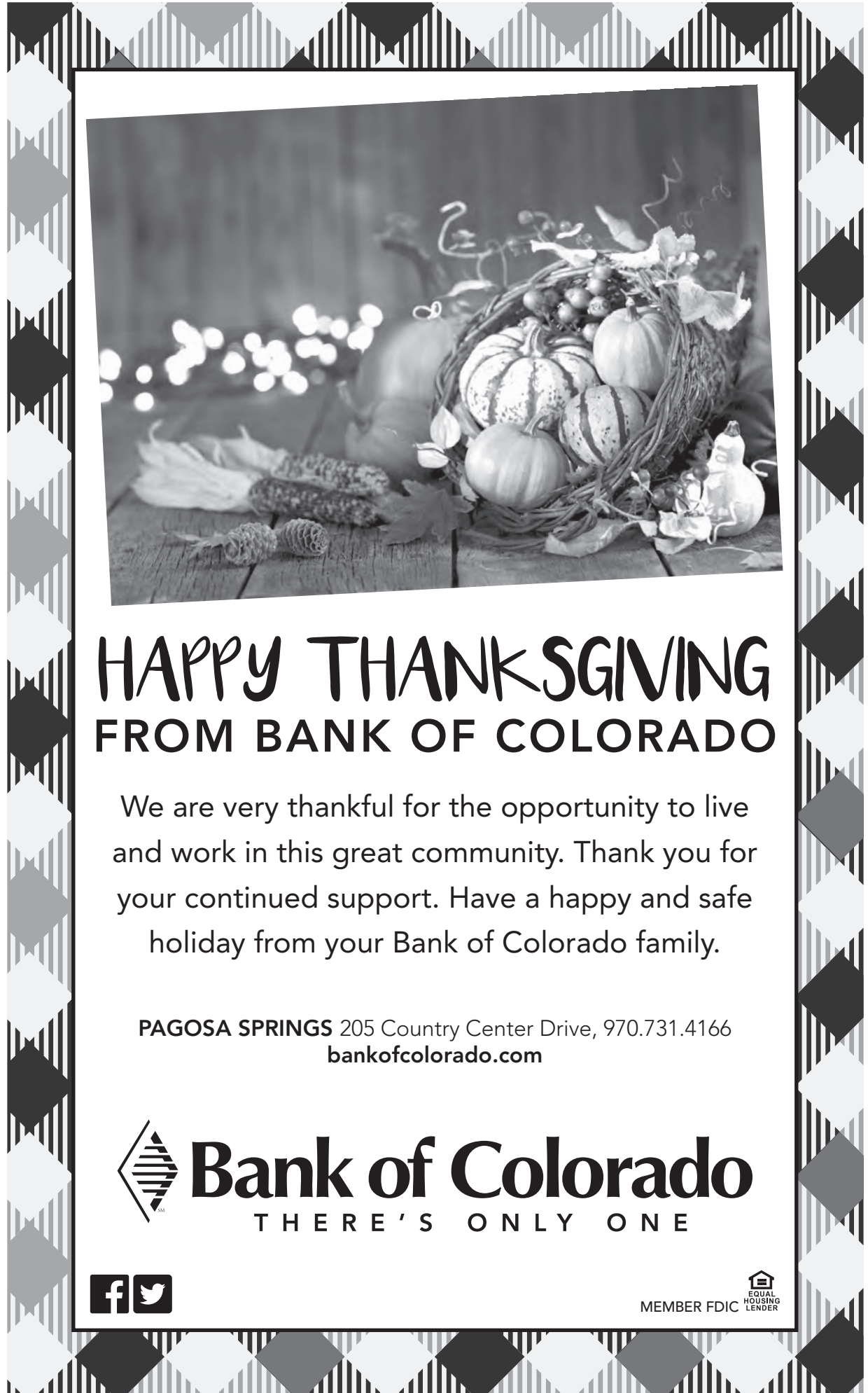
Tuesday, Nov. 28 — Ham with cherry glaze, scalloped potatoes,

dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Chicken and broccoli crepes, squash casserole, roll, garden salad, fruit, milk and strawberry shortcake.

Thursday, Nov. 30 — Beef pot roast with root vegetables, creamed

■ See Senior on next page




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We are very thankful for the opportunity to live and work in this great community. Thank you for your continued support. Have a happy and safe holiday from your Bank of Colorado family.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Senior

■ continued from previous page
spinach, garden salad, fruit, milk, bread pudding with rum sauce.

Friday, Dec. 1 – Savory stuffed portabella mushroom, Brussels sprouts, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$10 helps to sustain our program. 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 Chi-

nese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 2.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Thursdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Donations requested

ASI has an immediate monetary need to support ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County. Please consider donating.

You may mail your donation to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or please visit our website: <http://www.psseniors.org/>. Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

Getting down to brass tacks

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Artist's Lane

I bring to our writers' group every Monday morning a spiritual challenge with an idea, concept or scripture. I have five minutes. I take 10. Recently I asked the writers if they would fight the fight of faith for their voices. And, how would it look?

The scripture came to me early the week before. I dismissed the message. I didn't have anything to contribute. It was too much to unpack in five minutes. The idea blasted me in the face all week. It wouldn't turn loose.

God talks about a remnant in the last days. The remnant is the end of the fabric bolt. That part left over, too short to do much, no value in it. Usually, it's thrown on the sale table for a tenth of what it's worth and used for something totally different.

My daughter buys these remnants for her quilting. She cut the fabric in squares and she has made

beautiful quilts. She sees the value where others can't see it.

We, as people of faith, in these last days are like the remnants thrown on the sale table. The truth, God's principles and our stand don't seem to match what people want. But, so-to-speak, we have our thumb in the dam holding back a flood of lies, deception and darkness. Like the remnant, we fit into this category.

Paul writes to Timothy, "I've fought the good fight of faith," — 1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV). What would I be willing to fight for? My family? No question.

When I received this email, I knew I had to pursue this subject.

Linda A. wrote:

"I feel a kindred spirit with you! And if the Lord could depend on anyone to fight the good fight of faith it would be you. You have a large following. I pray all the time for people with a voice. You have that voice. I don't do Facebook postings — or rarely do. I haven't got followers. Everyone in Pagosa knows you. God chose you wisely."

A little embarrassed to think that I would have an impact, I wonder if I would fight for my voice in this dark world. Be in the crosshairs, a target?

Getting down to the brass tacks, I hope I would stand against the darkness, but who knows? How accurately do I measure myself? What cloth am I made of? I do know I have bolts of scripture, threads tested by time, cut straight by the Word of God and kept by the Holy Spirit in the core of my fabric.

Delving into the meaning of "getting down to brass tacks," I found

■ See Lane on next page

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What's in a name?

By Matt Witt
PREVIEW Columnist

On a visit to Crater Lake, one of this continent's most renowned natural places, I had two experiences — one inspiring and the other, not so much.

When I climbed to the crater's rim, I photographed a bird that had used its sharp bill to dig a hole and was now burying white bark pine seed.

Each of these remarkable birds buries up to 30,000 seeds per year and will remember where most of them are when winter comes and food is scarce. Some of the seeds it doesn't find will grow into new trees, helping to sustain pine forests threatened by climate change.

But when I went to label my photographs, I learned something not so inspiring.

It turned out that these birds are called Clark's nutcrackers.

"Why would a bird be named after a person, and who was Clark?" I wondered.

It turned out to be William Clark, best known for leading the Lewis and Clark expedition that helped pave the way for appropriation of land from hundreds of Indigenous communities.

After the expedition, Clark served as U.S. superintendent of Indian affairs and oversaw the extermination of many Indigenous people who resisted the taking of their land.

"Why is this bird species named after someone like that?" I asked myself.

It seems that in the early 1800s Lewis and Clark claimed to have "discovered" these birds even though they were known to Indigenous people for tens of thousands of years and were here on earth long before that.

I wasn't thrilled by this name, and

The Writers' Circle

apparently I was not alone.

This November, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) announced that it will be changing the names of all birds currently named after people. That includes 152 bird species in the U.S. and Canada.

The change comes in response to a coalition called Bird Names for Birds that includes the American Birding Association and many local birding groups.

"It is a questionable premise that species should be named after specific humans at all, as if bird species were possessions or trophies," said the AOS committee that recommended the new policy.

The AOS said it will involve the public to generate creative new names that reflect a bird species' looks, calls or habits.

The committee noted that a large number of bird names that honor individual people were coined in the 1800s to pay tribute to "soldier scientists" traveling with the U.S. Army during the appropriation of Indigenous and Mexican lands.

By contrast, Indigenous communities already living in the West named birds, animals, peaks, rivers or other natural features in order to communicate something about their characteristics — not after individual tribal leaders or members.

Perhaps other agencies and organizations responsible for official names of natural features will now adopt that approach and follow the AOS's lead.

In my time at Crater Lake, for example, I snowshoed to Applegate

Peak, which could have a name reflecting any of its dramatic characteristics but instead is named after a man who was a scout in the U.S. Army's war against the Modoc people.

In any case, I hope that on a future hike in the West's public lands I'll see another nutcracker burying seeds for the winter, and that this time the bird will have a name that reflects its extraordinary brain power.

Matt Witt is an Oregon-based writer and photographer. This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



Photo courtesy Matt Witt

A nutcracker buries white bark pine seed on the rim of Crater Lake.

Letters to Santa



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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Lane

■ continued from previous page
it comes from the haberdashery trade, where, for centuries, brass tacks were nailed along the counter to measure the length of cloth accurately. A measurement to a brass tack would be accurate as opposed to guessing.

We see ourselves differently than others sees us. How does God see us? As His remnant. Valuable. He paid the full price for us, laid down His life and gave us new life and purpose. What length would I go to preserve my voice, fight for my faith?

This is a quote from Tim Tebow's devotional book, "Mission Possible." His honest words gave me perspective: "Most things that are worth doing aren't simple. Sure. Think how easy it was for me to get super pumped and put Bible verses on my

face when I was winning championships and scoring touchdowns. It's easy to praise God when you're crushing life, when everyone loves you, when you're in perfect health, when money is in the bank, and when stress is absent. But when a giant stands in front of you, whether in the form of cancer or a career that's collapsing, what does your faith look like?"

Final brushstroke: The Bible says in the last days believers will fall away. God knows where the brass tacks are. He knows how to cut straight to truth. He's in the fight. He knows our weaknesses and He's fighting for us.

Send your comment to betty-lade.author@gmail.com

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration
Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Ques-
tions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or
Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at
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GENERAL LABORER NEEDED - Asst. duties. Please send job history or resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com, phone (970)264-5000.

GROWING SPACES is hiring enthusiastic and motivated sales individuals with a passion for organic gardening, healthy living and helping customers succeed in growing their dream gardens. We are looking for sales professionals who can promote the Growing Dome and guide customers through their journey towards year-round gardening. Experience with CRM and/or Quickbooks preferred. \$20+ DOE. EOE. Go to www.growingspaces.com/employment to print an application, or send resume to employment@growingspaces.com.

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IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR CDL DRIVER Experience in forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

MAINTENANCE PERSON NEEDED for Lakeview Estates Apartments. Must have experience and own tools. \$20 per hour. Apply in person, 857 N. Pagosa Blvd. or send resume to mountainsiderhonda@gmail.com.

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MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for a caring massage therapist ready to share your healing gifts! Fun, relaxed work environment where you are honored and appreciated. TOP PAY: \$50/hour plus tips. Email: racheldevloo@gmail.com

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Ponderosa Lumber

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PINE VALLEY RENTAL SEEKING Shop/Yard person to service equipment, assist customers in loading/unloading goods, maintain gas/ diesel engines. Welding and electrical skills a plus. MUST BE RELIABLE. Available to work full time Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. Pick up application in person at 305 Bastille Drive or email resume to ppine000@centurytel.net. Come join our rental crew!

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HELP WANTED

Special Events Coordinator. The Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce is seeking a part time coordinator. Must have customer service, energy, event planning and organizational skills and be able to work in a fast-paced, physical environment. Hours are flexible, increase during the summer and fall event season and must be able to work weekends and evenings when administering events. Position offers competitive hourly rate and some benefits. Deadline for resumes is December 15, 2023. Submit resumes to director@pagosachamber.com or drop off at the Chamber at 105 Hot Springs Blvd. Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce is an EEO employer.

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.

WOUND CARE RN/ CERTIFIED HYPERBARIC. Rio Grande Hospital has an opening in our Wound Clinic and Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy Center in Del Norte, Colorado. Must be a RN Colorado license, CPR, Wound Care certified, Certified or eligible to test for Certified Hyperbaric Specialist. Experience in Wound Care, must understand wound care and practices; capable of dealing with people and working closely with patients and physicians; workable knowledge of safety procedures; must have patience and enthusiasm as well as the willingness and ability to handle difficult situations with good judgment; must be able to work as a team member; must be willing to learn. RGH is an EOE. If interested, please complete a job application found on RGH website at www.riograndehospital.org.

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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM HOUSE at Lake Hatcher. Quiet street near to lake. Simply furnished, with all appliances, and pool table. Internet(strong) included. No smoking, small pets considered. \$2000./ mo. (970)903-9049.

3 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH, 2-car garage, 3,348 sq. ft. beautiful home on remote 35 acres. \$4,500/ month. TP-2 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or 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. TP-3 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or pagosaspringsrealty.com.

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HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR SALE

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