

County board of health to meet Dec. 12

Public invited to meet board, staff

By Ashley Wilson
Archuleta County Public Health Department

The Archuleta County Board of Health (BoH) will meet for the first time on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Archuleta County administration building, 398 Lewis St., in the commissioners' meeting room.

The BoH members were appointed by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 21

■ See Board A8

County hears 2024 budget update

Staff recommends cuts

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard an update on the county's 2024 draft budget and proposed revisions to it, including canceling the proposed creation of a senior services department and reducing road-paving expenditures, at its Dec. 5 work session.

Finance Director Chad Eaton presented the changes, explaining that the updated budget incorporated the changes discussed at the recent county budget hearings, as well as recommendations for areas to cut to balance the budget and alterations of certain revenue calculations.

He indicated that one major staff budget recommendation was for the county to continue supporting Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) with an increase in funding instead of moving

■ See Budget A8

Festival of Trees



SUN photos/Randi Pierce
Santa Claus made a visit to last week's public viewing for the 17th annual Festival of Trees at the Ross Aragon Community Center, with the youngsters sharing their wishes for the season amidst a variety of decorated trees. The trees were decorated and auctioned off to benefit local nonprofits.

Town considers raising sanitation rates

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

After a Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSS-GID) Board of Directors special meeting on Dec. 5, it appears that the board is poised to raise its fee rates to \$66.50 — the rate recommended by the hired consultant Roaring Fork Engineering, who analyzed the town's wastewater system and conducted a rate study analysis for the district.

The rate for the district's customers is currently set at \$53.50, but after problems with a wastewater conveyance system that sends wastewater several miles uphill to the Vista wastewater treatment plant (run by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, or PAWSD), as well as confronting the reality of aging infrastructure, the board is "seeing increased operational costs and mounting costs for capital projects to maintain and plan for future needs," states agenda documentation.

Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte explained that the board is faced with three choices, and that all of them include raising rates. The board could choose to raise rates to the \$57.25 number that's in the 2024 budget draft; it could raise them to the level recommended by Roaring Fork, \$66.50; or it could arrive at a number somewhere in the middle.

"We have to decide how far we wanna go," Schulte said, also explaining that a final decision did not have to come at the meeting.

He noted the intent of the meeting was to get "feedback and direction" from the board and that, if the board's intent is to raise the fees to the higher number, it offers them "the opportunity to bring this back for an actual public hearing" on Dec. 21, adding that not enough community outreach has taken place on the rate increase and more time would allow for this.

The No. 1 priority set by the Pagosa Springs Town Council (which also sits as the PSSGID) for 2024 is to "Develop a long-term strategy to provide essential sanitation and treatment services that are financially viable, future oriented, and maximize the existing assets and partnerships in a community of our size with limited resources."

At the meeting the board members

■ See Rates A8

Restoring the forest one property at a time

Property owners aim to increase resiliency with restoration work

By Alex Handloff
Mountain Studies Institute

The idea of cutting down a tree is an emotional one — it certainly was for Anita Goldmann, a private landowner who lives just south of Piedra.

"As a longtime tree-hugger, I adhered to the notion that every tree is good for the environment and worthy of our protection," said Goldmann. "The thought of cutting down a live tree was, and is, heart-wrenching."

A resilient forest lies some-
ting down a tree often brings up thoughts of "The Lorax," where forests are exploited, disrespected and eventually disappear. The truth of forest health is far more nuanced than "The Lorax," despite its message being commendable. Just as it is an unhealthy extreme to cut down all the trees in a forest, so too is assuming that humans should leave every tree and protect them at all costs, which can lead to catastrophic wildfire and a forest that isn't resilient.

As Goldmann described, cut- ■ See Forest A9



Tour attendees look at and discuss forest restoration at a fall tour on a property near Pagosa Springs that was recently treated.

Photo courtesy Kyle O'Neill

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

Warm receptions and an announcement

I can't believe that it's already been more than 90 days since we bought The SUN newspaper. I've really been taken aback by the warm reception of our staff, so many readers and others in the community who have offered nothing but kind words and support.

Since we've taken over, Randi Pierce was promoted to editor and has been doing a great job after taking on lots of increased, day-to-day responsibility. I love that she continues to do her own reporting as well. Josh Pike, Hailey Sams and Derek Kutzer continue to provide local community news on so many things going on in Pagosa Springs. If you haven't noticed already, Randi recently hired a new reporter, Robert Moore, to bolster our local news efforts. We're excited about what Robert will add to the team.

On the business and sales side of the business, and so much more, Shari Pierce has done an amazing job managing through the transition into O'Rourke Media Group. These types of transitions always add a ton of work and disruption, but Shari has been unflappable, and hopefully you've noticed that not much has changed. We recently hired Kesy Curtis to join the team in a business office capacity and for some much-needed support so that we can continue to provide great service to our readers and advertisers.

Robert Penton is our production manager, and he's assisted by Matthew McKinnon. These guys do a fantastic job with printing and producing The SUN and PREVIEW week in and week out, and they are helped in the mailroom by William Thomas. We're very lucky to be able to still print our newspaper locally at a time when many newspapers these days decide to outsource this work, which always leads to compromising production quality and/or news content.

Everyone who works at The SUN lives in Pagosa Springs or a nearby area. Unfortunately, I'm not local everyday, but the most important part of my job is to make sure Shari, Randi and the entire team gets the support and resources they need to continue to serve and support the amazing Pagosa Springs community.

I do have some very exciting news to share on a change that we think readers and advertisers are going to really enjoy. The Pagosa Springs SUN has a new website, which some of you may have already noticed. The new site went live last week and was a "soft" launch intentionally since we were having unresolvable technical issues with the previous site.

The new website, www.pagosasun.com, has been developed and designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate from section to section. It's loaded with local news

and advertising and many other features either already in place or coming soon. You'll notice a much improved e-edition/replica of the print newspaper. From a functionality standpoint, you will be able to renew and/or sign up for a new subscription to print, digital or both by providing your information online and making a few clicks. Note: This part of the change is going live this week and you'll be prompted to establish a new username and password. Once you set this up one time, you'll be able to access everything we do online with those credentials.

You'll be noticing much more of our award-winning, engaging local news stories and original reporting being posted onto the Web. For print subscribers, you'll automatically have access to the website and e-edition as part of your \$35/year subscription price. For those who want to subscribe to just digital, the newly established price will also be \$35, which includes website and e-edition access.

I can't thank you, our readers and advertisers, enough for your support and patronage that helps to keep The Pagosa Springs SUN viable and in a position to thrive for many years to come. We all look forward to continuing to serve you, and hopefully the changes and improvements that we make will meet your expectations.

Jim O'Rourke, owner and publisher
jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 7, 1923

The finance committee for The Community Christmas Tree wants every man and woman of Archuleta County to have a part in this wonderful Community Christmas Tree we are having in Pagosa Springs on Dec. 24th at 6:00 p.m.

That everyone may have a part, we have decided to ask for two hundred \$1 and 50c contributions towards the financing of this tree. Leave or send your contributions to anyone of the following: Mrs. Jessie Hayden at the court house, Mrs. Anna Ellsworth or Ethel Shiles at the Metropolitan Hotel. Please send them by Wednesday, Dec. 19th, if possible. When you come and see this wonderful Christmas tree, you can proudly say, "I helped to make it a real community tree and I helped to give to all these children of Archuleta County Glad Tidings of Great Joy for Christmas."

Construction of eleven and eleven-hundredths miles of gravel surface on the highway between Bayfield and Pagosa Springs, eliminating several bad grades on the present trail, is proposed to the United States bureau of roads by the state highway commission, in a tentative project submitted Wednesday.

Construction of a bridge over the Piedra river is included in the project.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 10, 1948

Ranger Ed Busch took the Boy Scouts out on Sunday to pick and cut Christmas trees. The Scouts will sell them. The Forest has also donated trees for the churches and the school and the large one to be put up at the flagpole.

During the first snow storm of the season we were coming over Wolf Creek Pass at night. Coming down the narrow icy road along the cliff suddenly the car's lights went out. That moment of moving in total darkness before the car was stopped, was not my idea of joy and confidence. After 3 sudden blackouts had occurred on the most precarious turns, we were relieved when we found we were at last on the flat road to Pagosa.

Last Saturday evening we again came over the pass in a blinding snow. We had chains on, our lights were bright, the car was warm; so we drove safely in second gear and enjoyed the music on the radio. What a difference in those two trips. The heat, the lights and music were all something outside ourselves to bring comfort, cheer and safety. Many strong men have been lost and perished in the blinding cold of the mountains.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 6, 1973

EG&G, contractor for the cloud seeding program in this area, reports that no storms were seeded this past week. Conditions were not right on any of the days when it was storming. Only one day of experimental seeding has been carried out thus far this winter.

The contractor said that the storm last weekend left 18 inches of new snow as the summit of Wolf Creek Pass and that it contained 1.04 inches of moisture. The report said that snow depth at the top of the Pass is now 24 inches.

An announcement was made this week of the opening of a new business in town. Carole and Bob Young will open their Hobby Horse in the old Dee Jay Building.

The firm will feature craft and gift items including candle craft, string art, mosaics, macrame, decoupage, and other unusual gift items.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 9, 1998

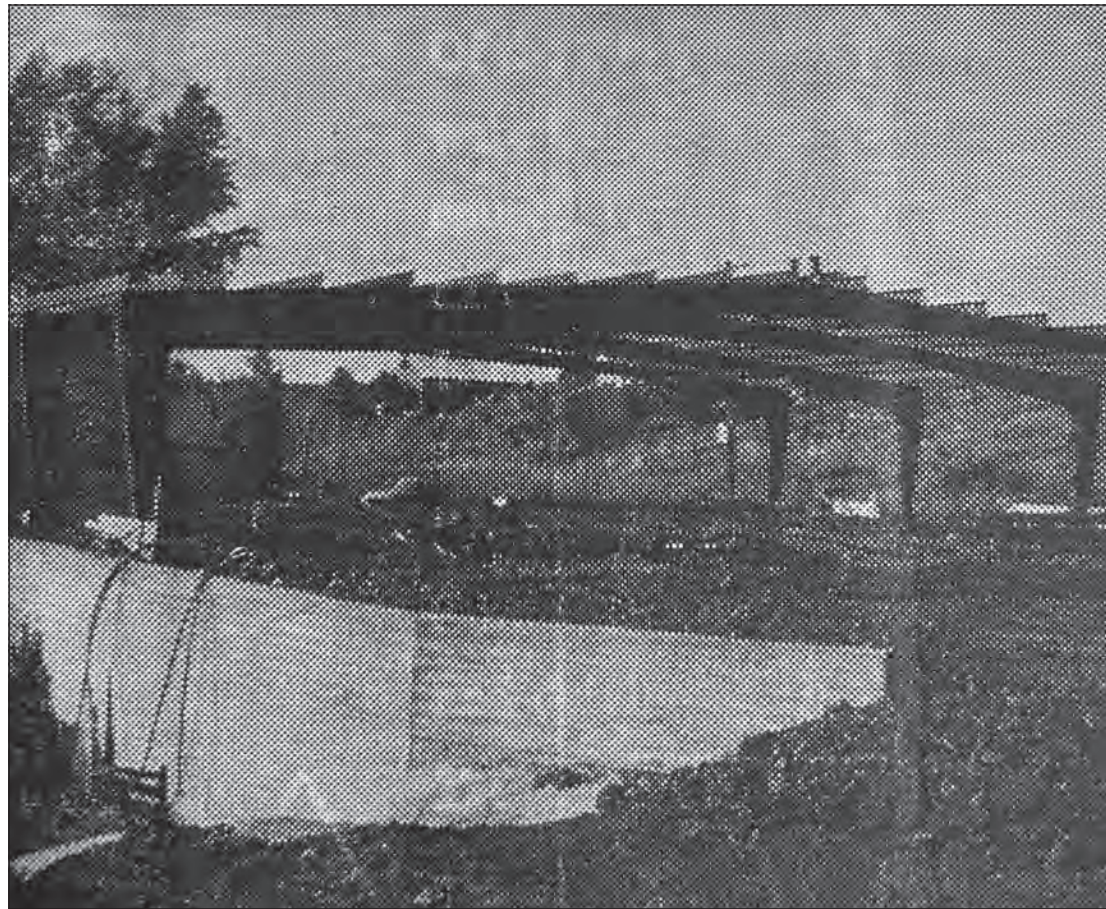
Recommendations for developing a county road maintenance policy were presented Thursday at the regular county commissioners meeting by Ken Fox, chairman of the board of county commissioners.

Fox recommended that the county cease maintaining subdivision roads within a reasonable period of time, perhaps three years. The three years will allow subdivisions to develop alternate methods for financing road maintenance, such as the formation of metropolitan districts.

"Because the voters turned down a proposed 6.5 mill tax increase of road maintenance and our request to retain excess revenues, I feel that we have a mandate to do what we can with what we have," Fox said.

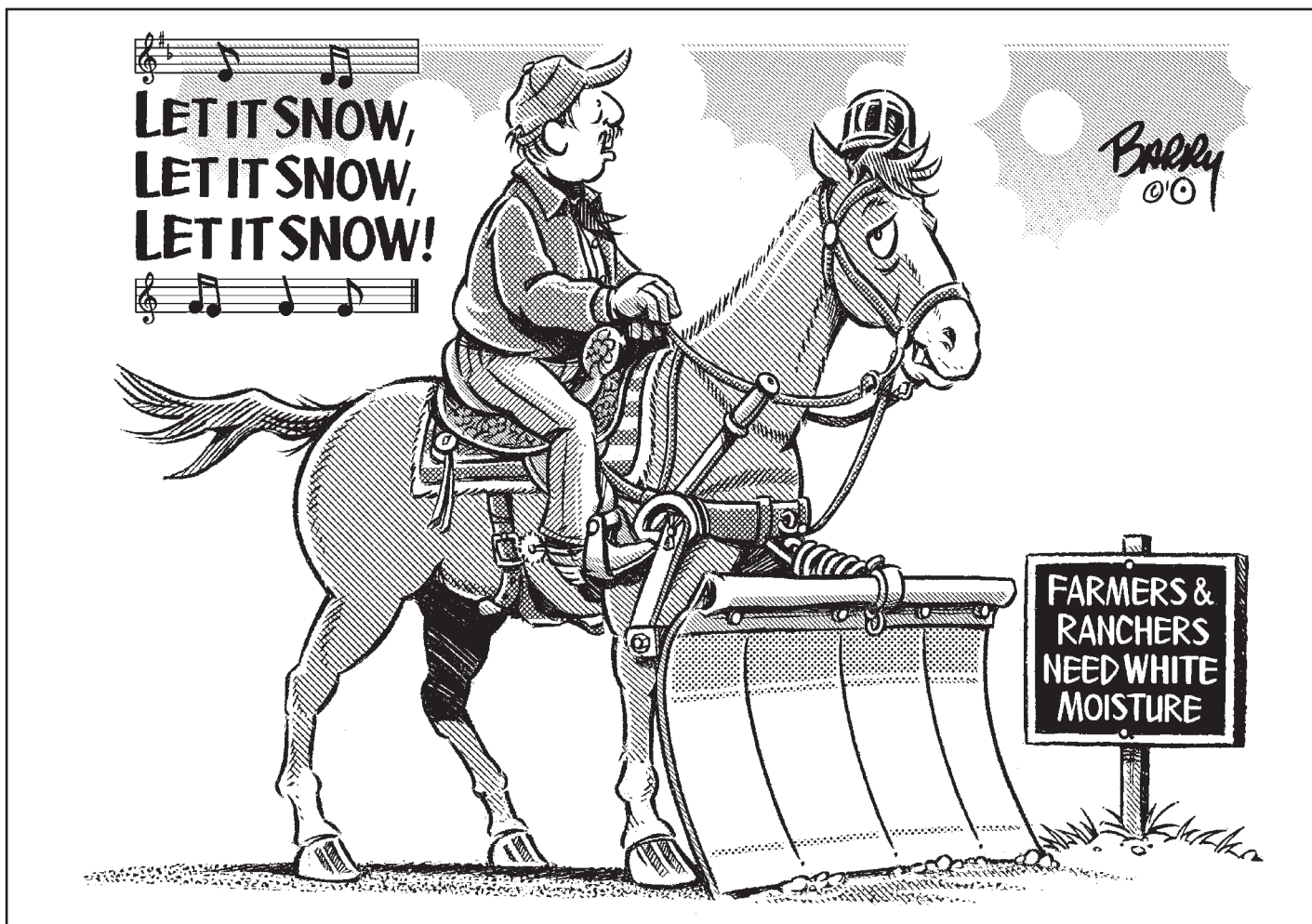
In addition, Fox suggested the commissioners help subdivisions form metropolitan districts, identify and plan for maintenance on certain arterial roads to be maintained by the county, appoint public committees to help develop a county road maintenance policy and to continue to study the adoption of impact fees.

LOOKING BACK



From the August 24, 1961 Pagosa SUN - FRAME OF NEW SUPER MARKET rises as construction starts on the building. The new structure is located cross the street from the SUN and it is scheduled for occupancy the first of October, if work goes according to schedule.

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11/29	44	12	-	-	-
11/30	40	17	-	-	-
12/1	33	23	S	1.9	.08
12/2	32	9	S	1.8	.09
12/3	38	10	-	-	-
12/4	44	16	-	-	-

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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.

German funding

Dear Editor:
I was excited to read the German government is investing €38 million in 2024 toward the alternative-protein transition. This will include funds for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on animals.

So as not to fall behind, the United States government should massively increase federal funding for cellular-agriculture development. America can lead the world in creating a more sustainable, healthy, and compassionate food system. Readers should encourage their legislators to support this effort. It's the right thing to do morally and for the sake of our country's position on the global stage.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Just say no

Dear Editor:
We all love slogans. Companies pay big bucks to move us to buy what they're selling. "See the USA in your Chevrolet" helped put chevys in thousands of garages. You'll recognize these mega-sellers as well: "Id Like to Buy the World a Coke;" "Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz;" "M'm M'm Good."
But slogans conveniently don't tell the whole story. We can pay dearly for products that do us no good. Some cars can be lemons, soft drinks are terrible for health, antacids mask stress rather than reduce it, and canned soup can be dangerously high in sodium. As savvy consumers, we need to use common sense.

Likewise, we need to filter political rhetoric that's tailored to push every button. Unlike retail products, political messages aren't designed to amuse, but to inspire fear and loathing. Using slogans, some politicians try to tell us what we should read, what we should fear, whom we should hate, and, most critically, what is and isn't true.

None of this messaging is designed to reach a consensus. It's designed to sell an otherwise unpopular point of view. As with retail products, sensible consumers will check before buying. If the story line seems hyped, it probably isn't entirely true. Reviews can be eye-opening. Change the channel sometimes. Get a balanced perspective.

For goodness' sake, when encountering any person or any group that

glorifies hate, threatens retribution, and rails against laws and civility, we need to recognize the hard-sell. These are political power plays. We need to just say no.

K. Muth

Constitution classes

Dear Editor:
The Declaration of Independence lists 18 acts of injuries and usurpations by the King of Great Britain even though the Boston Tea Party and taxation without representation are widely viewed as what led to the beginning of the American Revolution.

King George III's tyranny violated many basic human rights we now take for granted in modern America. Consider Writ of Assistance for example where a British Officer would show up unannounced to search a persons' home or business. The Writ of Assistance was a blank search warrant that would be completed during the search as breaches of colonial law were "discovered" during the search.
This led to what is known as the Castle Doctrine meaning your home is your castle. The right to own and carry arms in the 2nd Amendment, the unauthorized quartering of troops in the 3rd Amendment and the right of people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and affects in the 4th Amendment were directly tied to this doctrine.

James Otis was considered a father to the Founding Fathers. As an attorney defending Colonists, he argued

passionately against Writs of Assistance writing in 1761, "I will to my dying day oppose with all the powers and faculties God has given me, all such instruments of slavery and villainy as this writ of assistance is. It is the worst instrument of arbitrary power and is destructive of liberty and the fundamental principles of law. One of the most essential rights is the freedom of one's house — a man's house is his castle, but these writs totally annihilate this right. It is a power that places the liberty of every man in the hands of every petty officer...who may reign secure in his petty tyranny and spread terror and desolation around him."

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

Jamie Scholl

Christmas love

Dear Editor:
Yes, once again it is time to celebrate and appreciate God's greatest gift of everlasting love, the birth of his son, Jesus Christ. So many lights — different colors, some blinking to get our attention. I believe those blinking lights of many colors are reminding us that even though we are not all the same color, God's gift of love is for every little one born into His world. Yes, every little light, regardless of color, is, a reminder that this celebration is all about His love and He expects us to spread it around by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

What a joyful thing! My paternal grandmother always commented that Christmas is for children. Yes, we need to celebrate our little ones as they are a blessing from God and hopefully, we are raising them to love Him and appreciate his teachings.

Among the many Christmas Carols we sing every year, I like to include one of mine regarding the value of our little children. I hum it as I work around the house. Here it is:

"Jesus love the little children, All the children of the world, Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in his sight Jesus loves the little children of the world"

AMEN!

Patty Tillerson

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 7

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

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

Monday, Dec. 11

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

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Board of Health meeting. 4:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. 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

Upper San Juan Library District board meeting. 4 p.m., Ruby Sisson Library, 811 San Juan Street.

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/>.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Pagosa Springs Main Street board meeting. 4 p.m., Visitor Center meeting room, 105 Hot Springs Blvd. View Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89821999924?pwd=ZzIKSjJYL1BKbmRzRUZcUkxUkx5Zz09>.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District regular meeting. 5 p.m., PAWSD administrative offices, 100 Lyn Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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

Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. View Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83611276692>, meeting ID: 836 1127 6692.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

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>.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Pagosa Springs Town Council meet-

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
PO Box 9,
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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.

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Photo courtesy Marcia Newth

Pagosa Springs area behavioral health providers meet on Nov. 9 at Pagosa Springs Medical Center and celebrate the retirements of a trio of providers: Kathleen Allen, LPC; Deborah Parker, Ph.D.; and Kevin Kelly, Ph.D. The gathering was the first post-pandemic meeting for the informal group, which aims to meet semiannually. Anyone who provides services to clients in a behavioral health capacity who would like to attend the next gathering is invited to email Marcia40Newth@yahoo.com. Pictured are Allen (in front) and, from left, Mark Thompson; Ashley Wilson; Erik Foss, LPC, LAC; Josiah Harlan, LPC; Lacy Brown, LPC; Celia Lowry, LCSW; Sam Conti, LPC, CAS; Sharon Carter, Ph.D.; and Gary Hannemann, LPC. Not pictured are Christy Dela Garza-Gilbert, PMHNP-BC; Alex Brown; Lurenda Taylor; and Marcia Newth, LCSW.

Santa Sleigh Ride Event

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

December 9th starting at 4pm
Reservations required
Book now at BuckaroosRides.com or call 720-231-5424

Obituaries

Jerrold Granok

Jerrold Granok, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away on Nov. 28 after a long period of declining health. Jerry was born in 1940 in Chicago, Ill., to Benjamin and Rose Granok. He was raised in Chicago and graduated from Roosevelt High School, returning many times over the years for Rough Rider reunions. He then attended the University of Chicago, where he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry. Upon graduation, he took a job as an industrial chemist at Armour. During his years at Armour, he met and married Tara Allen, who was an elementary school teacher in the Chicago suburbs. The couple had twin sons, Alexander and Howard, and moved to Albuquerque, N.M., in 1969. Jerry and Tara divorced in 1980, but they kept in contact, sharing in their sons' life events, throughout the remainder of their lives.



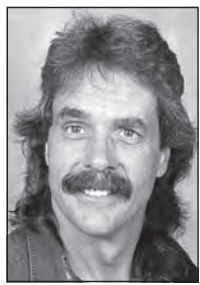
photography and astronomy. Jerry entered and won prizes in several local photography contests over the years, and was an active member of the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association and astronomical societies in both New Mexico and Colorado. He found great joy in practicing T'ai Chi Chih, becoming a certified instructor, and was also an avid ballroom dancer.

Jerry was predeceased by his parents, Benjamin and Rose Granok, of Chicago, Ill., and is survived by his children, son Dr. Alexander Granok, MD and his wife, April Shaw, of Manchester, N.H.; son Dr. Howard Granok, Ph.D. and his wife, Jodi Granok (Honigbaum), of Saint Louis, Mo.; sister Margaret Granok and her husband, Michael Carroll, of Ellicott City, Md.; nieces Beth and Faye Carroll; nephew Frank Carroll; and one grandson, Eadric Granok, of Manchester, N.H. Jerry has opted for cremation, and there will be no public funeral service. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in Jerry's honor may contribute to the charitable organization of their choice.

Kim Hallock Johnson

In Albuquerque, Jerry left the field of industrial chemistry and embarked on what was then the new field of computer programming, working for the surveying company commonly known as "M&Q," plotting the street layout for the new city of Rio Rancho, N.M. He continued his work in the IT field with the Bernalillo County, N.M., government, and then took a job with the Public Service Company of New Mexico in 1977. He would stay with PNM for the rest of his professional career, retiring as a senior consulting programmer analyst in 1997.

Kim Hallock Johnson passed away the night of Nov. 20, 2023, at the age of 71. Kim grew up in a military family, born March 27, 1952, in Heidelberg, Germany, to American Army member Elliott Johnson and mother Ellen Schwaninger. Shortly thereafter, Kim's family moved to the United States, where they eventually welcomed his sister, Karen Gordy. After graduating from military school, Kim embraced his newfound free-



dom and began traveling, eventually landing in Quito, Ecuador, where he worked with local youth. There, Kim fell in love with a Peace Corp volunteer and welcomed his first daughter, Kriya Kaping.

After traveling broadly in Latin America, his path eventually led him back to the U.S. to study under Dr. Vasant Lad at the Ayurvedic Institute in Albuquerque, N.M. — an education that would inform the rest of his life.

Kim moved north to Pagosa Springs in 1988, where he put his deep baritone voice to use as a DJ on KWUF and welcomed his second daughter, Shanti Devins. Kim's true passion remained Ayurvedic medicine and healing, and he worked to build a 30-year career as a massage therapist and health consultant in Pagosa. During his time as a massage therapist, he gave himself a nickname that would stick, "Mr. Kim," to ensure his clients knew they would be walking into a room with a 6-foot-2-inch commanding figure of a man. He continued to study massage, meditation and holistic healing long into retirement.

Kim is survived by his sister, Karen, and two daughters, Kriya and Shanti. His family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff at Pine Ridge Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center for caring for Kim with dignity and respect, and for ensuring his final days were as comfortable as possible.

The family plans to spread Kim's ashes in the wild places he loved this summer, and in lieu of a formal memorial (since Kim would always choose a solo adventure over mingling with a crowd), they encourage you to honor him by doing some of the things Kim loved most: eating a sun-ripened mango, taking the backroads home, fishing down Trujillo Road, reading a spiritual text, catching an afternoon game, and sunbathing (preferably naked) in the woods.

Forest Service seeking public comment on proposed policy for monitoring health of national forests, grasslands

USDA Forest Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is seeking public input on a proposed policy for monitoring the health of national forests and grasslands.

The proposed policy is designed to provide a framework that supports and strengthens current monitoring policy, minimizing inconsistencies and improving government-to-government relationships with tribes.

The Forest Service monitors national forests and grasslands to inform land and resource management; reduce uncertainty; promote learning;

and comply with laws, regulations and policy. The proposed policy builds on the agency's foundation of science-based monitoring and provides guidance for developing efficient, transparent monitoring programs based on both science and Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge.

"The proposed monitoring policy is a framework that supports strategic thinking about what questions to ask and how to most efficiently use the answers to conduct adaptive management," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "It will help us focus on climate-informed land management to achieve the Forest Service's multi-

purpose mission through science and Indigenous knowledge."

The proposed policy was developed through government-to-government consultation with tribes and is designed to increase transparency, communication and integration with tribal governments.

The Forest Service is accepting comments through Dec. 27.

To learn more about the proposed monitoring policy or to submit a comment, visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-26161/national-forest-system-monitoring-manual-2000-national-forest-resource-management>.

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Business

Commissioners hear updates on anniversary event planning, tourism marketing

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 21 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard updates on planning for upcoming state and county anniversaries, and the winter tourism marketing plan.

The discussions opened with Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mary Jo Coulehan presenting on the Colorado state initiative for the America 250/Colorado 150 celebration.

Coulehan explained that 2026 will be America's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary.

She added that 2025 will be Archuleta County's 140th anniversary and 2024 will be the Town of the Pagosa Springs' 135th anniversary.

She stated that she was asked to chair activities planning for these events in Archuleta County and that neighboring counties are also working on activities planning, including for other upcoming county anniversaries and for potential events to leverage the region.

Coulehan indicated that she is planning to develop a steering committee for the project, covering a range of industries and cultural groups in the area.

She stated that she was unsure if the county is intending to have any events for its 140th anniversary, but that she would be interested in coordinating with the county on any events it has in addition to including county staff on the event steering committee.

She explained that she intends to have multiple events spread throughout the years in question, which are intended to represent the diverse groups within the county and to engage the community.

"Sounds exciting," commented Commissioner Warren Brown.

Coulehan expressed agreement, commenting that the neighboring communities are also excited about the events, and that the state wants to encourage residents to explore destina-

tions and amenities in their local areas they have not experienced before.

She added that the state is dedicating resources to marketing the event and to showcasing Colorado.

The BoCC then heard an update from Tourism Director Jennifer Green on the winter tourism marketing plan and the activities of the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board.

Green stated that a variety of holiday events are upcoming, including the holiday lighting contest and the Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration event on Dec. 16.

She also noted that she includes the county logo on events sponsored by the tourism board since the county helps fund the board and that there is a document that is frequently updated and shared with local businesses on ways to collaborate with Visit Pagosa Springs.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked how businesses would know that Visit Pagosa Springs has this document and how they would get a copy of it.

Green stated that the document was presented at the last tourism conference hosted by Visit Pagosa Springs and that it is frequently included in the Visit Pagosa Springs newsletter sent to local businesses.

She explained that Visit Pagosa Springs was at that point actively promoting late fall/winter tourism and highlighting the need for tourists to be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions and potential activities depending on snow levels.

She stated that she was recently appointed to the Colorado tourism marketing committee and that, through this appointment, she was able to secure an opportunity where, for a \$23,000 in-kind buy-in, the area will receive \$63,250 in tourism marketing through the Colorado Tourism Office.

She explained that she recently partnered with Visit Alamosa to secure a marketing matching grant through the Colorado Tourism Office for a \$60,000 campaign — including \$20,000 in local matching funds — to attract

international travelers.

Green indicated that the partnership with Alamosa was done partially to improve the chances of receiving the grant and partially because Alamosa recently began international marketing efforts.

She added that, compared to other destinations, the area has "one of the smaller budgets" and that "every extra dollar does help" with tourism promotion.

Green explained that the winter marketing plan includes working with Madden Media and Orange142 to distribute ads, with particular efforts to reach environmentally conscious travelers through Orange142.

Brown asked if Visit Pagosa Springs has any specific goals for the winter tourism campaign.

Green stated that the main goal is "continued exposure" for winter tourism and that the primary metric will be traffic and engagement with the Visit Pagosa Springs website.

Brown asked what period the campaign will occur within.

Green explained that the winter campaign would start "any day" and will end in January or February, with the spring campaign beginning after the winter campaign ends.

She added that, although promotion of shoulder seasons is a priority, Visit Pagosa Springs cannot control when visitors exposed to the advertisements might choose to visit the area.

She also commented that the success of the advertising is also impacted by weather conditions and whether the area receives the amount of snow that visitors desire.

Brown noted that the advertisements have been "very good since there's not much of a shoulder season anymore."

Green commented that the shoulder seasons have gotten shorter and that the tourism board has had a long-term focus on promoting those seasons.

Medina asked if Green has received any of the occupancy data that she pre-

viously requested from lodging entities in the area.

Green stated she has not received any data and that, while Visit Pagosa Springs continues to work on engaging with businesses, "it has to go both directions."

She added that she is proposing to the tourism board to add paid cooperation opportunities for local businesses into the 2024 tourism marketing plan, which would give businesses additional promotion opportunities.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that business owners have to seek promotional opportunities for their businesses, and that Visit Pagosa Springs and the tourism board are key resources that owners "need to reach out and talk to."

He added that Visit Pagosa Springs has limited staff, meaning that it has a limited ability to pursue local businesses, and that he felt businesses should make efforts to engage with the organization on their own initiative.

Green concurred with Maez's sentiments about the lack of resources for the Visit Pagosa Springs to market its resources to local businesses.

Brown concluded the discussion by thanking Green for the update.

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Nominations for Chamber's Community Awards open

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber has hosted the Community Awards for almost 25 years.

This is a time to look around you at the people and organizations that make our community so special. So many businesses give to the community and nonprofit agencies throughout the year. So many nonprofit agencies fill huge gaps in our community providing services that are critical to the residents of Archuleta County. Then there are the people that are the cogs of the wheels making everything happen. It's time to honor these heroes.

At the Chamber's annual meeting in early February of 2024, we will do just that: honor and celebrate some of Pagosa's success stories. At this time, we will honor the winners in the following Community Award categories: Citizen, Volunteer, Non-Profit and Small Business of the Year.

All the forms to nominate a community award winner are available on the homepage of the Chamber's website under "More in the News" under "Community" and "Chamber News." Click on the link to access the template.

Please fill out the forms completely — you can use a separate piece of paper to tell the full story. These forms allow you to tell a story about why the organization or person should be considered. The more complete your information about

the person or organization, the more information the judges have to consider the nominee. The deadline for submitting the forms is Jan. 15, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Here are some criteria for nominating in the various categories. All organizations or people nominated need to have lived in Pagosa or have been in business for three years. Both the Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year must be providing service to the community on a voluntary basis, not in association with their job. The big difference between Volunteer and Citizen is that the Citizen of the Year needs to have impacted the community in one of the following ways: philanthropic, lifestyle, cultural or economic.

A few examples of past recipients are last year's winners, Dan and Venita Burch for their work in shaping the musical and cultural lifestyle of this community and their dedication to our youth. Evelyn Tennyson is a pillar of generosity with her time, fundraising and sponsorship efforts and is a philanthropic cornerstone in our community. Whether animals large or small, the arts, or our children, Tennyson is sure to be involved.

For the categories of Non-Profit and Small Business of the Year, we encourage people to self-nominate. No one knows their business like you do. You know the ins and outs, the reasons why you service the community or what special perks you offer in your business to staff or customers. Therefore, take some time now to consider your accomplishments and those of

the people around you.

Take this time, as we do every year, to celebrate and honor those around you that make Pagosa Springs tick. Without these people and organizations, much of what happens in Pagosa would not be possible.

Tickets for the Chamber's annual award event will be available online after the first of the year along with more information about the event.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration

Don't forget that this year's Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m.

There are a number of organizations that have "adopted" parts of the trail from Centennial Park to Town Park and over to the Visitor Center. The Chamber will be at the Visitor Center serving hot chocolate while children wait to see Santa.

This will also be the last opportunity to purchase your tickets for the Adventure Raffle, which we will be drawing for at 6 p.m. that night at the Visitor Center. The event is free, and there will be lots of giveaways along with stations of hot drinks and snacks to keep you moving along the route.

Participate in the scavenger hunt and receive a collectible Pagosa ornament.

This annual event is fast becoming a community favorite. Bundle up, put a cute outfit on the kids to get their picture taken with Santa, purchase your raffle ticket and have a great Pagosa night out.

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service for two weeks: 487.

Nov. 9 — All other thefts, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 10 — Found property, North Pagosa Boulevard and Lighthouse.

Nov. 11 — Public indecency, Navajo Trail Drive.

Nov. 13 — Warrant arrest, Justins Road.

Nov. 14 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, speeding mph over limit not listed, Wildwood Drive/County Road 600.

Nov. 14 — Missing person reports, County Road 917.

Nov. 14 — Warrant arrest, Piper Place.

Nov. 14 — Obstructing governmental operation, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, resisting arrest, violation of restraining order, U.S. 160.

Nov. 14 — Information only, South 10th Street.

Nov. 15 — Failure to comply, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 15 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, Cloman Boulevard.

Nov. 15 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drove vehicle when blood alcohol content 0.10 or more, failed to observe or disregarded traffic control device, West U.S. 160/Alpha Drive.

Nov. 15 — Found property, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 16 — Information only, USFS 620/West U.S. 160.

Nov. 17 — False reporting to authorities, Prospect Boulevard.

Nov. 17 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 18 — Violation of restraining order, first-degree assault-aggravated-weapon, criminal attempt second-degree murder-willful-weapon, domestic violence, criminal attempt to commit felony, intimidating a witness or victim, obstructing governmental operations, Corral Court.

Nov. 19 — Dog at large (first offense no injury), North Pagosa Boulevard/Lakeside Drive.

Nov. 20 — Criminal mischief, West Golf Place.

Nov. 21 — Found property, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 21 — Information only, Buena Vista Place/County Road 411.

Nov. 24 — Warrant arrest, Trails Boulevard/Bonanza Avenue.

Nov. 25 — Drove vehicle without valid driver's license on person, failed to display valid registration, no insurance in possession, Eagle

Drive/Trinity Lane.

Nov. 25 — Harassment by phone or computer, Ponderosa Drive.

Nov. 26 — Information only, Inspiration Drive.

Nov. 26 — Dog at large (first offense, no injury), Jack Rabbit Road.

Nov. 26 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, drove vehicle when license suspended, vehicle with defective or no stop lights, Eagle Drive/Majestic Drive.

Nov. 26 — Warrant arrest, Majestic Drive/Eagle Drive.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service for two weeks: 185.

Nov. 11 — Burglary second degree, Eagle Drive.

Nov. 13 — Violation of restraining order, 8th Street.

Nov. 14 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, Bienvenido Circle.

Nov. 15 — Violation of restraining order, Village Drive.

Nov. 16 — Criminal mischief, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Nov. 16 — Theft, forgery, San Juan Street.

Nov. 20 — Nuisance/animal running at large, Piedra Street/South 9th Street.

Nov. 21 — Careless driving, County Road 600, U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Nov. 13 — Jacob Rasmussen, failed to yield when proceeding from a stop sign, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Nov. 13 — Kristi Kern, failed to stop at stop sign, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Nov. 13 — Ronnie Martinez, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Nov. 13 — Christopher Michael, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$126.

Nov. 13 — Joshua Bohlman, speeding 10-19 mph over PFL, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$197.

Nov. 13 — Julie Vaughan, following too closely, four points off, owner operated vehicle or permitted vehicle to be operated without insurance, four points off, fines, surcharge and costs — \$446.

Nov. 13 — Chasidy Rivas, failed to drive in a single lane, three points off, owner operated vehicle or permitted vehicle to be operated without insurance, four points off, fines, surcharge and costs — \$446.

Nov. 14 — Tyson Frawley, complicity to shoplifting, fine and costs — \$235.

Nov. 14 — Patrick Cleveland, criminal mischief, 90 days unsupervised probation, \$365 restitution, fine and costs — \$135.

Nov. 14 — Carlos Valenzuela-Barreno, animal running at large prohibited, fine and costs — \$85.

Nov. 14 — Christian West-Smiley, assault, 20 days incarceration.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Nov. 15 — Cindy Anahi Seberian-Arambula, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.

Nov. 15 — Ashley Green, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$135.

Nov. 15 — Luis Carlos Gonzalez Rodriguez, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$204.50.

Nov. 15 — Octavio Zazueta-Sandoval, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Nov. 15 — Theodore John Wortman, off-highway vehicle operated on street, fines and costs — \$118.50.

Nov. 15 — Alexis Diane Willis, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$314.

Nov. 15 — Jason Bradley Watson, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Nov. 15 — Tami Tobey, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Nov. 15 — Nichole Dee Rieg, parking privilege for persons with disabilities, fines and costs — \$220.

Nov. 15 — Damani Craig Respass, registration-unregistered vehicle, driver's license-instruction permit violation, fines and costs — \$242.50.

Nov. 15 — Miguel Angel Quintana Hernandez, driver's license-driving without, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$201.50.

Nov. 15 — Dalton Levi Perkins, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Nov. 15 — Forrest Justin Lyons, license plates-expired, license plate tabs-unlawful display, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Nov. 15 — Kiana Johnson, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Nov. 15 — Shane Tanner Hawkins, driving under restraint, off-highway vehicle operated on street, fines and costs — \$246.

Nov. 15 — Austin Ryan Gardner, failed to stop at stop sign, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$330.

Nov. 15 — Ryan Charles Gallagher, license plates-expired, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$255.50.

Nov. 15 — Miranda Dechee, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Nov. 15 — Nicolas Dominguez Jr., U-turn unsafely-curve or crest, fines and costs — \$42.50.

Nov. 15 — Jack Dodson, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Nov. 15 — Madonna L. Delandere, signaling violations, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$238.50.

Nov. 15 — Nicholas James Crook, driving under restraint,

license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$271.50.

Nov. 15 — Andrew Shane Book, driving under restraint, red light-fail to stop, speeding too fast for conditions, fines and costs — \$419.50.

Nov. 15 — Johanna Joy Beard, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$27.50.

Nov. 15 — Telesfor Barela, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$120.

Nov. 15 — Elizabeth Andreas, careless driving resulting in injury, fines and costs — \$289.50.

Nov. 15 — Steven Ray King, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$279.

Nov. 15 — Christy S. Arguello, no insurance-driver, fines and costs — \$769.50.

Nov. 15 — Brett K. Andrews, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$105.

Nov. 15 — Henry L. Espinosa, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Nov. 27 — Flores Efrain Munoz, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Nov. 15 — Bobby Keegan Tuller, controlled substance-possession <1g fen, 18 months probation, 38 days jail, fines and costs — \$2,208.50.

Nov. 15 — Clinton Lee Manzanares, controlled substance-possession <1g fen, 18 months probation, 69 days jail, fines and costs — \$2,208.50.

Nov. 15 — Jonathon Richard Clark, trespass 2-enclosed/fenced property, two days jail, fines and costs — \$61.

Nov. 16 — Ruben James Archuleta, trespass 3, two days jail, fines and costs — \$75.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

No report.

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State treasurer looks to reunite nonprofits with money, property

Colorado Department of the Treasury

Friday, Dec. 8, is National Lost and Found Day, and Colorado Treasurer Dave Young wants to reunite Colorado nonprofits with their lost money and property.

"Losing track of items is an unfortunate part of life for nonprofits," Bianca Gardelli, director of Colorado Unclaimed Property. "The good news is that, in Colorado, we have a fast and easy way for you to search for cash or other items you may have lost track of."

Money or property turned over to the State Treasury for safekeeping is held for the owner or heir of the account and there are no time limits for filing a claim. The Colorado State treasurer currently maintains a list of over 1.7 million names of individuals as well as schools for whom property is available, including over \$960 million in cash.

To date, the Great Colorado Pay-

back has reunited over \$600 million to their rightful owners.

Go to colorado.findyourunclaimedproperty.com to search for unclaimed property for individuals, nonprofits and businesses.

Unclaimed property laws

Unclaimed property laws began in the United States as a consumer protection program and they have evolved to protect not only the owners, but also their heirs and estates.

Unclaimed property is tangible or intangible property that has had no activity for a specific period of time. Unclaimed property includes, but is not limited to, abandoned financial assets such as stocks and dividends, mutual funds, checking and savings accounts, unpaid wages, securities, life insurance payouts, uncashed checks that are without activity for a certain period of time, as well as the contents of safe deposit boxes for which the rent has been expired for

at least five years. It does not include real estate or vehicles.

The organization holding the original obligation is required to make every effort to contact the owner and establish activity. If they are not able to make contact, that asset is reported to the state of the owner's last known address.

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Rates

■ Continued from front

were in agreement that the fees should be raised to the level recommended by the Roaring Fork analysis, but worried how the increase might impact the more economically disadvantaged segments of the community and those on fixed incomes.

Board president Shari Pierce recognized that there are “a lot of low-income families in our community and this will hit those people particularly hard,” but also said, “We have a responsibility to the future of the community, and if we continue on the path that we are on, I think our system is just gonna continue to go down.”

She added, “If we don’t have a sanitation system, we don’t have a place for people to live, and our businesses can’t

function, so this is very vital to the core of our community.”

Board member Mat deGraaf added, “Raising costs are hard, always, especially when you’re talking about utilities, but I think it’s important to remember that, for the better part of 40 years, the utility was underfunded and that folks enjoyed the benefit of that, and now we are in a place where the infrastructure is in dire need of attention.”

He said, “It’s our job, as those steering the ship, to make that solvent, and, sadly, that looks hard on a month-to-month basis for those receiving the bill.”

He added it is necessary to raise rates just to keep providing the wastewater service to the community.

Board member Madeline Bergon was in agreement with the other members, saying that there is “intention and strategy behind this decision. We are not just willy nilly raising prices.”

She noted that “a ton of work and a ton of research” has guided the decision.

Schulte explained that the town is “almost certainly” going to receive grants to improve the aging infrastructure and that this would help lessen the impact.

He mentioned that tap fees collected from the planned Pagosa Views development would also help.

The direction was to look at options for lessening the economic impact of the fee increase on the economically disadvantaged and to

explore ways it could possibly collect fees on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) — an initiative spearheaded by board member Gary Williams, who suggested that these units are currently being “subsidized” under the current fee schedule.

These issues will be brought back up during a public hearing and a decision will be considered at the Dec. 21 meeting.

Pierce said, “I’d like to wrap this back to giving staff some direction for deciding the fee schedule at our next meeting.”

The board found consensus on the \$66.50 number and will explore the idea of fees for ADUs at the next meeting.

derek@pagosahun.com

Budget

■ Continued from front

forward with creating a new senior services department, which he stated would save the county approximately \$320,000.

County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the proposed senior services budget was based on the 2023 ASI budget due to difficulties in securing information from ASI on its 2024 budget.

He added that he would recommend supporting ASI in 2024 and using the year to prepare for the potential incorporation of Pagosa Senior Center staff in 2025.

Eaton explained that approximately \$1 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that was previously slated to be delivered to the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) was removed from the budget due to the available ARPA funds already being expended for broadband through the PSCDC, thus reducing the budgeted expenditures.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez pointed out that this is not a regularly budgeted item and that the ARPA funds have already been used.

He stated that a procurement officer position in the Finance Department was removed due to the county planning to acquire software to cover this need and that the addition of a mechanic position for transportation will not move forward due to the new transit center likely not being completed in 2024 and the position thus not being needed.

Commissioner Warren Brown raised the issue of the county’s proposal to increase funding for the TARA Community Center in Arboles to help support senior meals and how this would integrate with the funding to ASI.

He also asked how much funding would be required to bring the senior meals at TARA to previous levels.

Medina explained that, to her understanding, the meals are being provided by the senior center in Ignacio, but that Ignacio’s staff numbers were reduced due to a reduction in funding, making it less likely that TARA would receive the two meals a month the center previously had.

Following a discussion of the logistics of providing meals to TARA, Medina and Brown proposed that the county provide funding to Ignacio to support keeping the meals at the previous level.

The commissioners agreed that the county needs to take on the cost of supporting providing meals in Arboles.

Woodman stated that he would reach out to Ignacio to determine how much funding would be needed.

The commissioners expressed support for providing \$280,000 in funding to ASI and for determining what the

cost for meals at TARA would be and then attempting to cover that cost.

Following further discussion of a small amount of funding provided by the county to TARA for building upkeep and trash removal, the group agreed to leave the contribution to ASI at \$280,000 and increase the TARA funding as necessary.

Eaton moved on to discussing changes in the property tax calculations for the county, noting in response to a question from Brown that this would result in an increase in county revenues from 2023 of about \$525,000.

Woodman commented that the county’s mill levy allows the county to collect more than the Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) allows it to retain and that, if the mill levy is reduced, it can only be increased by voter approval.

He recommended that the county leave its mill levy at its present level and provide a property tax credit back to property owners.

Maez commented that most Colorado counties are already de-Bruced (or exempt from TABOR restrictions on tax revenue increases) and that counties like Archuleta that are still under TABOR must give their additional revenues to the state, which can then distribute them to taxpayers as it sees fit.

Woodman commented that the metropolitan counties in Colorado are still under TABOR in addition to “a few” smaller counties, such as Archuleta County.

Brown commented that, because the county is still under TABOR, the property tax reduction plan proposed by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis would not benefit Archuleta County “in any way.”

Woodman added that the backlog funding for counties proposed by the state government would not come to Archuleta County because it falls outside the cutoff.

Maez stated that the surplus funds collected due to TABOR would be taken by the state and distributed across the entire state even though the funds only come from taxpayers in certain counties.

Medina commented that, at a recent Colorado Counties Inc. meeting, the option of temporarily reducing the mill levy for the county was presented.

She added that such a temporary reduction would not require the voters to approve the mill levy being raised again.

Maez commented that he would be “not opposed” to doing this, although he would want to assess further if this is feasible.

He added it would need to be clearly communicated to county residents why the county is doing this and how.

Woodman stated that he agreed

with Medina’s and Maez’s comments and that the county, for the next year, could temporarily reduce its mill levy.

The group then discussed the schedule of when the budget would need to be approved and mill levies certified, noting that the schedule for mill levy certification is extended with the commissioners needing to certify levies by Jan. 17, 2024, but that the budget approval schedule is likely unchanged, requiring the county to approve a budget by the end of the year.

County Attorney Todd Weaver commented that the statute that allows for temporary reductions in the mill levy is potentially overruled by TABOR, which is a constitutional amendment, and that such a reduction could expose the county to litigation regarding the legality of such a move.

Brown commented that, because the county mill levy is relatively small, he is unsure if the reduction for taxpayers would be worth the legal risks.

Maez asked how much more in property taxes the county could collect without TABOR restrictions.

Eaton answered that removing TABOR restrictions would give the county about \$3.5 million in additional revenues.

Maez questioned how many more roads could be completed or houses constructed with the additional funding and pointed out that this money is instead given to the state and distributed statewide.

He added that the money from Archuleta County taxpayers being distributed outside of the county “gets my blood pressure up.”

Eaton moved on to explain that, following a recalculation, expected sales tax revenues for the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Department budget were both increased from \$4.3 million to \$4.5 million.

He added that approximately \$2.3 million in federal grants will need to be rolled forward into 2024.

Eaton also indicated that paving expenses for Road and Bridge would be decreased from the requested \$6 million to the \$4.7 million normally budgeted.

Brown asked Eaton what these adjustments would set the overall budget to.

Eaton explained that, with the new budget, the General Fund would increase by \$185,000 in 2024.

Woodman explained that all requests from department heads and elected officials except those that Eaton discussed remain in the budget, including a variety of projects and repairs.

He added that the budget includes funding for additional personnel, including a buildings and grounds supervisor, a fleet lead mechanic, an

adjusted supervisor position in GIS, a fair manager for the Colorado State University Extension office, and an additional weed and pest technician.

Woodman and Maez also noted that there is potential for two additional cleaning staff in buildings and grounds, although the commissioners need to discuss its desired direction for county janitorial services before a decision is made.

Maez added that the county briefly advertised the two cleaning services positions on its website, but that they had been taken down at his request due to the commissioners not having discussed the issue of janitorial services yet.

Woodman explained that the BoCC would continue discussions of the property tax collections at next week’s BoCC work session with Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott.

Weaver noted that the budget needs to roll over approximately \$500,000 in matching funds for a grant-supported broadband project in the Arboles and Colo. 151 area with La Plata County, La Plata Electric Association and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT).

He indicated that the memorandum of understanding for this project was recently completed and that the funding will be needed in 2024.

Maez indicated that the money would be included in the funds allotted for the PSCDC and would be rolled over.

Weaver suggested that the project will provide additional fiber redundancy for the area, and that SUIT is planning to run fiber to all houses in Arboles and potentially install an additional cell tower in the area to enhance cell service.


He commented that the project would be a “huge benefit” for Arboles and would take it from an underserved area to one of the best served areas of the county in terms of Internet access.

Medina commented that she has a number of questions about the budget, but that she needs to review additional details before asking them.

In response, Maez proposed that the BoCC discuss the budget further at its Dec. 12 work session, which the board agreed to.

The discussion concluded with Maez thanking Eaton for his work and tolerance of the commissioners’ questions.

josh@pagosahun.com



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Board

■ Continued from front

and include Jon Bruss, Jessica Cox and Stacey Foss, along with commissioners Warren Brown and Veronica Medina.

We would like to extend the opportunity to the community to come in for an informal meet and greet at 4:30 p.m., where they can meet the BoH members and some of the Public

Health Department staff.

This first meeting will review the powers and duties of the BoH, discussion of bylaws and review any other items that will prepare the board for its first official meeting in January, when the BoH takes authority over Archuleta County public health services.

“There is still a lot of work to be done and with the Board of Health

in place, I look forward to working together to build a strong public health department that will serve our community far into the future,” said Ashley Wilson, director of public health.

This milestone is important for the new public health department, and we welcome community questions and involvement as we continue to build.

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Water conservancy discusses next steps on reservoir

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Nov. 16 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed a report from Ehat Consulting and next steps on the district's reservoir project.

SJWCD board president Al Pfister opened the discussion, noting that the board previously discussed securing a grant from the Southwest Basin Roundtable to fund a project coordinator for the reservoir project, though SJWCD grant writer Renee Lewis subsequently advised the board that the roundtable does not typically fund staff and conversations with roundtable staff indicated that "it's a very gray area" on whether the grant would be successful.

Pfister added that the effort to secure funding for the coordinator is "ongoing" and that he also wanted to propose to the board hiring a contractor in 2024 to locate land for a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to secure all the land necessary for the proposed reservoir. He added that he believes the board is making progress and that the SJWCD's volunteer board members should not be expected to oversee the entirety of the reservoir project without assistance.

Board member Joe Tedder asked how much a coordinator position would cost and proposed that the SJWCD use reserves to cover the cost of hiring a coordinator instead of waiting on a grant.

He also asked how much funding would be required for the land search associated with the land exchange, noting that Pfister proposed working with Western Land Group for the exchange.

Pfister stated that he would "encourage" the board to work with Western Land Group given its expertise and previous experience working in the region, with the USFS and with the reservoir project prior to the failure of the SJWCD's 2017 mill levy

ballot issue.

Tedder and board member Charles Riehm stated that the board would need to develop a statement of work prior to making any decisions on which contractor to choose and what avenue to follow in securing a contractor.

Riehm also asked, given the time of the year, what decisions would need to be made before finalizing the 2024 budget and what decisions could be made after this.

Tedder indicated that \$10,000 in funding for the land exchange process is already included in the 2024 budget.

Pfister clarified that the land exchange is needed because the reservoir project would inundate a portion of the neighboring USFS lands and the USFS does not want to participate in managing the reservoir.

Answering a question from SJWCD board member Candace Jones, Pfister and Rick Ehat of Ehat Consulting stated that the amount of land required for the swap is determined, but that the environmental details of the land may not be fully studied.

The board then discussed what would be required for the statement of work for the land swap, with Pfister noting that the board would be able to copy much of the statement of work designed in 2017.

The board concluded that the statement of work would need to be developed before the 2024 budget is approved in December, with the potential acquisition of a consultant for the land exchange occurring afterward.

The board then moved on to discussion of Tedder's proposal for funding a project coordinator from reserves.

Jones agreed with Tedder about the potential need for the board to hire a coordinator using reserves, although she asked if Tedder had specific ideas in terms of what expertise would be required, what work they

would be expected to do and how the consultant would be paid for their work.

Tedder commented that having a clear schedule of expected achievements would be critical and that having a paid staff member would be important to moving the project forward at a workable pace.

Tedder added that he would like to develop a scope of work to determine what the coordinator would do and what qualifications would be required.

Ehat commented that, to him, the next steps would be to secure funding to hire a "program manager" to assist in moving forward the reservoir design and securing grant funding for the project.

He added that the board would need someone "technically minded" to support a grant writer to assist in securing funds for the project manager.

He suggested that securing this individual, which he commented would be similar in scope to what Tedder was proposing, would be his next step for the project.

Pfister recommended that the board could combine Ehat's suggestions and previous work by the SJWCD to develop a scope of work for the consultant.

He also indicated support for using reserve funding to cover the expense, although he commented that grant funding to reduce this expenditure would be "great."

Tedder recommended that pursuing working with an engineering firm might be ideal given they would have a variety of staff who could be assigned to the project and who would be willing to work on it since they would not have to quit their current job for a potentially short-term position with the SJWCD.

Jones expressed support for this approach, and Pfister stated that he spoke with "a couple" of engineering firms prior to the hiring of Ehat.

The board then discussed the

process of drafting a statement of work for the coordinator, with Riehm proposing that the board hold a work session in December to draft the scope of work.

Tedder noted that he partially raised the issue because he felt it would be "disingenuous" of the board to approve the budget while intending to alter the budget later to include hiring a consultant.

Riehm asked Ehat how much money would be required for this consultant.

Ehat indicated that the coordinator would potentially cost \$20,000 to \$30,000, although he stated it would depend on the scope of work and what gaps are identified in the data the SJWCD possesses for the grant applications.

The board then further discussed potential sources of funding and the need for clarity on the statement of work for the contractor to clarify what funding might be needed.

The discussion concluded with Pfister recommending that the board end the current discussion and move forward with drafting a statement of work.

"We're having good conversations, but not the best utilization of our time," Pfister said.

Tedder reiterated his concerns about the board being "disingenuous" about approving the budget while anticipating later changes.

Jones stated that she did not believe the board was intending to be disingenuous, but that the board should include its intentions to spend money to hire a project coordinator in the 2024 budget.

Pfister commented that the board is unsure how much this would cost and if it would need to expend money at all, adding that the board was "beating a dead horse" with the discussion.

Tedder recommended that the board alter the budget to add funding for a project coordinator, with Jones expressing no objections to the idea.

The board then discussed the logistics of the alterations to the budget, with Tedder motioning to amend the 2024 budget to add \$30,000 in funding for hiring a project coordinator.

The motion passed unanimously.
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Forest

Continued from front page

It may seem like that "in between" is inaction, allowing nature to take care of itself. This however, ignores the 10,000 year history of humans interacting with the forests here, especially the more recent history of forest and fire management.

Part of living in a landscape with fire is the responsibility to live with nature, not apart from it, which means understanding how our actions have shaped the current conditions and how they can help future ones. Sometimes, that means cutting down some trees.

Forest resilience is something that the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) is collaboratively pursuing in the Pagosa Springs area, both on public land, like the San Juan National Forest, and private land.

"With the dense forest growth on our property and the dry conditions of the past few years, the threat of an all-consuming forest fire was clearly evident and a considerable source of worry," added Goldmann. "We ultimately reached out to Bill Trimarco of Wildfire Adapted to inform ourselves about a sensible approach to fire mitigation. At that first meeting, we also came to a better understanding of a healthy Ponderosa population and what it would take to start the process of regeneration. And that is where the [Natural Resources Conservation Service] stepped into the picture."

This fall, the SJHFHP hosted a tour on the Goldmanns' property to discuss forest restoration and the importance of individual responsibility.

The project on their land was funded by the Natural Resources Con-

servation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Through that program, the Goldmanns received financial and technical assistance. Projects like these are important for engaging community members in conversations about ecological restoration — all the more so at the Goldmanns', which is highly visible along the side of the highway.

Forests need disturbances like fire, disease and blowdown events to maintain an equilibrium. If we are living in these forests and want to avoid those disturbances, then we need to imitate them by our own means to ensure a resilient forest and reintroduce them where we can.

"The NRCS is prioritizing forest restoration and regeneration in ponderosa pine ecosystems," said Kyle O'Neill, former forester for the NRCS and current timber management assistant for the San Juan National Forest. "None of these treatments are complete until the natural disturbance regime and fire return interval is reintroduced into these ecosystems, but working to this level of restoration is huge for the NRCS and private landowners."

For the Goldmanns the process started slowly because this isn't something that is easy to understand or accept. After all, we often live in the forest so that there's a forest. It takes time to understand ourselves as stewards of something from which we often feel disconnected.

The project itself was performed by a local contractor who was chosen by the Goldmanns. Of their 72 acres, 50 were treated, meaning that trees were cut to reduce density and branches and twigs were masticated — ground up by a machine. The logs

were hauled off-site and used for firewood and lumber by a local sawmill.

"We look forward to witnessing the ensuing growth and transformation of the landscape and hope that the steps taken today will result in a healthy forest for generations to come," said Goldmann.

While the Goldmanns have made large strides on their land, a hurdle in the process of restoring contiguous forests is land ownership itself. Sweeping changes are difficult to accomplish given the patchwork of private land, national forest, Bureau of Land Management, town and county land, and more.

The SJHFHP provides a forum for conversations about forest health and where best to focus our collective efforts. That local input and prioritization sits in an even larger collaborative landscape, but the work starts small — house by house, glade by glade, tree by tree.

"Working with the Goldmanns has been a wonderful experience because they really care about their property and want to make it more resistant towards fire and resilient in an unknown future," said O'Neill.

If you are interested in learning more about forest restoration and wildfire mitigation or about the SJHFHP, reach out to Alex Handloff, the SJHFHP coordinator, at alex@mountainstudies.org.

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Sports

BASKETBALL

Pirates go 2-1 at Wolf Creek Classic

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirates opened the season with two wins and one loss at the Wolf Creek Classic last week.

The Pirates took care of business in their home opener on Thursday, Nov. 30, defeating the 3A Delta Panthers 58-49.

Receiving an unexpected lift with the return of Blake Laner from a knee injury, Pagosa opened the game strong and, finishing with a 3-pointer, led the Panthers 34-27 at half time.

A late steal and score helped give Pagosa a 47-38 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The Panthers mounted a strong run in the fourth quarter, but their momentum was stopped by a Ridge Wilson 3-pointer. The Pirates closed out the game with two free throws by Trey Garcia to win 58-49.

Coach Wes Lewis stated that, overall, he was pleased with the team's performance against a Delta team he knew would be tough.

"I thought we shot the ball pretty well from the field. Anytime you can open up a defense, hit some perimeter shots, it's going to loosen things up inside. So, I thought we were good in that area," he said. "I thought we were good. Colt Lewis and Chase Harper each had six steals."

The team finished the game with 15 steals.

"So, I thought that was big that our guards were a little bit tenacious and getting after and coming up with some steals," the coach said. "I think Delta's a real big, strong, physical team obviously coming off the state championship. So, I thought for the most part our boys stepped up and matched their physicality, but, at the end of the day, felt like we played well in spurts and then we'd play kind of bad in spurts, but I guess the good outweighed the bad enough where we came away with the victory."

Among those leading the way in the game was Colt Lewis, who scored 16 points. Blake Laner contributed 12 points. Nathaniel Kinsley scored eight, Chase Harper seven, Jaxten Schell six and Ridge Wilson three. Trey Garcia, Creede Dozier and Seth Ziegler each chipped in two points.

A strong team rebounding performance (31 total rebounds) was led by Wilson with eight and Laner with seven. Kinsey and Zeigler had four rebounds each, Lewis three, Schell and Harper two each, and Dozier with one.

Pagosa's ball-hawking defense was led by Colt Lewis' and Harper's six steals, as well as three from Kinsley. In addition, the Pirates racked up 15 assists. Colt Lewis had five assists, Harper three, and Wilson and Kinsley two each. Laner, Dozier and Schell had one each.

The team shot 58 percent from the free-throw line and committed 16 turnovers.

The following evening, the Pirates took on the 5A Montrose Red Hawks.

The Pirates began with a good start to the game. A follow by Blake Laner gave Pagosa a 2-0 lead, followed by a layup from Chase Harper. Montrose countered with three unanswered buckets to take a 10-4 lead. The Pirates closed the first quarter with a layup and free throw by Colt Lewis to trail the Red Hawks 14-9.

In the second quarter, a steal with just under three minutes left led to a layup by Colt Lewis and brought the Pirates within three. A free throw by Jason Schell with 22 seconds left closed the gap to two. Montrose then hit the final basket of the second quarter to take a 22-18 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Pirates were hit with two calls — technicals for delay of game and for Wes Lewis being out the coach's box. These cost Pagosa their possession, gave two



Blake Laner goes up for a shot against the Delta Panthers on Nov. 30 in the Wolf Creek Classic. Laner's unexpected early return from an injury and 12 points helped spark the Pirates to a 58-49 victory.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

free throws to Montrose and gave possession back to Montrose.

Strong defense by the Red Hawks in the third quarter also kept the Pirates scoreless for over four minutes until Colt Lewis hit a 3-pointer to pull the Pirates within three at 24-21. Zeigler scored after a pass by Laner, and the third quarter ended with Montrose leading 28-25.

The Red Hawks extended the lead to nine with 3:21 left in the fourth quarter before the Pirates got hot from the 3-point range and tied the score at 34.

A travel by Montrose gave Pagosa possession with 1:02 remaining and the chance to win the game in regulation. Montrose blocked a final Pirate shot to send the game into overtime.

Wes Lewis explained he was trying to run a set at the end of regulation to win but not give Montrose too much time after the shot.

"We didn't want to leave them much of any time this year, but the set we had called, it didn't quite allow us enough time to get it fully set up and run properly," he said. "So, kind of just a broken play there at the end."

Montrose scored first in overtime to take a three-point lead. Laner was fouled after a rebound and went down with a possible injury. Schell came in for Laner and hit both free

throws to pull the Pirates within one. Laner returned to the game with 53 seconds.

The Red Hawks sank four free throws in the last minute of the game to take a four-point lead.

With four seconds left, Colt Lewis hit the front end of a 1-and-1 and intentionally missed the second. Unfortunately, the Pirates committed a lane violation and Montrose won 40-36.

"Both teams played good defense," Wes Lewis said. "Both teams had trouble scoring. We didn't shoot the

ball very well from the field. [We] got a few to go for us in the second half. We could have shot a little bit better in the early going — would've helped us out obviously quite a bit."

The leading scorer for Pagosa was Colt Lewis, who scored 12 points and had one rebound, two assists and one steal.

Harper chipped in seven points and two assists.

Laner added six points, eight rebounds, one assist and two blocks.

Ziegler had four points and one ■ See Pirates A13

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EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, December 28

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 22

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Tuesday, December 26

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 21

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Monday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.*

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 4, 2024

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 29

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 28

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Monday, January 1, 2024, in observance of New Year's.*

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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates go 1-2 at Wolf Creek Classic to open season

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates started their season with one win and two losses at the Wolf Creek Classic.

The Pirates opened with a victory against the 4A Delta Panthers on Thursday, Nov. 30, but lost to the 5A Montrose Red Hawks 40-28 on Friday, Dec. 1, and lost 50-21 to the 6A Rocky Mountain Lobos Saturday, Dec. 2.

In the opening game, the Lady Pirates started strong against the Delta Panthers. Pagosa finished the first quarter with a steal and layup by Karsyn Shahan, a block by Elizabeth Currier and a 3-pointer by Shahan to give the team a 12-7 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Delta came back in the second quarter, outscoring the Pirates 20-12, but Pagosa still led 33-32 at halftime.

Led by 3-point shooting and defense in the second half, the Lady Pirates outscored the Panthers 12-6 in both the third and fourth quarters to seal the 57-44 victory.

"I was very happy with how we came out at our first home opener against Delta," wrote coach Sarah Osborn in an email to The SUN. "The team looked strong and composed against Delta. Even with a rocky second quarter, and rushing our offense they maintained their lead and composure. Both Karsyn and Liz had great offensive games to lead us, but it was truly a team effort with contributions from everyone on the floor both offensively and defensively. We had some great post touches which opened up the floor for our guards to get some good shots up."

Currier and Shahan led the Pirates in scoring with 20 points each, followed by Annie O'Donnell with eight points, Daveyann Snarr with five and Kylie Ketchum with four.

Currier also had five rebounds, five assists, three steals and one block.

Shahan had four rebounds, three assists, two steals and three blocks.

Annie O'Donnell tallied eight rebounds and one assist.

Snarr added four rebounds, three assists, five steals and a block, and Ketchum added another steal.

The Lady Pirates had 21 rebounds, 13 assists, 12 steals, and five blocks to go along with 13 turnovers. The team shot 44 percent from the field, 41 percent from 3-point range, and 44 percent from the free-throw line.

The following evening, the Pirates took on the 5A Montrose Red Hawks.

As in the matchup with Delta, the Lady Pirates started strong. A 3-pointer by Currier extended the early Pagosa lead to 10-5, and the Pirates closed the first quarter with a 10-7 lead.

The Red Hawks outscored the Lady Pirates 13-9 in the second quarter, tying the game at 18 points each, and then taking their first lead of the game at the end of the half, 20-19.

Pagosa began the third quarter in a zone defense, and Montrose quickly countered with a 3-pointer to expand its lead to four. The Red Hawks expanded the lead to seven, but the Pirates answered with a post move by Snarr and a drive by Currier to move within three, trailing Montrose 29-26 at the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Montrose outscored the Lady Pirates 11-2. The Red Hawks closed the game with a steal to ice the victory 40-28.

Currier led the Pirates in scoring with 10 points, Shahan added eight, O'Donnell scored five, Ketchum and Snarr scored two each, and Amber Snarr scored one.

The team had 17 rebounds, three assists, six steals, four blocks and 20 turnovers.

The Lady Pirates wrapped up play in the Classic the next day, losing their game against the Rocky Mountain Lobos from Fort Collins by a score of 50-21.

The score was 2-2 after the first three minutes of play, with Rocky Mountain holding a 13-5 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Pirates did not score until a free throw four and a half minutes into the second half, with the only scoring for the team in the quarter on four separate free throws, with the Pirates making one of two each time.

The Lobos scored 13 in the quarter, giving them a 26-9 lead at the half.

Rocky Mountain continued to outscore Pagosa in the third quarter, with the Lobos holding a 37-18 lead at the end of the quarter.

Rocky Mountain put up its best quarter in the fourth, scoring 13 points to the Pirates' three.

The final score was 50-21 in favor



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Annie O'Donnell fights for a rebound along with Liz Currier in the game against the Rocky Mountain Lobos on Dec. 2 in the Wolf Creek Classic. The Lady Pirates lost the game 50-28.

of the Lobos.

Osborn commented, "Against both Montrose and Rocky Mountain we rushed our offense and had a hard time handling the extra pressure. I think in both these games we had glimpses of good team basketball and strong defense, but in the end,

"I am excited for our matchups this weekend, the girls have been focused and working hard in practice this week to fix the little details that will help their offensive execution."

Coach Sarah Osborn

we came out with lots of things to work on. Moving forward from this weekend we will focus on rebounding, and execution of our offense under pressure."

Currier led the team in scoring with six, Daveyann Snarr had five,

and Shahan and O'Donnell each had three. Lexi Campbell scored two points, and Amber Snarr and Ketchum scored one each.

Currier had three rebounds and three steals.

Shahan had five rebounds, four steals and one block.

O'Donnell had five rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Daveyann Snarr had two rebounds, one assist and three steals.

Amber Snarr had four rebounds, and Ketchum had two rebounds, one assist and one steal.

The Lady Pirates committed 23 turnovers in the game.

The Lady Pirates will continue tournament play at the Heritage Tournament this week.

Osborn expressed optimism and excitement for the next games on the schedule, stating, "I am excited for our matchups this weekend, the girls have been focused and working hard in practice this week to fix the little details that will help their offensive execution."

The Lady Pirates will play the Sedgwick County Cougars at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, and play again at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, with their opponent yet to be announced.

The Cougars are 1-0 on the season. robert@pagosasun.com

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THE SPRINGS RESORT

WRESTLING

Lady Pirates take sixth in Farmington tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling division saw its first action this week at the Farmington Wrestling Girls Invite on Dec. 1.

The Lady Pirates took sixth out of 10 teams despite having only four wrestlers, coach Dan Janowsky explained.

He also commented on the context surrounding the creation of a girls' wrestling division this year, explaining that the Pagosa wrestling team has had female wrestlers intermittently over his coaching career.

Janowsky commented that he wants to "honor the courage" of the previous female Pirate wrestlers in competing and helping develop the girls' program.

He added that the development of the girls' wrestling program at the middle school level has also been critical to exposing potential female wrestlers to wrestling and giving them the confidence to compete at the high school level.

He highlighted that women's

wrestling is now an Olympic and college sport and is the fastest-growing sport at the high school level.

He explained that, this year, three girls wanted to compete in the wrestling program and train with the team and that they chose to compete as representatives of Pagosa instead of joining another local girls' wrestling team, such as Bayfield's, for competitions.

Janowsky stated that this led to the creation of the girls' wrestling division and schedule, although he noted that the program is not large enough to be a separate varsity program with its own coach and that it still shares coaching staff and trains with the boys' wrestling team.

"So, they're part of our program, and I really like it that way," Janowsky commented. "I enjoy having them in the room, and I think the results show that they are doing well, that they are growing in the environment that we have."

The coach noted that, at the Farmington Invite, the girls' division's results surpassed those of several schools with varsity girls' wrestling programs, independent coaches and

independent practice spaces.

"So, I'm proud of the work that they're doing and I'm proud of their performance," he said. "I think it validates the fact that they're improving."

The girls' division currently has five members, four of whom competed at the Farmington Invite.

At the Farmington tournament, Madisen Stretton, in the 107-pound weight class, won the second championship round, the quarterfinals and the semifinals with pins before being pinned in the championship match to take second place.

Janowsky commended Stretton's passion for the "science of wrestling" and her role as the "ringleader" of establishing the girls' wrestling division.

"She, in her first high school tournament as a freshman, got into the finals and got into a situation that she wasn't familiar with and got stuck in a bad position and lost on a pin," he said. "But to advance that far is really cool."

In the 120-pound weight class, Dalton Hoover was pinned in the first championship round, received a bye in the first consolation round and was pinned in the second consolation round.

Aspen Salazar, in the 145-pound weight class, was pinned in the second championship round, pinned her opponent in the consolation quarterfinals and was pinned in the consolation semifinals.

Janowsky noted that Salazar had an asthma attack during her consolation quarterfinals match, but was able to recover and defeat her opponent.

"That's what wrestling's about," he said. "That's what it develops — is your ability to overcome things like that. Wrestling is a great sport ... about teaching kids how to work through adversity and how to keep believing in yourself, and how to deal with disappointment and how to deal with success. And, that should be open to both boys and girls."

In the 235-pound weight class, Laykyn Baxstrom won the second championship round with a pin and

received a bye in the quarterfinals before being defeated in a 13-3 major decision in the semifinals.

Baxstrom then lost the third-place match 3-2 in the ultimate tiebreaker overtime period to take fourth place.

Janowsky explained that he spoke to Baxstrom following the match and "her assessment of her match was spot on."

On the division overall, the coach commented, "Hopefully these girls are showing other girls that the door is open to them and as the numbers grow it may become a full program."

"That would be exciting, too. But, in the meantime, I love having them in our practice room. ... I love being on their team and they're on my team."

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

The Lady Pirates will continue their season at Bloomfield Tourney on Dec. 9 starting at 9 a.m. in Bloomfield, N.M.

The team will then compete in the Bayfield Tournament in Bayfield on Dec. 16 beginning at 9 a.m.

Following the winter break, the team will compete in a dual against Ignacio in Ignacio at 5 p.m. on Jan. 17, 2024, followed by a dual against Montezuma-Cortez in Cortez on Jan. 25, 2024, at 6 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will compete in regionals on Feb. 3, 2024, starting at 9 a.m., with the location to be determined.

josh@pagosasun.com

RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for youth basketball, youth pickleball

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.

available.

Our youth will have the opportunity to learn new skills and engage in games on a daily basis throughout the eight-day session every Saturday.

Don't miss out on this fun and exciting opportunity for your child.

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

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

Youth pickleball

Youth open play is now available and ready to welcome those ages 9-16 who are interested in learning the basics of pickleball.

Our experienced club members will be teaching kids the fundamentals and providing them with drills to practice. Loaner paddles will be

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Public Notices

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Case Number: 2023CV30082
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: (970) 264-8160
Plaintiffs:
GARY D. IMHOFF and S. DENISE IMHOFF

Defendants:
T. DUDLEY HOUSE and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.
Submitting Attorney:
Duke Eggleston, #24965
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFFS GARY D. IMHOFF and S. DENISE IMHOFF
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
T. DUDLEY HOUSE AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION

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 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. 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 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 the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
Lot 21 of Block 13 in AMENDED ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 2, according to the plat thereof filed for record June 15, 1971 as Reception No. 74503. Respectfully Submitted this 27th day of November, 2023.

Published in *The Pagosa Sun*
First Publication: December 7, 2023
Last Publication: January 4, 2024
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston
Duke Eggleston, #24965
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 403-1580
(222898)

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

v.
ELVIRA 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 Marla C. Underrell, LLC Marla C. Underrell, 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@underrell-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. 162 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*, November 23, 2023.
First Publication: November 23, 2023.
Last Publication: December 21, 2023.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 7th day of November, 2023. THE LAW FIRM OF MARLA C. UNDERRELL, LLC
/s/ Marla C. Underrell
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Marla C. Underrell, 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@underrell-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. §38-101 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. 38-101 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. 72989 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 January 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 CAVANAUGH 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 a meeting in person only.
Published November 23, December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (221670)

Notice for Publication to Edward Rafferty
This publication is to notify you as father of the child J.O.W. there is an on-going child welfare matter contained in Archuleta District Court File Number 23JV30001. The next hearing in this matter is set for January 9, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Contact the Court at 970-264-8160 for additional information.
Published December 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223256)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District (PPMID) Board of Directors for the calendar year 2024. The proposed budget is available for public inspection at 55 MILTON LANE ARBOLES, CO. Copies are also available upon request by email at PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or phone at (970) 749-5968). The proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the PPMID board of directors to be held on December 12, 2023 at 55 Milton Lane, Arboles, Colorado at 6 PM.
Any interested party may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto in writing at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Any objections may be submitted to the PPMID Board of Directors by email PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or letter P.O. Box 1609 Arboles, CO 81121.
Published November 30, December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (222699)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET ADOPTION FOR ARCHULETA COUNTY
Pursuant to C.R.S. § 29-1-106, notice is hereby given that a proposed budget is being submitted to the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County for the 2024 budget year; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of the County Clerk & Recorder, 449 San Juan Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 where the same is open for public inspection and can be found on the county website. Such proposed budget will be considered at a Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to be held at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 on December 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Any interested elector of Archuleta County may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.
Published December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (22087)

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 or on or before March 23, 2024, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
1901 Tallman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published November 23 & 30, December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (222049)

Request for Proposals: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for Chipsealing of specified asphalt roads. Roads selected for this bidding process are: Cemetery Rd, 2nd St. S, Pagosa Blvd, Millcreek Rd, 10th St, 8th St, and Great West Ave. Required pre-bid meeting January 9, 2024 at 1pm. Responses due Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs button for details and instructions.
Published December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223254)

Request for Proposals: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for Milling, Reclaiming, and/or Overlay of some asphalt roads. Roads selected for this bidding process are: Hot Springs Blvd, Navajo St., and Spring St. Required pre-bid meeting January 10, 2024 at 1pm. Responses due Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs button for details and instructions.
Published December 7, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223255)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

WRESTLING

Pirates go 5-3 in duals to open season

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team opened its season this week with eight duals at two events, including the Bayfield Tri in Bayfield on Dec. 1 and the Demon Duals event in Buena Vista on Dec. 2. The Pirates went 5-3 across the two events, coach Dan Janowsky explained.

At the Bayfield Tri, Pagosa defeated Ignacio 48-22 and lost to Bayfield 43-36.

At the Demon Duals, Pagosa defeated Trinidad 42-32, Salida 48-30, Florence 47-29 and Dolores Huerta Preparatory 54-24.

The Pirates were defeated by Centauri 47-36 and lost to West Grand in a 42-42 match due to having a greater number of forfeits.

Janowsky pointed out that the team's lineup is currently unstable, but that he was pleased with the performance of the Pirates who wrestled. "Our top-level guys wrestled like

top-level guys and then we have some guys that ... we're trying to bring them up to that next level, and I was very happy with their progress and their improvements from last year," he said.

Janowsky indicated that the Pirates' top talent includes Colton Lucero, who went undefeated across eight matches; Connor Kelly, who was also undefeated; and Luke Tressler, who went 7-1.

The coach also highlighted the accomplishments and growth of Harley Armijo and Antonio Quesada, who both went 7-1, as well as previous state-qualifier Derek Carter, who went 6-2.

Janowsky noted improvements for Wyatt Hoover, who went 4-4, and Taylor Handy, who only wrestled at the Bayfield Tri and went 1-1 at the event.

Seth Aucoin also wrestled at the Demon Duals event, where he went 6-0.

Janowsky noted that the team finished with a winning record over the weekend despite only having ap-

proximately two-thirds of the weights currently filled.

The coach stated that the team will likely have the remaining weights filled soon, adding that many of the weights are not currently filled due to injuries, illnesses and some wrestlers needing to make final steps in qualifying for their weights.

He explained that the lower weight classes are a particular challenge, with fewer experienced wrestlers and more unfilled weights, though Janowsky commended the "nerves" of the freshman and sophomore wrestlers who competed at these weights as their first varsity experience.

He indicated that the team has wrestlers prepared to fill its currently empty weights.

These wrestlers are primarily "good" junior varsity wrestlers making the transition to varsity, the coach explained.

"We're just getting started, so that is not a concern at all, and even with our limited lineup we were able to

win more than half the matches," Janowsky concluded.

He added that the Pirates generally had more forfeits than the teams they faced, although the Pirates frequently triumphed due to accumulating more points during matches than their opponents.

The Pirates will participate in their first tournament of the season at the Columbine Tournament at Columbine High School in Littleton on Dec. 9, with action beginning at 9 a.m.

Janowsky noted that Pagosa has previously done well at the tournament, which he stated will be more challenging than the events of the last week due to the presence of larger schools from the Denver area.

He explained that, for a moderately challenging tournament like Columbine, the talent of the team's top-tier athletes and the overall strength of its lineup will both be tested, and the Pirates will have to secure a large quantity of high placements to do well overall.
josh@pagosasun.com

Pirates

Continued from A10 rebound. Schell also had four points and two rebounds.

Kinsley scored three points with one rebound and one steal.

Wilson had three rebounds and two assists.

The Pirates hit four 3-pointers for the game and shot 53 percent from the free-throw line.

Afterward, Lewis praised both his own players and Montrose's, saying, "I was proud of their fight and their grit and their determination and their stick-to-itiveness and really just bearing down. And, it's a game that could have gone either way. I give their coach a lot of credit. I mean, he's done it a long time, knows what he is doing, well prepared for us and the stuff we try to do, it's always a battle

playing them ... Just sure would like for my guys to be able to get them."

In their final game of the Classic on Saturday, the Pirates played the Bayfield Wolverines.

Pagosa sailed past Bayfield, notching a 66-35 victory.

The Pirates got out of the starting blocks quickly with a 3-pointer by Harper and never looked back, leading 25-12 at the end of the first quarter.

With Lewis and Harper finding success from the 3-point range, the Pirates extended their lead to 23 points at halftime, 39-16.

Pagosa outscored the Wolverines 18-12 in the third and played evenly in the fourth, 9-9. The final score was 66-35 in favor of the Pirates.

"The boys bounced back (after Montrose), shot the ball really well,

ran the floor and shared the basketball. Bayfield is going to be better the next time we see him and we'll see them twice more this year," the coach said.

Colt Lewis led the way for Pagosa Springs as he scored 22 points and had nine assists and two steals.

Harper scored 13 points to go with three assists and one steal.

Laner had eight points, eight rebounds, two assists, one steal and one block.

Wilson added seven points, five rebounds, two assists and one steal, while Kinsley had six points and three assists.

Garcia had three points and three rebounds. Dozier also had three points and one rebound.

Ziegler had two points and two rebounds, and Schell ended with two

points and one steal.

The Pirates improved their free throw shooting to 80 percent and held their turnovers to nine for the game.

Pagosa Springs now has a record of 2-1.

The Pirates will continue tournament play this weekend at the Heritage Tournament, facing the Heritage Christian Eagles at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8.

The Eagles are 1-0 on the season. Lewis indicated he is expecting a good game, saying, "It'll be tough. We didn't shoot the ball very well last year. They do a really good job defensively with their matchup zone and good help-man defense ... We hope to shoot the ball better this year up there than we did last year, but it won't be an easy out on Friday night." The Pirates will play again at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, with their opponent yet to be determined.
robert@pagosasun.com

SWIM

Lady Pirates set to dive into season Saturday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team will dive into its 2023-2024 season Saturday in Farmington, N.M., and coach Heather Miller notes she's excited to see how the team's returning swimmers are taking on new leadership roles this season.

In an email to The SUN, Miller explains the team has 17 swimmers this year, with eight returning from last season.

"Nearly half of our swimmers are not only new to the team, but also new to the sport. It is also a young team, composed mainly of freshmen and sophomores," she wrote.

The 2022-2023 season graduated six seniors, five of whom represented the Lady Pirates at the state championship.

"This is a young team and a season in which we are looking for everyday improvements as we swim toward our goals," she wrote.

With that, she explains the coaches are excited to see "how the returning swimmers have started to take on new leadership roles. We are also excited with all the improvements of our new swimmers' stroke techniques."

Miller also indicates the Lady Pirates have shown they support each other.

"We have a very supportive group of swimmers who encourage and challenge each other to be their best," she wrote.

Miller also points out the team is back practicing locally this year, and the coaches would love to see the team's veteran swimmers continue to drop time and set new personal records.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of Tuesday, Dec. 5, but is subject to change.

The team will dive into the season

at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, with a meet in Farmington, N.M.

On Dec. 15, the Lady Pirates will take part in a meet in Montrose that is set to begin at 4 p.m.

On Dec. 18, the Pirates will head to Adams State University for a meet hosted by Sargent. The time is to be announced.

Following a hiatus for the holidays, the Lady Pirates will hit the road for a pair of meets in Durango on Jan. 12 and 13, 2024. Action is slated to begin at 4:30 p.m. the first day and 10:30 a.m. the second day.

On Jan. 19, 2024, the team will head to Delta for a 3 p.m. meet.

The team will take part in the Grand Junction Invite on Jan. 20, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m.

Next, the Lady Pirates will head to Gunnison on Jan. 26, 2024, for a 3 p.m. meeting.

The Western Slope Conference meet is schedule for Feb. 2 and 3, 2024, at Colorado Mesa University, with action slated to begin at 5 p.m. the first day and 9 a.m. the second day.
randi@pagosasun.com

VOLLEYBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

A pair of Lady Pirate volleyball players garnered postseason honors for their work on the court during the fall season. Left, Lauren Monterroso and, right, Aspen Pitcher, were both named to the all-conference team. Pitcher also earned an honorable mention for the 3A all-state team.

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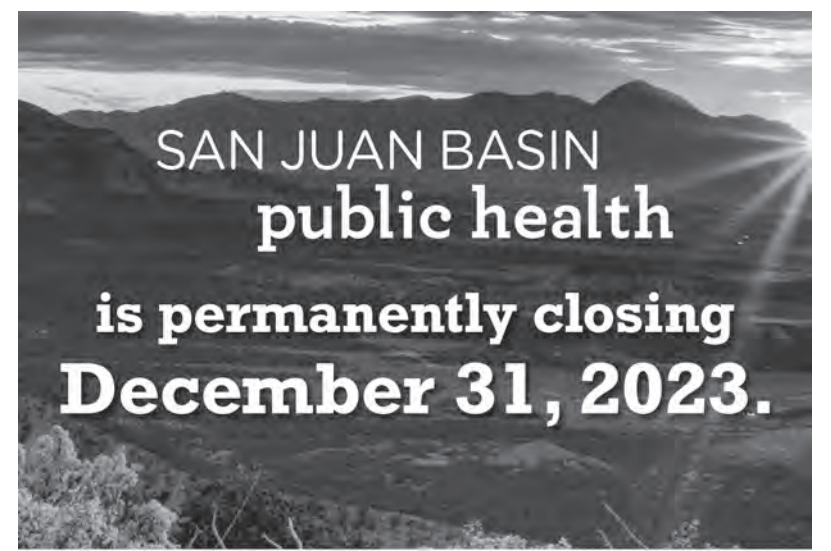
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More about the transition to Archuleta and La Plata County public health departments, opening January 1, 2024:



sjbpublichealth.org/changes

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Community Foundation awards \$10,000 County Fund Grant to Wings expansion

By Tracy Pope
Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has awarded its annual grant from the Archuleta County Fund, donating \$10,000 to Wings Early Childhood Center in support of its classroom expansion project.

The Wings expansion will add 2,640 square feet to the existing 3,700-square-foot child care center. The addition creates room for two new classrooms and a commercial kitchen. The new space will be used to increase enrollment for children ages 3-5 years, more than doubling the child care capacity available at the center from 40 licensed slots to 82.

The addition also creates the opportunity to add infant care. When the expansion is completed, Wings will be the only child care center in Pagosa Springs to offer infant care for children ages 6 weeks to 1 year. It is currently the only center that enrolls children ages 1 year to 2.5 years.

The Community Foundation's Archuleta County Fund grant will specifically fund some of the needed appliances for the new classrooms and kitchen to ensure that health and safety needs are met, including hot meals, cleaning, and sanitizing.

According to Executive Director Rebecca Gartman, "Maintaining our food program is one of our highest priorities because of its importance to our families and the nourishment of our children."

Breakfasts, lunches and snacks are currently prepared in a repurposed staff room that does not have a stove or adequate refrigeration space. Gartman also noted that dishwashers are needed in the classrooms to sanitize toys.

Funding for the projected \$800,000 construction project comes from the Town of Pagosa Springs, several foundations, fundraising events and individual donations. Funds received or pledged to date account for about 75 percent of the total needed.

David Smith, a member of the Wings board of directors, said, "We continue to look for additional funding so the expansion will be completed for fall enrollment in 2024."

"The Community Foundation is pleased to support families in the Pagosa area who need reliable, quality childcare, including healthy meals," said Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. "This type of support not only benefits children who can thrive in a safe, enriching environment, but also benefits parents who can go to work knowing their children are well cared for, and indirectly benefits employers and co-workers who rely on the steady work of their fellow employees."

Fundraising for the Archuleta County Fund was started in 2018 by a Community Foundation committee of local volunteers. Sufficient funds were raised by 2022, and an advisory group was formed to consider the most pressing local issues facing Archuleta County residents currently. The advisory group meets a few times per year to discuss options for this annual, unsolicited grant opportunity. Last year's \$10,000 grant supported affordable workforce housing through Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County.

The County Fund's advisory group of stakeholders includes two local members of the Community Foundation's Archuleta Committee, one Foundation staff member and three at-large, local community members. All grant recommendations are approved by the foundation's board of directors.

Jason Cox, a member of the Archuleta County Fund Advisory Committee, said, "We greatly appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Community Foundation to make an important grant to Wings in our community. This timely grant will provide a positive impact for Archuleta County families who rely on Wings for child care."

The Archuleta County Fund continues to accept donations at swcommunityfoundation.org. Click the donate button and select the Archuleta County Fund to help sustain future granting for local Pagosa-area non-profits.



Photo courtesy Tracy Pope/Community Foundation

Wings Early Childhood Center and Community Foundation representatives show off a grant award for the center's expansion. From left are Jan Johnson, Archuleta County Fund Advisory Committee member; children from Wings; Mariah Neuleib, preschool teacher; and Rebecca Gartman, Wings director.





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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Christmas in Pagosa



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Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir's Concerts are set to offer beautiful choral music in celebration of Christmas on Dec. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir to present 'Sounds of the Season' Dec. 8-10

By Heidi Tanner

Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The time is here. The Pagosa Springs Community Choir's annual Christmas concerts are this weekend, and you don't want to miss them.

Please join the Community Choir in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium for a choral Christmas concert that will bring joy to you and yours.

We offer three concerts to fit your schedule, and admission is free. Our three concerts are on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m.

Please join our music director, Dan Burch, and

Venita Burch, our accompanist, and all the singers in the choir — which boasts close to 70 members — who have been rehearsing for these concerts since September and who are ready to make your holiday season special.

One of the unique aspects of our concerts is our ASL-certified sign language interpreter, Faith Richardson. Richardson has been signing for our concerts for many years now and it is beautiful to watch her hands as they interpret the lyrics of our songs.

The women in the choir will be dressed in our sparkling Christmas attire while our men's black vests and red bow ties are festive and smart. We are

■ See Choir on next page

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Pagosa Catholic community announces Advent Retreat

By Roxanne Schick
Pagosa Catholic community

Jesus is the gift. Join us as we dive into scripture, talk about Jesus and join in fellowship at this Advent Retreat. All are invited to "Encounter Jesus" on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd., at 6 p.m. Please come and consider inviting a friend.

Choir

■ continued from previous page
a good-looking group. Then, add the stage decorations which our board members lovingly put up and you have almost everything you need for a beautiful Christmas concert. The final ingredient is the beautiful voices and harmonies raised in song in celebration of Christmas.

Please join us this weekend and enjoy these special concerts presented annually by the Community Choir.

Remember, you can enjoy our concerts on Friday and Saturday nights, Dec. 8 and 9, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m.

The choir is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and, as such, we operate based on donations. Admission is free, but if you can give a donation, these donations fund the choir's continued operations and fund our vocal scholarships that are awarded annually to local vocal students.

We thank you for your support in advance and we are looking forward to seeing you this weekend in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, located at 800 S. 8th St. The doors will be open at 6:30 p.m.

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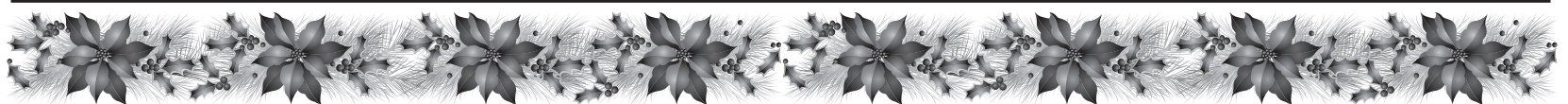


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Christmas parties set for kids of all ages

By Frank and Connie Porter
 Child Evangelism Fellowship of CO

Christmas parties for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will be held in two different locations. The parties will include games, songs, the Christmas story, crafts, snacks and more.

The first one is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 3:15 to 5 p.m. at Pagosa Springs Elementary School, in the school cafeteria.

The second one is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive (behind Wells Fargo Bank).

Both parties are for kids from any of the schools and also for kids who are home-schooled. The parties are the same, so choose the date that is best for you.

Kids Kare, for 3- to 5-year-old little ones, is also having a Christmas theme. It meets each Wednesday through Dec. 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Pagosa Bible Church. All little ones are welcome.

If your child has not registered for a club this school year, go to coloradocef.org/southwest and click on "Register for a Club." For more information, email Connie at frank.connie@colorado.org.

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'How Great Our Joy,' an evening of Christmas music, to be presented Dec. 17

By Wayne Hooper
 Special to The PREVIEW

The Melashenko Family, award-winning gospel singers, have been blessing audiences all around the world for more than 50 years with their gospel, Christ-centered harmonies.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m., six members of the Melashenko

Family will be in concert at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, located at 2313 Eagle Drive.

The five sons of Joe and Anne Melashenko began singing together with their mom and dad when they were youngsters growing up on the wheatfields of Saskatchewan, Canada. They are seen regularly on the Hope Channel and

■ See Music on next page



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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.

Santa Sleigh Ride Event



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

December 9th starting at 4pm
Reservations required

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Saturday, December 16
3-7 p.m.



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Fractal Shallows, Infinite Depths

drawings, paintings & sculpture
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THE SPRINGS RESORT
presents
Artist in Residence
Dan Dempster

Opening eggnog reception
Friday, 8th December
4:30-6:30 pm

DEMPSTER FINE ART GALLERY
in THE SPRINGS RESORT LODGE

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DEMPSTER FINE ART



Music

continued from previous page
3ABN Television Networks.
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www.wildcompany.com



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!

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

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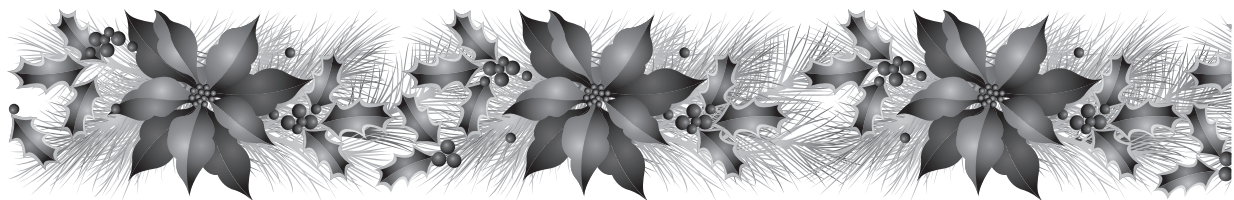
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Season's Greetings



St. Patrick's to hold book and fabric sale Saturday

By Lynne McCrudden
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Church will have a book and fabric sale on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. until noon in the church's Parish Hall.

The Book Nook is overflowing with great books that would make wonderful Christmas presents. There is also a good selection of jigsaw puzzles to fill those winter evenings.

The Quilt Ministry, which makes quilts for those in need of prayer

and comfort, also has more fabric than they can use or store. Some of the fabric is home-decorating fabric, some could be used for clothing and then of course we have quilting fabric.

There will be great prices on all items. Books make great Christmas presents and there is still time to make some creative Christmas presents with the fabric we have for sale.

The funds raised from the Book Nook will go to our Food Pantry, and the fabric sale funds will go to the Quilt Ministry.

Photo courtesy
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will hold a book and fabric sale from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Dec. 9.



Trinity Anglican Church

Morning Prayer
December 10, 10:00 AM
Second Sunday in Advent:
"Peace"

246 Harman Park Dr.
trinityanglicanchurch.org

The Melashenko Christmas Tour

"How Great Our Joy"

Join us for a community Christmas concert event with **The Melashenko Family Singers.**



Sunday Night, Dec. 17, 6:30 PM

Free Admission

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19 Navajo Trail Dr.
(At the corner of North Pagosa Blvd. and Navajo Trail Dr.)

Holiday Church Events

All events listed in the Holiday Church Events Calendar are free of charge. Submit events to editor@pagosasun.com.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Advent Service. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church. The second Sunday in Advent will be a service of morning prayer. For more information, visit www.trinityanglicanchurch.org.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Advent Retreat. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join in diving into scripture, talking about Jesus and joining in fellowship.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Advent Service. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church. This will be a Holy Communion service. For more information, visit www.trinityanglicanchurch.org.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Carol Sing Service. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church. For more information, call (970) 731-3120 or visit www.christmasinpagosa.org.

Advent/Christmas Eve Service. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church.

The fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve will be observed with morning prayer and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. For more information, visit www.trinityanglicanchurch.org.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. There will be a Pagosa Brass prelude starting at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (970) 731-3120 or visit www.christmasinpagosa.org.

Christmas Eve Mass. 5 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Christmas songs will be sung half an hour before Mass.

Christmas Eve Mass. 8 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Christmas songs will be sung half an hour before Mass.

Monday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Pagosa Catholic Community Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Mass will be streamed. Christmas songs will be sung half an hour before Mass.

Monday, Jan. 1

Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Mass will be streamed.

New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure

New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. will feature Stephanie Morrow, who will speak on "The Spirit of Reciprocity for our Season of Giving and Receiving."

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want." — Proverbs 11:24.

Upcoming events

SpiritHeart Band practice is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. We welcome

musicians and singers to join the SpiritHeart band. Please text Bruce at (970) 507-0739 for band information.

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

Dec. 17, 11 a.m.: Sunday service. Dec. 21, 6 p.m.: Solstice drumming and celebration.

Dec. 24, 11 a.m.: Candlelight service with Shayla McClure.

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

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Watch for our annual banquet in Spring 2024!

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Photo courtesy Lisa Scott

Local Pi Beta Phi sorority alumnae gathered at the home of Carole Howard on Dec. 1 for their annual Christmas angel potluck luncheon. Posing with a tiny fraction of the 200 pounds of food they donated to Healthy Archuleta's food distribution center for community food banks are, standing left to right: Carole Howard, Mary Rothchild, Melissa McDonald, Paula Tennant, Ann Bubb and Mary Bailly. Seated, left to right, are Kelly Maestas and Lisa Scott. The ladies also donated toiletries to Rise Above Violence, a local social service organization supporting domestic violence victims. The festive holiday event also included an angel gift exchange. Pi Beta Phi, founded in 1867, is the oldest national sorority in the U.S. Today there are 135 collegiate chapters in the U.S. and nearly 300 alumnae clubs around the world.

LIVE MUSIC

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5-7 pm in the Lodge Atrium**



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Jason Rose

Saturday, December 9
Maxwell Miller

Friday, December 15
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Tuesday, December 19
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Thank you citizens of Archuleta County for passing ballot measure 5A.

You demonstrated that you value the role of education, educators, and students in our community.

The 5A campaign could not have happened without all the volunteers who stepped up in many ways.

An enormous THANK YOU goes out to:

- The **generous donors** who provided funding for campaign efforts.
- The **campaign leaders** who organized the effort.
- The **teacher leaders** who energized their colleagues and put boots on the ground.
- The **volunteers** who executed significant pieces of the campaign.
- The **canvassers** who knocked on doors and answered the hard questions.
- The **community supporters** who put up yard signs, talked to their family and friends, and openly supported the measure.
- The **students and families** who took the time to learn about 5A.
- The **community groups** who listened to 5A presentations.

**We are grateful that our community
values our schools and education.**

Paid for by Citizens for ASD.

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Creation Care Pagosa offers tips for sustainable holidays

By Sarah Riehm
Creation Care Pagosa

At our November meeting, members discussed ways to be more eco-friendly this Christmas while still experiencing the fullness of joy in this holiday season.

Here are some ideas if you'd like to make a difference in protecting our environment this December and beyond.

Gift-giving

1. Give toys that raise environmental awareness. Buy toys that are made from natural, long-lasting materials. Avoid plastic or battery-operated toys.

2. Buy local, buy handmade and buy American. Pagosa has many wonderful places to shop.

3. If you are giving clothing, buy clothes made of natural fibers such as wool, alpaca or organic bamboo or cotton. Thirty-five percent of the microplastics in our oceans comes from the sloughing of microfibers from synthetic textiles (fleece, polyester and spandex are all petroleum products) from our washing machines. This makes it the largest single source of plastic pollution in our oceans.

4. Consider giving a charitable donation in honor of a friend or family member in lieu of a physical gift. Some of the many worthy charities that support the environment include The Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the National Parks Foundation, the Nature Conservancy or the Environmental Defense Fund.

5. Less is more. Jesus only received three gifts for that first Christmas.

5. Think about suspending gifts in your family to adults, or draw one name for Christmas gifting.

Eating

Reduce or eliminate beef and lamb from your holiday diet. The

climate impact of our meat consumption is roughly equivalent to all the driving and flying of every car, truck and plane in the world. Eat more vegetarian meals—try a meatless Monday. Chicken and fish are the best environmentally friendly options. Think about meat as more of a condiment in your cooking, not the main source of calories. Stretch meat consumption by adding it to pastas, rice dishes and soups.

2. Americans discard more food than any other country, nearly 40 million tons, or 30-40 percent of the entire U.S. food supply. Households are the biggest culprit — far more than restaurants and groceries. The average American household could save at least \$1,500 per year by eliminating food waste. Food waste not only robs the planet of resources, but when it is dumped in landfills, it causes methane gas, one of the key ingredients in global warming. Globally, food waste releases up to 10 percent of worldwide annual greenhouse gas emissions. So, plan your meals. Take a grocery list to the store and don't get distracted by food you won't eat.

3. Compost your food waste Pagosa is a tough place to compost because of the low humidity and cold nights. Dr. Terry Root, a world-renowned environmental scientist who spoke at to the Weminuche Audubon Society last month, recommended using a table-top composter. Add the compost to your gardens or lawns. Did you know one head of lettuce takes up to 25 years to decompose in a landfill, emitting methane gas the entire time.

Decorating

1. A real tree is better for the environment than an artificial tree. Real trees help fight climate change, and even though your Christmas tree is cut down, you're actually sup-

porting the regeneration of forests. Most commercial Christmas trees are grown nearby in sustainable ways. Almost 75 percent of Americans now own artificial trees, and 90 percent of them are made in Asia. Shipping alone has a negative environmental impact. Artificial trees cannot be recycled and never totally decompose in a landfill. Many Chinese-manufactured trees contain lead, and most artificial trees are made with PVC containing known carcinogens such as phthalates. What is your best choice for trees? Get a permit to cut your own beautiful, fragrant, fresh tree. You can get a San Juan National Forest Christmas Tree Permit at www.recreation.gov for \$8.

2. For outdoor decorating, think solar. Swap out your old electricity-gobbling lights and buy strands of LED lights.

3. Avoid a Griswold-style outdoor lighting display. Southwest Colorado is committed to cutting back on outdoor lighting to support a dark-sky environment. If you do have outdoor lights, put them under a covered location such as a porch. America's Christmas lights are so bright they can clearly be

■ See Holidays on next page

We wish to thank you,
our valued customers,
for your continued patronage.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!

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to serving you in
2024.

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Dicki, Sandy
& Steve



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Wreath Silent Auction



A fundraiser to benefit PSMC's EMS

Bidding begins Wednesday, November 29 at 8 a.m.
and ends Monday, December 11 at 1 p.m.

In person and online bidding
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Starting bid \$35, minimum increase \$5

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Local Pagosa History

A Great
Christmas
Present

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Kit Carson, Frank
Oppenheimer and other
folks that didn't make
the history books ...
adventures, murders,
marriages, the old
logging railroad.

Stories of the Blanco
Basin Road
Road to a Thin Place
by
James R. White, Jr.



Available at Terry's ACE Hardware,
Two Old Crows and Made in Colorado Shoppe

Late Night at the Library craft event slated for Saturday

By Cindi Galabota

Ruby M. Sisson Library Foundation and Friends

Join your friends for Late Night at the Library this Saturday, Dec. 9. The doors will open at 5 p.m. at your Ruby Sisson Library.

During this unique event you will have opportunities to turn old books into repurposed treasures while spending time with old and new friends. We will offer crafts for all abilities along with volunteers to help you along if needed. Some of the crafts will be holiday-themed, while others can be enjoyed all year long. Feel good about upcycling old, worn, ruined books while creating beautiful and fun pieces of art.

Delicious craft hors d'oeuvres will be catered and drinks will be provided. This is a 21-and-over

event.

Your \$50 ticket to Late Night at the Library provides you with all of your supplies for a variety of crafts along with your food and drinks. Proceeds will support our Mountains of Opportunity building campaign.

The addition and renovations will offer community meeting space, dedicated room for children's literacy programs, a room exclusively for teens and tweens, private study rooms, an intergenerational hands-on learning space, easy access to self-checkout and drop-off, and a beautiful outdoor reading garden.

Tickets may be purchased online with credit card at pagosalibrary.org or in person at your Ruby Sisson Library with cash or check. Buy your tickets today. To

learn more about Late Night at the Library or about our campaign, please contact Cindi Galabota at (970) 264-2209 or cindi@pagosalibrary.org. We hope to see you on Dec. 9.

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Holidays

■ continued from previous page seen by distant NASA satellites. Enjoy the stars instead.

Creation Care Pagosa encourages you to reduce your environmental impact this Christmas season. Pick one or more of the holiday tips above to enjoy a more sustainable Christmas.

Creation Care Pagosa is a faith-based environmental stewardship group that meets the fourth Thursday of every month at the Community United Methodist Church,

but not this month. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to be on our mailing list or need more information, contact sarah.riehm@gmail.com. Merry Christmas.

Community news.

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Archuleta Seniors Inc. planning Dec. 20 Christmas Party

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

The community is invited to attend a casual and festive Christmas party at the Pagosa Senior Center on Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come for lunch and stay for a joyful time together.

Plans are in the works to have music, and we will follow lunch with hot coffee served alongside house-made holiday desserts. We are planning a pseudo snow fight, possibly some shenanigans with Santa Claus and a few door prizes to jazz up the moments we share together.

Join us for lunch, making a reservation before that day or by 9 a.m. that Monday morning by calling or texting (970) 264-2167.

Festival of Trees

The 17th Annual Festival of Trees was a wonderful evening on Friday, Dec. 1. Many thanks to everyone who voted for our tree — we were among the top 10.

We are very grateful to the couple who bid on and won the tree. Also, thank you to the Town of Pagosa Springs and the Ross Aragon Community Center for hosting the event.

Art class set for Dec. 14

The second of this month's art classes will take place on Thursday, 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 is easy to do and the results are gorgeous, so come join in on the fun. The class will begin at 1:15 and is 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 p.m.

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 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.

Senior News

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 \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage. Some popular menu items include Frito chili pie, pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, Singaporean pork ribs, vegetarian lasagna, Hawaiian shrimp with coconut rice and always a beautiful green salad. Many of our items are locally sourced and organic.

Our chef works with a team of local food professionals to hand-prepare your meal for dine-in service in our cozy dining room (with an amazing view of the San Juans) or for takeout (via our convenient drive-through). Our menu changes daily.

■ See Senior on next page

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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, Dec. 7 — Eggplant Parmesan, asparagus, garden salad, fruit, milk and pecan bars.

Friday, Dec. 8 — Tuscan soup with pork, white beans and kale, focaccia bread, garden salad, cottage cheese, peaches and milk.

Monday, Dec. 11 — Cajun shrimp and grits, sauteed greens with garlic, garden salad, fruit, milk and gianduja chocolate shortcake.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 — Mushroom and spinach and Gruyere cheese crepes, squash casserole, garden salad, fruit, sunrise muffins and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 — Singapore coffee BBQ ribs, pearly couscous, garden salad, fruit, milk and chai pudding.

Thursday, Dec. 14 — Honey garlic chicken, fried rice, spring rolls, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Friday, Dec. 15 — Chipotle lime tilapia, jasmine rice, sauteed kale, garden salad, fruit, milk and cookies.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$10 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

The Mobile Food Pantry Service has been discontinued due to funding shortages. Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-N-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests kits for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the public who needs affordable access for health promotion and disease prevention.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 2.

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.

Supporting the seniors

Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

You may mail your donation to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or please visit our website, <http://www.psseniors.org/> (donation button). Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about Archuleta Seniors Inc., please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

There is also another way to donate.

Are you 70 and half years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make

charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to Archuleta Seniors Inc. and sent to PO Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.



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TOP 10 HEALTH MISTAKES:

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

PART 7: SMOKING

The dangers of smoking to your health are well established. Smokers are between 2 and 6 times more likely than nonsmokers to suffer heart attacks and are up to 10 times more likely to develop lung cancer. Smokers are also at an increased risk of getting cancers of the bladder, breast, cervix, kidney, mouth, pancreas, esophagus, and throat. They are also more likely to suffer from strokes, respiratory illness, emphysema, premature menopause, osteoporosis, problem pregnancies, and infertility.



Smoking not only damages your own health but also, through second hand smoke, endangers the health of those around you, especially children.

What you can do: Quite simply, don't smoke. If you are already a smoker, quit. Find the help you need. Talk with your doctor about options. Also, avoid breathing second hand smoke when you are in the presence of smokers.

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

Fun Bible Facts: Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet but “J”. 1 Chronicles 12:40 contains all the letters of the alphabet but “Q”.

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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- 344 Capricho Circle
- 385 Stagecoach Lane
- 150 Lassen Drive
- 83 Grey Rock Court

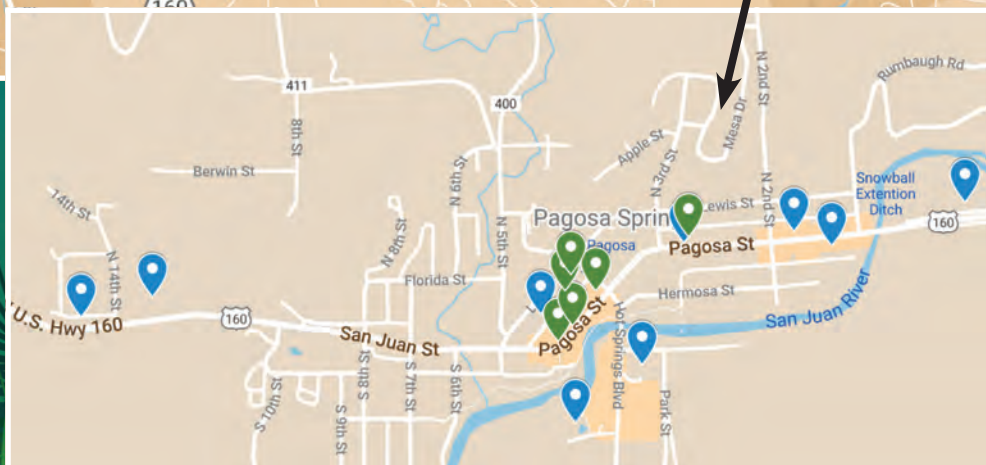
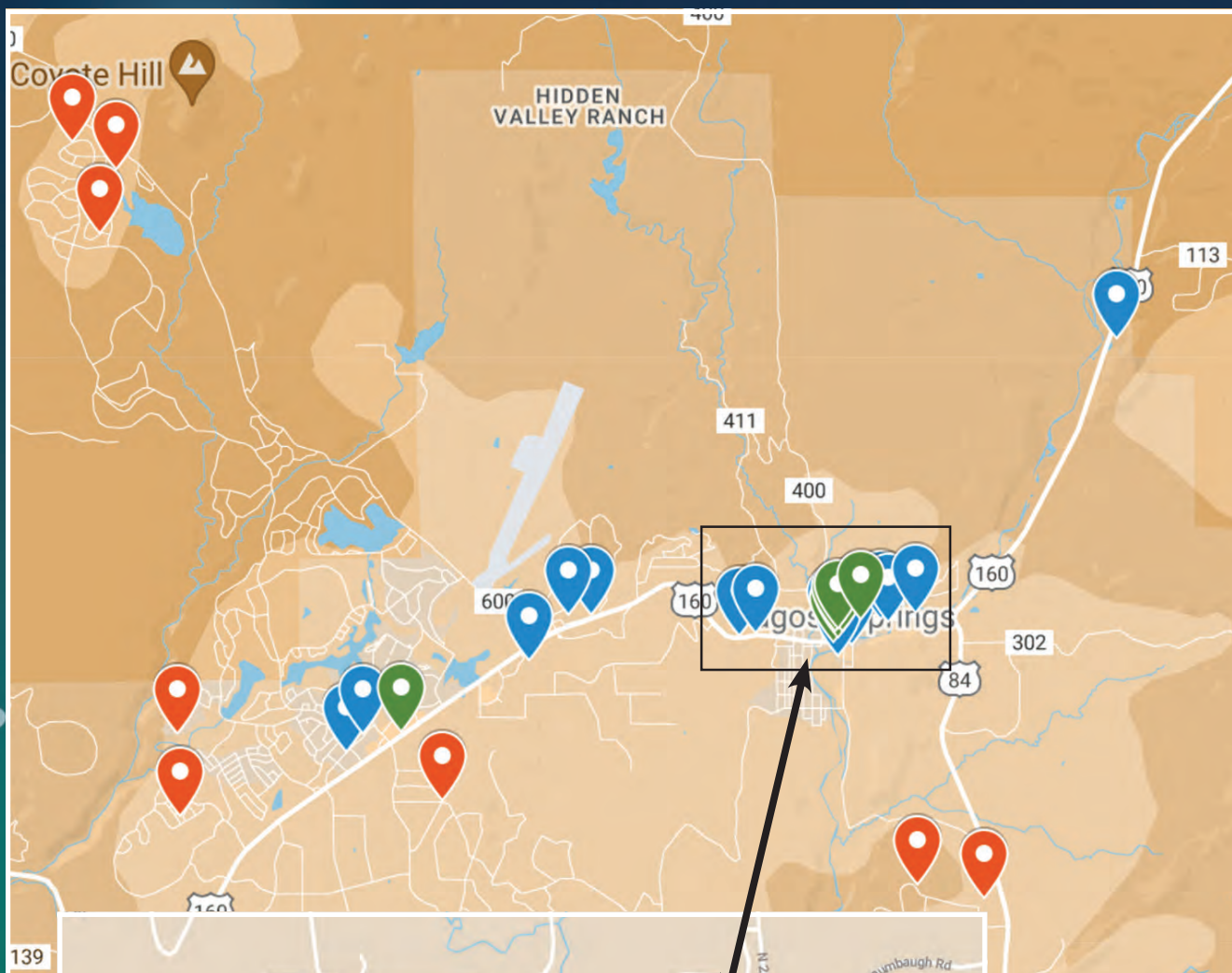
Entrants for the 2023 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

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

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

Business

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



Storefront window

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

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

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

Within their range in western North America and the highlands of Central America, these birds are common but often inconspicuous. Drab coloration may make it difficult to pick them out from deep within a shrub, but their constant movement and twittering calls are an aid to spotting them.

Bushtits are social birds that typically live in flocks numbering from 10 to 40 birds. The flock moves single file from shrub to shrub while keeping up their soft chatter. To keep warm in cold weather, they huddle close together for the night.

Bushtits are tiny and gray-colored with short, stubby bills and long tails. Birds from different regions show some variation in plumage. The interior group has light brown cheek patches. Differences in eye color – a dark iris in males and light iris in females – makes it possible to distinguish the sexes.

Often thought of as adorable balls of fluff, the "tit" in their name refers to something small. For comparison, a bushtit weighs about half as much as that other small gray bird we are familiar with, the pygmy nuthatch. Light weight confers an advantage to this bird when it forages for small insects and spiders by hanging upside down from narrow twigs and branches. The bushtit can reach the undersides to glean the prey unavailable to heavier birds.

In Spanish, the bushtit is called sastrecillo, or little tailor, a nod to its nest building prowess. Both sexes work together a month or longer to weave a long, hanging nest using spiderwebs, moss, grass, lichen, twigs, leaves and rootlets to make a stretchy sac. The breeding pair often has adult male helper birds when nestlings are being fed, and at night the whole group piles into the nest to roost.

Bushtit ranges have been expanding steadily northward in the last 20 years, thought to likely be a response to climate warming. Bushtits adapt well to new situations and are increasingly found in urban environments. Not originally considered a feeder bird, they have developed a craving for suet and are also seen on finch and even hummingbird feeders.

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

Mt. Allison Grange to host free community breakfast and food drive

By Larry Corman
Mt. Allison Grange

On Saturday, Dec. 9, Mt. Allison Grange will host a free community breakfast.

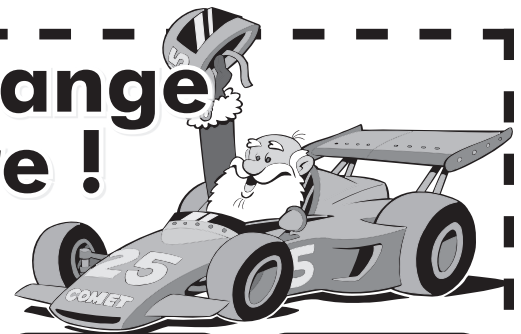
This will be held from 8 until 10 a.m. and will include pancakes, biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. We would also appreciate it if each attendee would bring a food item for a community food distribution.

Everyone is invited. So, come join your neighbor and do some socializing before you go off to town for Christmas shopping. We hope to see you there. For more information or directions, contact Larry Corman at (970) 749-8438.

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Letters to Santa



Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!

Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Please include your first name and age on your letter.

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

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

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

New Christmas-themed books available, library fundraiser on Saturday

By **Carole Howard**
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We have several new books published just in time for your holiday reading and Christmas gifts for family and friends. They are available in a variety of formats including regular print, large print, as an e-book and on CD.

“Twas the Bite Before Christmas” by David Rosenfelt is about a murder investigation interrupting a holiday party at a dog rescue organization. “Bright Lights, Big Christmas” by Mary Kay Andrews is a mystery featuring a brother-sister team selling Christmas trees in New York.

“The Sounds of Sleighbells” by Janet Dailey is a romance about a woman creating new holiday traditions for her son after a divorce. “The Twelve Books of Christmas” by Kate Carlisle focuses on 12 missing books and a murder in Scotland. “Santa & Company” by Fern Michaels, book two in the Santa’s Crew series, is set in a ski lodge.

Library fundraiser Saturday

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

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

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

Early library closure

Your library will close early on Monday, Dec. 11, for a staff meeting at 5 p.m.

This is our regular new staff meeting schedule — on the second Monday of the month.

Craftapalooza tomorrow

All ages are invited to create a variety of crafts Friday, Dec. 8. We will have several different craft stations set up. Stop by anytime from 2 to 4 p.m.

Legal clinic tomorrow

This month’s legal clinic on civil issues is by appointment tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. Come to the library to meet privately via Zoom with our volunteer attorney.

To schedule an appointment, at the beginning of the month send an email titled “Sign-up for Free Legal Clinic” with your first name and phone number to ruby@pagosalibrary.org, or phone (970) 264-2209 or stop by the library.



Chess Club Saturday

Learn how to play chess with free quick lessons and game time to practice your skills on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters this Saturday, Dec. 9, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, Dec. 11, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.

Tween/teen art camp Monday

Monday free art classes from 4 to 5 p.m. for teens and tweens will explore a different style or medium. On Dec. 11 it will be floral art with guest artist Kirstin Bennett. Participants will create floral mug arrangements and art from pressed and dried flowers. Registration is required. This art camp happens only the first two weeks of December because the rest of the month the schools are on winter break.

Ruby’s Book Club Tuesday

Ruby’s Book Club meets from 2 to 3 p.m. next Tuesday, Dec. 12, to discuss “We Begin at the End” by Chris Whitaker. Copies are available at your library. This free book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles, with snacks provided. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., you are invited to come to the library for a free visit with a certified therapy dog. Visits are limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say “Hi.” This is an all-ages activity.

Health insurance literacy

Drop in to talk to a representative from San Juan Basin Public Health and sign up for Connect for Health Colorado resources at this free session on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Trauma workshop

Come to this free Trauma Informed Practices workshop hosted by experts from Rise Above Violence on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to learn how to provide love and support to those struggling with trauma this holiday season.

Hot chocolate hullabaloo

We’ll have free hot chocolate to help you celebrate winter while you join in the fun with seasonal crafts next Thursday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Virtual author talks

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

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

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited.

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ continued from previous page

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

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources. No appointment 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 get help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

DVDs

"Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies" is season one. "Head Count" is an adventure focused on a stolen gun. "The American Buffalo" is the PBS series by Ken Burns. "Sound of Freedom" is based on the true story of child traffickers. "The Blind" is based on a true story of Duck Dynasty founder Phil Robertson.

Nonfiction travel guidebooks

"Best of the World" is a National Geographic guide to 1,000 destinations chosen by their travel experts. We also have five more new guidebooks: "100 Bikes Rides of a Lifetime" by Roff Smith from National Geographic, "Southwest USA" and "Costa Rica" from Lonely

Planet guides, "Florida Keys & Key West" from Insiders and "The Best of the Best" from Lonely Planet. "Clanlands in New Zealand" by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish documents the travels of these two friends.

Other nonfiction

"Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones" by Dolly Parton explores the stories behind the singer-songwriter's favorite clothes. "Being Henry: The Fonz...and Beyond" by Henry Winkler is a memoir about his life and stardom. "Same as Ever" by Morgan Housel shows how timeless wisdom from the past can help navigate today's uncertainty. "Sun Sign Book" by Alice Deville is a Llewellyn 2024 horoscope book. "EMT Exam Prep" is the sixth edition of this Kaplan Medical guide. "The New Secret Language of Dreams" by David Fontana is an illustrated guide to understanding the mysteries of the unconscious. "Start Here" by Sohla El-Wayly provides more than 200 recipes and techniques for cooking with creativity and confidence. "Survive and Thrive" by Bill Fulton and Jeanne Chilton Devon is a guide to disaster preparedness.

Novels

"Canary Girls" by Jennifer Chia-verini features women working in munitions factories in England in World War I. "A House for Alice" by Diana Evans tells of a woman and her three daughters facing the agony of where to live after a horrific fire. "The Sweetheart List" by Jill Shalvis is a romance set in Lake Tahoe about a woman who opens her own bakery.

Donor 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

Older adults who connected every day with others had less shrinkage in key brain areas than those who seldom had contact with pals and relatives, according to a 2023 Japanese study in the journal "Neurology." Perhaps that's why memory declined fastest and furthest in people who felt lonely most often, notes a 2022 University of Michigan study that tracked 9,032

U.S. adults for 20 years.

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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RECOGNITION OF BEE-ING AWESOME AWARD!

Bee Hive Corp. is pleased to award Alam Dozal, the award of Excellence and Recognition of Bee-ing Awesome!

At each Bee Hive, there is a QR Code on the door that people can download and nominate any staff with a stated reason, which is then analyzed with nominations that come from 200 plus Bee Hive Homes across the USA. This nomination awarded to Alam is as stated,

"Alam is the absolute best. There is no area of the house that he won't pick up and help, from doing laundry, cooking to picking up any shifts that are needed. He's extremely fair with all employees and always willing to listen and learn. He is brand new to the job and has shown himself to be a man of integrity and loyal."

The Bee Hive in Pagosa is part of a national franchise of 200 plus homes across the United States which pride themselves with the slogan "The next best place to home."

Always at Bee Hive the residents concerns are front and center in caring for our residents, remembering that the resident lives are filled with purpose demonstrated by love in our actions of care in every way.

Avery Thomas Enterprises LLC, is the owner of Bee Hive Homes of Pagosa Springs, and congratulates Alam Dozal for his hard work and want to give recognition with this award.

The Bee Hive family serves the community at
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Habitat for Humanity explains year-end giving opportunities

By **Monica Nigon and Leah Ballard**

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Our build season has wound down, with volunteers, local subcontractors and staff putting the finishing touches on our homes. Our hope is to have our deserving partner families in their homes by the end of December.

Yet, we're still hard at work here at Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County.

If you missed your chance to donate or volunteer in 2023, it's not too late. There are a number of ways you can still get involved with Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County despite the build season taking a pause for the winter.

With holidays around the corner, you may be looking to donate monetarily. If that's the case, you can visit our website, habitatarchuleta.org, and make a donation via PayPal. You can also swing by our office at 703 San Juan St., Suite 201, and donate with a check. Our office is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Monica or Leah will be happy to help and share hot chocolate.

Habitat Archuleta is an Enterprise Zone Opportunity Project, which means we can offer 25 percent state tax credits for cash donations of \$250 or more.

If you wish to mail in your donations, please make your tax-deductible check payable to Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County and send to our mailing address: Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County, P.O. Box 2827, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

The donations you make to this local Habitat affiliate stay in this community and make a direct impact in our workforce.

Habitat Archuleta has partnered to build with employees from Archuleta County, Archuleta School District, San Juan Basin Public Health, local rental housing authorities, property management companies, local stores and many

more.

The homes Habitat Archuleta builds alongside our partner families are deed restricted to preserve affordability without negatively impacting property values. Our partner families purchase their home with a USDA Direct mortgage and begin paying property taxes, utility and HOA dues that went delinquent for years on the vacant parcel prior to it being donated to this local Habitat for Humanity.

If you think affordable housing is an issue in this community, Habitat Archuleta is the organization that will ensure your donation goes to the cause. While there is no single solution to this effort, we believe that home ownership is affordable housing.

You can also lift up Habitat Archuleta by choosing where you buy your groceries. If you have one of City Market's Rewards Cards, you can link it to Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County. Sign up at <https://www.citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards>. When you swipe your Shopper's Card at City Market, a portion of your shopping will go to us at Habitat.

To both donate to affordable homeownership and help the environment in one fell swoop, you can donate your car to Habitat Archuleta. By doing so, you may qualify for a tax deduction. We accept almost all vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, farm equipment and construction equipment. Head to <https://www.cardonationwizard.com/habitat-for-humanity/donate> to begin the donation process.

Lastly, check our website for updates on upcoming fundraising events and volunteer opportunities — even if you're not looking to swing a hammer. You can also like us on Facebook: Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County. Follow us on Instagram, @habitatarchuleta.

Thank you, and happy holidays.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Type of bonding
- 5 Martini base
- 10 Gravy holder
- 14 Xerox competitor, once
- 15 Ear-related
- 16 Writer Quindlen
- 17 Steinbeck's "The Winter of Our _____"
- 19 Organ knob
- 20 Like some jokes or jobs
- 21 Military lockup
- 23 Takes a breather
- 25 Social outcast
- 26 "Thunderstruck" band
- 29 Beginning
- 32 Socrates, for one
- 35 Non-____ (food label)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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59					60			61						
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

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- 38 More than a few
- 39 Trappings of royalty
- 41 Poetic contraction
- 42 "Spellbound" actor
- 44 Type of voyage
- 45 Potpie ingredients
- 46 Frequently
- 49 Himalayan nation
- 52 Horse maneuvering
- 55 Make possible
- 59 Dinghy pair
- 60 "Rio" singers
- 62 Court order?
- 63 Shower feature
- 64 Mortar ingredient
- 65 Downhill racer
- 66 Hero pilot played by Hanks
- 67 Storm centers

- 3 Tax write-off
- 4 Completely surround
- 5 Windmill parts
- 6 Umpire's call
- 7 Prepare for a formal
- 8 German philosopher Immanuel
- 9 Type of sax
- 10 Cager's target
- 11 Like draft beer
- 12 Positive pole
- 13 Slender candle
- 18 Laudatory lines
- 22 Ordained ones
- 24 Hand-_____ leather
- 26 Church nook
- 27 "Silkwood" star
- 28 Shabby joint
- 30 Royal seat
- 31 Fortune teller
- 33 Eyes and ears
- 34 Hindu garment
- 35 Singing group
- 36 Flaky rock
- 37 Hardwood trees

- 40 Audience's approval
- 43 Military bigwig
- 44 Bungled, with "up"
- 46 Signs of spoilage
- 47 Weak
- 48 Short-winded
- 50 Piggy-bank item

- 51 Come-go link
- 53 Says in a post-script
- 54 Wise one
- 56 Donkey's call
- 57 Diane of 2020's "Let Him Go"
- 58 Culminates
- 61 Feel poorly

Answers to Previous Crossword:

T	U	B	E		C	A	S	T	E		A	M	A	H					
I	R	I	S		O	N	I	O	N		B	A	B	Y					
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R	E	L	A	P	S	E		L	A	C	T	A	T	E					
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M	A	I	D		R	I	B	S		S	N	A	R	L					
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No quit in the game

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

In a recent interview, Deion Sanders said, "The boys are getting better. There is no quit in the game."

This was before the Washington State game, when the sportscaster talked about the Colorado University (CU) Buffaloes' losses and Washington State's wins.

After another loss, 56-14, USA Today wrote, "Deion Sanders is saddened after latest Colorado loss. His son, Shedeu, has had 52 sacks, the most of any quarterback in the country."

We all questioned his son's injuries during the game. We could hardly wait for halftime and to hear about Shedeu. The Buffaloes brought in two other quarterbacks. They weren't ready. His son came back in the game during the last quarter.

My Sweet Al asked if Deion would quit after this season or if the university would fire him.

I said, "I don't know about CU, but I know Deion's journey with the Lord. There is no quit in the game. His train runs on different, well-greased rails. His driver is Alpha and his conductor is Omega. He is carrying precious cargo in the cars. He's building young men, not only on the field, but to live successful lives. You can't look at the results yet."

The stats didn't line up with the football game between Washington State and the CU Buffaloes. Washington State has 17 seniors. CU has one senior. CU has 86 newcomers to the field and three returning starters.

Artist's Lane

The Buffaloes haven't had four years of playing together. They can't compete with 17 seniors who have grown into men, bigger and more tempered with toughness and flexibility.

"For God intended that your faith not be established on man's wisdom but by trusting in his almighty power ... wisdom that didn't originate in this present age, nor did it come from the rulers of this age who are in the process of being dethroned." — 1 Corinthians 2:5,6 (TPT).

Deion is running on the wisdom of the ages, not on man's wisdom. We need to take a lesson from Deion's playbook.

There is no quit in writing, either. No matter what the sales are, the reviews on social media and the naysayers, we must continue to run on God's track. We are established, not on man's wisdom, but by trusting God's almighty power. No matter what the score shows on the scoreboard, it doesn't tell the whole truth.

The world will look for another favorite. But as God's people, we must stand with God's winning team. His scoring system is different. By God's wisdom, through his almighty power, we are told there is a bigger game going on. Satan, the prince of darkness, the opponent, jeers at the believers. Jesus, King of Kings, has

already defeated him.

When Deion said, "God told me to go to CU. I'm here," the angry adversaries came out in the form of parents, CU's staff and leadership, but darkness can't compete with light.

Deion is bucking people's opinions, unrealistic expectations, and what the world calls wisdom. We can't fold under the naysayers or even our biggest enemy — ourselves.

We have an awesome task. God is breathing in us words to spread the Light, to scatter the schemes of nations who oppose him. Our words, His words in us, can tear down darkness in people, and be a compass for right and wrong.

We can't lose sight of what God is calling us to do.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord (Isaiah 55:8, NKJV).

Final brushstroke: He is breathing in us hope. The challenge is to surrender to God and come to understand what He has placed in us by His living word. We've signed up for the whole game. There is no quit in God's game.

Send your comment to betty-slade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday, Dec. 8

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

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

Free Legal Clinic. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via Zoom at the library. Registration required. Registra-

tion opens on the first day of each month. Space is limited. Call (970) 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.com.

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

Saturday, Dec. 9

Mt. Allison Grange Community Breakfast. 8-10 a.m., Mt. Allison Grange. Everyone is invited to a free community breakfast. For more information or directions, contact Larry Corman at (970) 749-8438.

Book and Fabric Sale. 9 a.m.-noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. There will be books, jigsaw puzzles and a variety of fabric types for sale.

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

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

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

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

Late Night at the Library. 5 p.m., Sisson Library. The fundraiser for the Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate the library will feature hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fun turning old books into repurposed treasures. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. They can be purchased online at pagosalibrary.org, or with cash or check at the library.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'Sounds of the Season' Christmas Concert. 7 p.m.,

Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. You will hear both traditional and lesser-known songs celebrating Christmas.

Sunday, Dec. 10

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

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

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.

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.

Teen/Tween Art Camp: Floral Art. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Art classes for teens and tweens. Each month will explore a different style or medium. Registration is required.

Boy Scout Troop 807 Meeting. 4-5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Boys aged 11-17 are invited to attend meetings. Meetings are weekly on Mondays at 4 p.m. Scouts learn outdoor and leadership skills, teamwork, support our community and have fun. Contact Jennifer Walterscheid at (970) 986-0387 or scoutmaster807@gmail.com for more details.

Tuesday, 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

■ See Calendar on page 22



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Fridays @ 7pm
Saturdays @ 2pm & 7pm



HOLIDAY BAKING WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BAKED
- CHOCOLATE
- COOKIES
- CREAM
- CRUMBS
- DESSERT
- EGGS
- FOLD
- FRUITCAKE
- GINGERBREAD
- INGREDIENTS
- KNEAD
- PASTRY
- PLATTER
- PUDDING
- PUMPKIN PIE
- RECIPE
- ROLLING PIN
- SPRINKLES
- STRUDEL
- TEMPERATURE
- TORTE
- TREATS
- VANILLA

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 20

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.

Virtual Author Talk: Stephanie Land. noon, virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring Stephanie Land, author of "Maid." For details and to register, go to <https://librarycolorado.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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

information.

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

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

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.

Kids' Christmas Party. 3:15-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School cafeteria. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to a party with games, songs, the Christmas story, crafts, snacks and more. For more information, email Connie at frank.connie@colorado.org.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie at 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 stu-

dents 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.pagosacolorado.org

■ See Calendar on next page



EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, December 28

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 22

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Tuesday, December 26

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 21

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Monday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.*

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 4, 2024

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 29

**Classified Advertising,
All Categories**
10 a.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 28

*The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Monday, January 1, 2024, in observance of New Year's.*

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
sapickleball.org.

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

Therapy Dog Visit. 11-11:45 a.m., Sisson Library. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog.

Health Insurance Literacy. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop by to talk to representatives from San Juan Basin Public Health and sign up for Connect for Health Colorado resources.

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.

Trauma-Informed Practices Workshop. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join a free workshop on how to supply love and support to those who may be struggling with trauma this holiday season. This workshop will prepare you for supportive conversation.

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.

Water Fluency 101. 12:30 p.m., Community Center. San Juan Water Conservancy District consultant Josh Kurz will present to the Pagosa Realtor Association. The public is invited to attend.

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.

Art Class. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. The class will focus on making a

globe out of old Christmas cards. All supplies will be provided.

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.

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Come celebrate winter. There will be hot chocolate and seasonal crafts.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Salida.

San Juan Outdoor Club Monthly Meeting. 6-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Arleen Prochazka of the Pagosa Weather Team will present her annual winter forecast. Will the return of the El Niño mean an increase in snow for the Pagosa area? We've started out this winter with a below-average snowpack, but will our snow dances pay off? Come listen to Arleen's forecast and learn just enough about the Madden-Julian

Oscillation to amaze your friends at your upcoming holiday parties. New and potential new members are welcome to join us. The meeting starts with a social half hour at 6 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information, please email sanjuanoutdoorclub@gmail.com.

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.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Read with Muppet or Maple, therapy dogs who love stories.

Board Game Central. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn to play a new board game or bring your own to share with others.

Kids' Christmas Party. 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to a party with games, songs, the Christmas story, crafts, snacks and more. For more information, email Connie at frank.connie@colorado.org.

Tween/Teen Hangout. 3-5 p.m., Sisson Library. The large meeting room will be available for tween/teens to use and spend time with friends.

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.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).



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Tricia G. Vega - Health Insurance Agent — CO License #252560

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—Kanaka Perera



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- ❖ House sitting

References and Reviews online at Rover.com

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CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING. Reasonable prices. Linda Lerno, (970)731-5173.

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HANDYMAN SERVICE. Noah's Ark Enterprises. (970)9015298.

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METAL ROOF REPAIR, TIGHTENING or replacing. Chimney cleaning, chimney repair. Replacement or new chimney installs. Call (970)731-4585 office, or (970)946-1275.

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RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL. Driveways, walkways, patios/porches, roof raking, berm removal. Call Clarks' Custom Landscaping (505)709-8579 or email clarkscustomlandscape@gmail.com. Licensed and insured.

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DOGGY DAY CARE IS NOW HIRING \$18 hour. Contact (970)264-9111 or email jeffrey@doggydaycare81147.com.

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DOGGY DAY CARE IS SEEKING GROOMER with experience. Salary negotiable. (970)264-9111 or email jeffrey@doggyday-care81147.com.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED - Asst. duties. Please send job history or resume to frontend@pagosalandcompany.com, phone (970)264-5000.

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Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

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Ponderosa Lumber

2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

HOUSEKEEPING. Full-time position. MUST be able to work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays along with holiday shifts. We are looking to add one more team member to our current housekeeping staff. If you have a friendly attitude, an eye for detail, and a strong work ethic, we'd love to hear from you! Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Email: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Housekeeping, or stop by to fill out an application. Puesto de limpieza a tiempo completo. Debe poder trabajar los Viernes, Sábados, y Domingos. Junto con los turnos de vacaciones. Estamos buscando un miembro mas del equipo a nuestro personal de limpieza actual. Si tienes una actitud amigable, un ojo para los detalles y una fuerte ética de trabajo. Nos encantaría saber de ti en Healing Waters Resort and Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd, Email: sales@pshotsprings.com. Atención al Servicio De Limpieza. O pásate por aquí para rellenar una aplicación.

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR CDL DRIVER Experience in forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontend@pagosalandcompany.com.

LOOKING FOR CARPENTERS and laborers. Call Rick, (970)946-3137.

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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CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 10a.m.. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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PART TIME RECEPTIONIST for 2024 tax season at H&R Block, Pagosa Springs. Mornings 9-1 Monday - Friday, some Saturdays. Contact Lisa (970)946-8543.

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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@century-tel.net. Cone join our rental crew!

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SMALL MOTEL AND RV PARK hiring part-time maintenance person. 20 hours per week. Pool and spa knowledge helpful but not required. Pay depending on experience. Call (970)731-5345 for more information.

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a person for a yard associate/ driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL license is a plus, but not necessary. Duties may include delivering loads to job sites, as well as helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and Medical/ Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping/ snow removal. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

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.

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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PRIME LOCATION NEAR NAVAJO State Park. Gas station, liquor store, convenience store, restaurant, motel, post office. \$1.7 million. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Good mix, split and delivered, two cords, \$500. (970)317-3120.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload (about 1 cord). Call (970)946-4450.

FOR SALE. Gehl 362 mini excavator 2000. Thumb, Peter, side 5 cab tilt. 24" bucket. Recent rebuilt hydraulics. Too much to list. \$13,500.(970)507-0240.

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WINTER TIRES. Almost new, used lightly in 2022. Cooper Evolution MTS. 255/55R20. New \$250 each. Full set of 4, \$700 (970)582-0100.

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BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

ESTATE SALE. Friday, December 15 9a.m.-4p.m., Saturday, December 16 9a.m.-2p.m. Half price Saturday. No early birds. 728 Monument Ave.

GARAGE SALES

JOHN FRAKES ESTATE SALE. Friday and Saturday, December 8th and 9th, 9 a.m. sharp. Furniture, antiques, piano, vintage items, Husqvarna Viking sewing machine, crocks, riding lawnmower, arc welder, lots of household, kitchen items, upright freezer, glassware. Collector items; Lladro, Norman Rockwell plates, Limoges, Hummels. Decorative items; beds, trundle bed, roll top desk, tools, ladders, air compressor. Yard tools and tons more. Highway 160 E., left on Harman Avenue (San Juan River Village), house #722. Snow or shine. AEHPOS.

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(Anatolian Shepherd, Great Pyrenees mix)
Red Heeler mix puppies, two males, one female, born August 23rd available for their loving forever homes! These babes will make great family companions as well as farm & ranch dogs. Please contact Michelle at (970) 901-8758.

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PUPPIES FOR SALE. AKC French Bulldog Puppies, ready December 24, full DNA, chipped, wormed, shots, started on crate and potty training. Solid, Brindle and Merle. \$3,500. (719)640-6404. www.DuneView-Frenchies.com.

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TWO VEHICLES FOR SALE. 1st is a 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. 2nd is a 2001 Buick LeSabre, 123,000 miles. Runs well. Could use some work. \$2200 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

CARS FOR SALE

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

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2 PRIVATE OFFICE SPACES. Uptown at 543 Park Ave. 10x12, \$150, and 20x20 with sink, \$385. Both recently remodeled and price includes utilities. (970)300-9444, or info@pagosastorage.com.

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

56 TALISMAN DRIVE #2, 1,155 sq ft ground floor, storefront office available. Lots of natural light. Open floor plan with two enclosed offices. \$2071.73 monthly. Offering 1 month free rent on a 12 month lease. CAM charges \$527.84 monthly and \$43.89 Gas fee monthly. Call us today at 970-731-4344 to schedule a tour.

56 TALISMAN DRIVE #5A, 167 sq Ft Office with skylight. \$325.00 monthly, CAM and taxes are included in the base rent. Offering 1 month free rent on a 12-month lease. Call us today at 970-731-4344 to schedule a tour.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE JANUARY 1 Downtown Pagosa in the Metropolitan Hotel. 250 square feet. \$415 per month. Year lease. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH apartment, centrally located. Ground floor entry. Water, sewer, gas, fiber optic Internet included. (970)946-8687.

1 LOFT BEDROOM 2 BATH condo for rent. \$1500 plus utilities, long term. No garage partially furnished on Davis Cup. Must provide copy of credit report and GOOD credit. Call (970)946-0930.

2 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH condo on Lake Pagosa \$1800/month. TP-1 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspingsrealty.com.

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, pagosaspingsrealty.com.

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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

900 SQUARE FOOT CABIN. Two bedroom, 1 bath, plus utility room. On a private ranch. Wood stove. \$1400 per month. 1st month's rent, security deposit, half of last month's rent. Pets considered. 8.5 miles north of town. Call (970)731-2010, leave message.

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH 2 car garage on 3 lovely and private acres. This is a must see property. Available now. \$4,750/month. TP-3 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

COMFY 1 BEDROOM, one bath beautifully remodeled and furnished condo on golf course. Water, sewer, trash and snow removal included. 1 year lease preferred. \$1700 per month. No smoking. No pets. Available 01/01/24. (970)903-7088.

FOR RENT. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, with washer and dryer for rent in prime downtown location. Open floor plan. \$1600, per month excluding utilities. 1 year lease. Please contact (970)749-9442.

FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM with loft, 2 bath condo across from Lake Pagosa. Pet allowed. Available around January 1, 2024. \$2195 per month. TP-6. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

FURNISHED STUDIO APARTMENT. 8.5 miles north of town. Quiet, beautiful location, fenced yard. \$1200 per month, 1st month's rent, security deposit, half last month's rent. Pets considered. Call (970)731-2010, leave message.

HOUSE FOR RENT on three acres on Hwy 84. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, brand new carpet and paint. Move-in specials. \$1750 per month. First, last and security deposit required. (970)749-4252.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOVELY UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage townhome on golf course in uptown Pagosa. All appliances including gas fireplace. \$2150 per month. TP-5. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

RENT MY FIFTH WHEEL AND SPACE. \$630 a month. Water, electric, sewer included. Call (970)946-3983.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOMES. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 baths. Open floor plan with gas fireplace, oversize 2-car garage. Close to the bike path, uptown City Market and rec center. \$2,550/month includes: water/sewer, lawn maintenance, snow removal. Call/text (512)626-8499.

UNFURNISHED 3 BED 2 BATH, 1 car garage, duplexes. Newly remodeled and updated. All appliances including gas fireplaces. Pets allowed. \$2200 per month. TP-4 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

COMMERCIAL

10 BEAUTIFUL COMMERCIAL ACRES. 50x167 metal building with concrete floor, 3 phase electric, well and more. \$650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

LIVE/WORK ON THIS 1.11 acre just off Hwy. 160. \$300,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817

MULTI USE 6,800 SQUARE FOOT building in prime location on .60 of an acre. \$1,375,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

Christie Calderwood
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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 ACRE with great cell service, country views and 10 minutes from town. \$235,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

64 ACRES, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME, 3 garages and shed, 46 shares of irrigation water, 3-3 phase electric outlets and beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$995,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817

FOR SALE. 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home, \$405,000. Immaculate! New carpet and paint, garage, fenced yard, close to national forest and fishing lake. Call Jennifer Reno. Broker Associate Exit Realty Home and Ranch (970)317-8493.

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Log home on the banks of Stollsteimer Creek. 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home, 2-car garage, 2 acres with lots of extras. \$675,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.2 ACRES CLOSE to Navajo Lake. Utilities available. \$75,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.2 ACRES, MOUNTAIN VIEWS, electricity near, No HOA, close to town. \$35,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

35.81 ACRES WITH AWESOME VIEWS of Banded Peaks at the end of cul-de-sac with national forest access. Also comes with a full set of house plans. \$300,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES. Centrally located, all utilities near. \$250,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

DOWNTOWN LOT, GREAT VIEWS for your dream home. \$190,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

DOWNTOWN, FLAT, BUILDABLE .52 acre lot, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

ONE ACRE LOT, all ready for your new home with newly installed all utilities, four bedroom permitted septic system, power and insulated pump house. \$165,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

RIVER FRONT PROPERTY, 1.45 acres, electricity across the street. \$289,900. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

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Please join our walking tour along the Riverwalk for a fun and festive evening in downtown Pagosa Springs to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season with live music, hot chocolate, treats, holiday displays, Santa Claus and much more!

Bring a flashlight & come have some fun!

Please join us for a fun and festive evening to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.