



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Fuel prices are displayed shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday morning on the west side of Pagosa Springs. The area saw multiple drops in fuel prices this week.



Community group pushes for lower gas prices

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Ongoing high gas prices in the area are a topic of concern for many residents, and the focus of the recently formed community organization, Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing.

Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing Founder Jane Davison explained that the group held its first meeting on Dec. 1, where the group learned about the mechanics of gas pricing, current pricing trends in the state and Pagosa Springs, and price gouging and antitrust laws.

She stated that the group will have another meeting on Jan. 18, 2024, at noon at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library where it hopes to speak

■ See Prices A8

Commissioners release executive session recording

Move follows lawsuit by former human resources director

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 21 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted to release the recording of a Jan. 17 BoCC executive session following an executive session called for the purposes of the BoCC receiving legal advice on the release of the recording.

This release follows the Nov. 8 filing of a lawsuit in the Sixth Judicial District Court against the BoCC and

Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta by Tina Woodman, former county human resources (HR) director and wife of County Manager Derek Woodman, seeking the release of the recording and alleging that the executive session involved breaches of Colorado Open Meeting Law (COML).

The complaint filed by Tina Woodman, represented by attorney Matt Roane, begins by explaining that she seeks access to the recording

■ See Commissioners A4

ASD transportation director resigns

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta School District (ASD) announced via a letter emailed to district parents Monday that the district's transportation director resigned.

"I am emailing to share that Lori Manzanares has announced her resignation from her position as Transportation Director," Superintendent Rick Holt wrote. "I personally want to thank her for many years of service and contribution to the students, staff, and Pagosa community."

Holt's letter highlights Manzanares' time with the district and commends her work.

"Lori began with ASD as a bus driver in 2002, she earned her certification as a CDL trainer and then became the Transportation Director in 2018," he wrote. "Lori has also provided our community with invaluable service as a CDL trainer for many people outside of ASD. Lori has consistently shown to be student-oriented and dedicated to

providing her very best for our students and their success. We especially appreciate her efforts over the last couple of years as we have navigated a difficult bus driver shortage.

"Please join me in thanking Lori for her dedication to our community and wishing her luck in her next endeavor"

On Tuesday, Holt explained to The SUN that, right now, Director of Operations Josh Sanchez is managing the Transportation Department.

He indicated there will be another assessment of the situation at the end of January to determine if the job should be advertised for or if there will be restructuring, adding it is "up in the air right now."

Holt also provided an update on the school's driver shortage, noting the district is down three drivers and is continuing to assess routes offered based on the priorities it announced at the beginning of the school year.

Manzanares could not be reached for comment by press time Wednesday.
randi@pagosasun.com

South Yamaguchi Park picked as location for multipurpose pavilion

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Dec. 5, the Pagosa Springs Town Council officially designated South Yamaguchi Park as the preferred location for the Pagosa Multipurpose Pavilion (PMPP).

The board of the PMPP, who, in partnership with the town, currently operates the ice rink at South Pagosa Park, has been seeking a permanent

location for a multiuse, roofed pavilion.

"The structure will be a true multi use facility, with ice programs 5 to 6 months and other programs and events the rest of the year," PMPP states in its proposal.

The PMPP board initially wanted to make its current South Pagosa Park location the permanent site for the pavilion, but when talks arose of

■ See Pavillion A7



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Heavy snow falls downtown Wednesday morning. While the snow quickly melted, the storm briefly gave the area the look of a snow globe.

Index

Opinion A2
Letters A3
Obituaries A4
Richard W. Blide
Business A5
Tourism board looking to fill vacancies
Education A9
Safe2Tell report reveals second highest monthly report volume ever, student's life saved

Sports A10
Pirates place 11th at state competition
Public Notices A12
PREVIEW
Live Performers 2
Sudoku 12
Crossword 18
Classifieds 27

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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

It's wild out there

It's wild out there. On several different occasions in the last few weeks, we've arrived at the office with stories of things we've witnessed driving around the area and on recent trips that amazed us — and not in a good way.

We've witnessed large pickups with trailers driving on the wrong side of cones in construction zones, people driving on the wrong side of the road, cars running red lights after they failed to stop in the correct zone to trigger the light to change and apparently were tired of waiting, cars running red lights for who knows what other reason and more.

We also watched a construction-related vehicle block an intersection so it was nearly impossible for cars waiting at the intersection to see to safely pull onto the highway. Making matters worse were all the other cars who then had to move over to safely let several emergency vehicles through the area.

That's not even taking into account the crashes we saw the aftermath of and heard about.

And, traffic is likely to pick up in the coming days and weeks as people travel for the holidays.

AAA announced this week that it projects that 115.2 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home during the

10-day travel period from Saturday, Dec. 23, through New Year's Day.

That, according to the organization, marks a 2.2 percent increase over last year and the second-highest year-end travel forecast on record, coming in just short of 2019's record 119 million travelers.

Of that, AAA expects nearly 104 million people will drive to their holiday destinations, a jump of 1.8 percent over 2022.

That's the second highest on record after 2019, when 108 million drivers hit the road for the holidays, according to AAA.

Adding more people and snow to the mix scares us.

While we love when Pagosa Springs starts to look like a snow globe (Wednesday morning's snowfall was gorgeous), driving in the snow with all the traffic shenanigans we see on a regular basis is a different story.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), like many other organizations, offers winter driving tips. Whether you're a native to snowy areas or new to it, let's all take heed of the following tips from CDOT to help us all get where we're going safely:

"Take a little extra time to clear your car of snow and ice before leaving for your destination."

"There are three actions you do most when you drive: accelerate, turn, and

brake. In winter weather, you should only do one of those actions at a time. Attempting more than one of these actions at once can cause slide-outs, spin-outs, and other harmful scenarios."

"When traveling downhill, if possible, switch to a lower gear, and gently tap your brakes. This helps to avoid burning your brakes, and in winter weather, it helps keep traction."

"Keep momentum when traveling uphill to avoid getting stuck."

"When driving at night, keep your headlight beams low. High beams can amplify the appearance of snow and lead to decreased visibility."

"Slow down — driving too fast for conditions causes most crashes."

"If you encounter a multi-car collision, stay in your car. You're safer in your car than outside of it."

"Follow Colorado's Left Lane Law. No matter the season, keep right except to pass."

"Signage is your best friend — look ahead and plan ahead for abrupt turns or stops."

"Always wear your seat belt."

"Never drive impaired."

Give yourself time to get where you're going and drive safely. Let's be safe and help make it a little less wild out there.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 14, 1923

Proclamation for the Board of Health. On account of the epidemic of scarlet fever, for the present all public gatherings of children of school years are prohibited — either at parties, Sunday schools or shows — and parents are advised to keep them from congregating in each other's homes. This will not interfere with the Community Christmas Tree. G.S. Hatcher, Mayor.

Everything is almost in readiness for the big Community Christmas tree and program in the street next Monday evening, commencing at 6.00 o'clock. The tree has been erected and will shortly be decorated and equipped with the treats for the children of this community. The bags will probably be prepared tomorrow.

While indoor affairs are not permitted by the town board, owing to the scarlet fever epidemic, the town board feels that there is no particular danger in allowing this event to be held, since it is to be in the open air and in the early evening. Parents should not hesitate in letting their children attend in order that they may receive the treat prepared for them.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 17, 1948

Santa Claus will pay his official visit to Pagosa Springs on Saturday, December 18, and will be present at the Pagosa Hardware from ten in the morning until two in the afternoon. All youngsters and their parents are cordially invited to drop in and pay the jolly old fellow a visit. A free movie at the Liberty Theatre for all children will start at two o'clock that afternoon and in addition each youngster attending the show will be given candy as a treat. A double feature comedy production entitled "Laff Time" in addition to shorts will be shown. This feature is a production of the Hal Roach studios and is a guaranteed laugh getter for the youngsters.

On Sunday, December 12, snow conditions on Wolf Creek Pass were excellent with a firm base and several inches of light powder snow on top. The turnout of skiers and spectators was the largest so far this season. In addition to the San Luis Valley and Pagosa Springs "die hards" there were a lot of new faces and some that haven't been seen since last winter. Several carloads of enthusiasts were noted from Durango, Walsenburg, and Los Alamos, New Mexico.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 13, 1973

The first snow reading of the year on the watersheds of the San Juan and Rio Grande Rivers was made this Monday by Jim Swartz and Bill Hill of the Soil Conservation Service. They found no great surprises and a fair amount of snow.

However, the snow and water content is far below that of last year. The courses have not been read on this date for enough years to specify an average.

Deepest snow was at Wolf Creek Summit and it measured 25.5 inches with 7.2 inches of moisture content. On the same date last year snow depth was 83 inches and water content was 19.9 inches.

Special readings are being made during the years that the cloud seeding project is underway. During the past week there have been no storms and no seeding. Only one storm has been seeded this year. In other areas of the state snowfall has been less than on Wolf Creek. It is normally one of the heavier snowfall areas of the state.

25 years ago

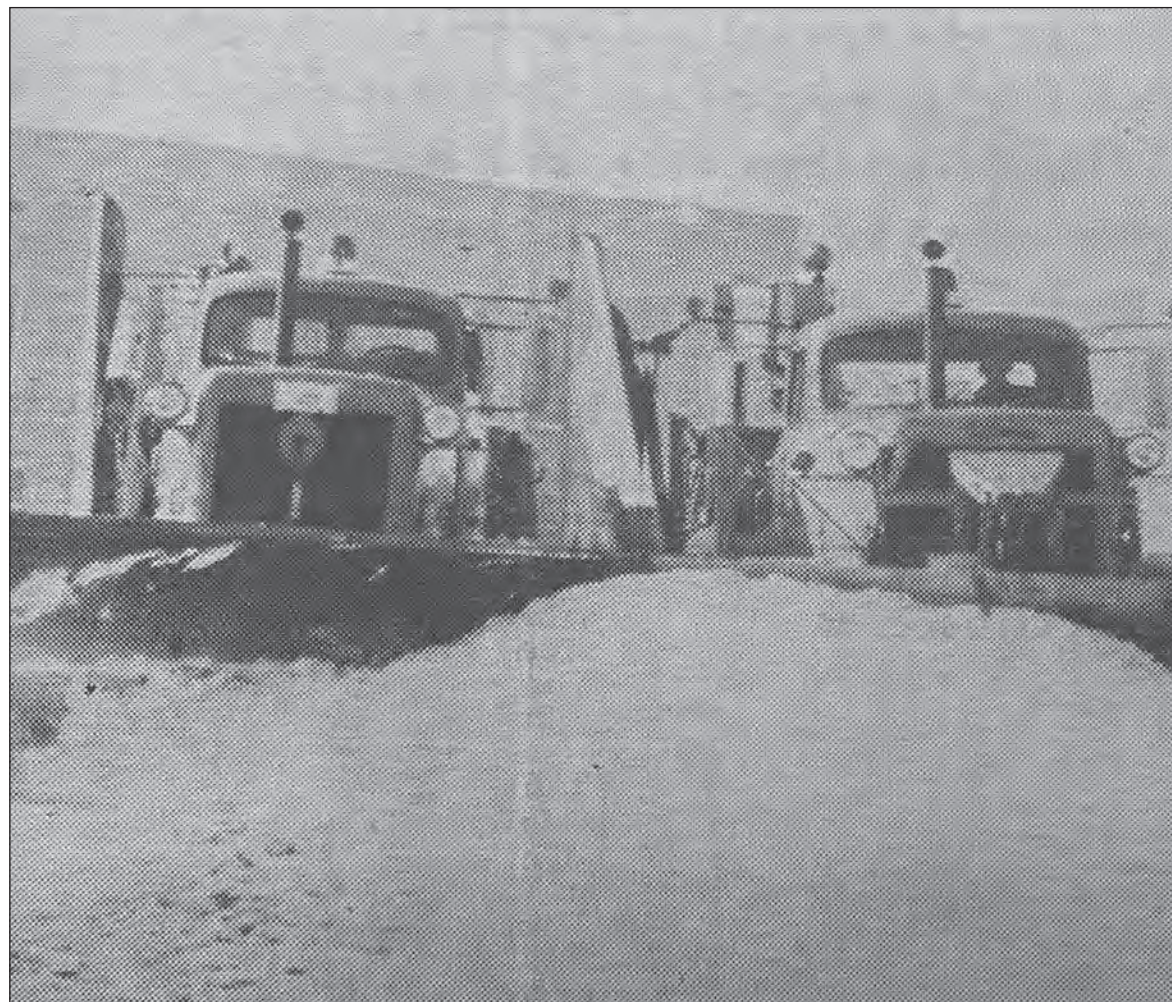
Taken from SUN files of
December 17, 1998

The 1999 county property tax rate and budget was approved by the county commissioners during their regular session. Tuesday.

For the second year in a row, county property owners will receive a credit on their property tax bills.

Concerning the budget, it is balanced, which means revenues match expenditures. Employee raises requested by department heads were granted, according to Kathy Wendt, administrative assistant to the county manager.

The county mill levy is based on an assessed taxable valuation of \$119,372,877, up from the \$114,600,803 assessed taxable value for 1997. The mill levy is 21.145 mills. In order to comply with TABOR limits on revenue increases, a temporary, one year property tax credit is 2.389 mills. That is the rate used to calculate the reduction that will appear on individual tax statements. Consequently, the actual mill levy used will be 18.756 mills, a rate that will generate \$2,238,958.



From the January 31, 1963 Pagosa SUN - TWO OF THE big State Highway Department snowplows helped clear the main street of snow after the last storm. The two huge machines, working as a tandem unit, made quick work of clearing the excess snow and ridges of snow from the business section. Running side by side, they made a wide swath down the street each trip. In the meantime, a maintainer threw the snow up in ridges so that it might be pushed in front of the big trucks. It was an unusual sight to see two plows traveling at high speed, and with edges together.

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
12/5	52	16	-	-	-
12/6	54	20	-	-	-
12/7	48	19	-	-	-
12/8	37	11	-	-	-
12/9	32	6	T	NA	NA
12/10	36	5	-	-	-
12/11	45	11	-	-	-

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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.

Letter to gas stations

Dear Editor:
To the Gas Station Owners and Managers in Pagosa Springs -

This letter is to inform you that we have formed a citizens group here in Pagosa Springs named Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing. The core group is comprised of 14 individuals and we have over 200 others in support of this initiative based on daily postings on Nextdoor social media or who have signed a petition. Our objective is to work with you to establish fair prices for our citizens and businesses. We are appealing to you to understand why prices are where they are as well as steps which can be taken to reduce fuel prices. You are invited to a meeting at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library located at 811 San Juan St in Pagosa Springs on January 18th from Noon to 1 PM. Those in attendance will be local citizens, county commissioners and media representatives. I will also be e-mailing you an invite with Zoom information.

During the past 2 years, fuel prices have been inflated here. For example, in the last several months, while fuel prices have dropped considerably elsewhere, we have noticed that regular unleaded gasoline prices remained well above \$4 per gallon until about 3 weeks ago. Fuel prices 30 miles away in Bayfield generally range from 14% to 17% less (.69 to .54).

The inflated fuel prices have several impacts.

1. Per data received from the

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (pagosaspringsdc.org), the % of Archuleta County living at or below the poverty line, as of the 2020 census was 8.3% and it is highly likely that this has not been reduced. Monies spent on overpriced fuel could go towards other needs, especially for this group.

2. Based on PSCDC date, in 2021, the total # of households were 5,987. Assuming that 5,987 with 1 car (and many own more than 1) * 9.21 per tank = 55,140 per month or \$661,683 per year!

3. Higher gas costs impact businesses (and drive-up consumer prices) especially related to those who deliver goods, snow plow operators, home health care providers and likely more.

For those that travel to Bayfield or Durango, most are filling up there. This has two significant impacts:

1. Fuel related tax revenues that would be paid to Archuleta County are being reaped by La Plata County
2. Business is being taken away from Pagosa Springs local gas stations in the form of both fuel sales and other miscellaneous sales (such as, Coffee, snacks, etc.).

We will be publishing this letter to all area media outlets (letter to the editor) and will continue to publish updates via social media as new information becomes available. Additionally, we are encouraging citizens to file complaints with the Colorado Attorney General. File a Complaint - Colorado Attorney General | Colorado Attorney General (coag.gov).

We are looking forward to a transparent and thoughtful discussion on January 18th.

Sincerely
Jane Davison
Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing
citizensforfairfuelprices@gmail.com

Humane Society costs

Dear Editor:

We want to address concerns over the rising cost of the county contract with the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs and be transparent in disclosing to our county taxpayers the actual costs associated with housing dogs at the shelter.

Both this year and last, the Humane Society's Executive Director provided the Commissioners with information documenting the actual costs to take in and care for, the stray dogs, court-ordered bite and abuse hold cases the county brings to our shelter. This year to date, costs have totaled \$234,000 for the 223 dogs the county has brought to our shelter.

With this number of county impound dogs, we have had to turn away many individual owner-surrender dogs due to space limitations. For 2023, our contract with the county was for only \$70,000. Increasing our 2024 contract to \$90,000 is still a great value for our county's taxpayers.

We invite and encourage our commissioners to visit the shelter, see firsthand our facility and become informed by opening a dialogue with us concerning real costs and funding.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is a local, private, non-profit organization with no funding coming from a national parent entity. Our goal is to provide a loving, safe place for homeless dogs and cats to live while waiting for their forever home.

Informative.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Federal farm bill

Dear Editor:

The upcoming federal farm bill should provide increased funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically limit our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on animals.

The government gives billions of dollars worth of subsidies to factory farms. We should redirect these funds toward the development of a more environmentally-friendly, healthy, and compassionate food system. Our leaders should back this effort by including further money for cellular-agriculture research in the farm bill.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

School district transportation director

Dear Editor:

We drivers at the school bus garage are sickened about today's disgusting actions by the administration and a few deceitful helpers. Our very kind, devoted, and hard working Transportation Director, Lori Manzaneres, was forced out of her position today. She did not resign! In my 28 years of working for the school district there has never been a more dedicated and professional Director of Transportation. She has worked tirelessly to keep the buses serving our students and families under very difficult circumstances, including Covid, shortage of eligible drivers and funding. She should have been shown gratitude, not the opposite. What kind of Christmas spirit are our school administration leaders demonstrating with this latest action?

Nancy Lu-Walls

Editor's note: According to Archuleta School District Superintendent Rick Holt, the transportation director resigned from her position. Lori Manzaneres could not be reached for comment by press time Wednesday.

Bias

Dear Editor:
In the Nov. Sun, Mr. Dave Butcher

claims there is a law governing the receipt and reporting of Supreme Court Justices gifts from donors. This, of course, is not true. The only governing document on this is the 'Judicial Conference Regulations on Gifts' which states that its regulations apply to most judges except "an employee of the Supreme Court of the United States or the Federal Judiciary Center." Thus, Mr. Butcher's claim that conservative Justices Thomas and Alito broke the law by not reporting gifts is false. Reasonable people could certainly argue that Supreme Justices should have been required to report such gifts, but this was not the case prior to March of this year when a new set of regulations was adopted. Again, Mr. Butcher fails to note the non-reporting of gifts by numerous liberal judges over the past few decades.

In the same edition of the Sun, Cathlynn Groh claims that conservative Justices Thomas and Alito heard cases involving their donors. Again, no such claims are made about liberal justices.

Hmm. Any chance there might be a little bias at work in these letters to the editor?

Charles Newton
Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Pagosa Junction bridge reopening

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Department, including Mike Torres, Public Works Director and his engineers, the Archuleta County Commissioners, Veronica Medina, Ronnie Maez, and Warren Brown, as well as representatives from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for all working together to reopen the Pagosa Junction Bridge before the Thanksgiving holiday. It is such a relief to have travel resume between County Roads 500 and 700 through Pagosa Junction once again and to have the bridge reopened before winter sets in. This has saved residents and travelers a great deal of time and gasoline as well as allowing for other needed services to resume. This is huge. Once again, thank you to everyone involved in getting this big job done before winter.

Renee Schofield Hernandez
Omaha, Neb.

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All letters must:

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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.

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SAN JUAN BASIN public health is permanently closing December 31, 2023.

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



sjbpublichealth.org/changes

Commissioners

Continued from front

under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

It indicates that Tina Woodman was hired in the “generalist” position in the two-person county HR Department in November 2020 and was promoted to the HR director position in September 2021.

It explains that supervision of the HR director typically fell to the county manager but that, following the hiring of Derek Woodman as county manager in December 2021, the BoCC transferred supervision of the HR director to County Attorney Todd Weaver to prevent conflicts of interest.

The complaint then states Commissioner Veronica Medina was sworn into office on Jan. 10, 2023, and alleges “upon information and belief” that “Commissioner Medina wanted to fire Ms. Woodman from the County’s employ from the outset of Commissioner Medina’s term in office.”

It then discusses the Jan. 17 executive session, stating that Medina moved to enter into executive session “to discuss personnel matters related to the organizational structure of the department of Human Services, the Finance Department, and the Human Resources Department” and to receive answers to specific legal questions related to these issues.

The complaint alleges that Medina intended to discuss Tina Woodman, Weaver and herself in the executive session and the possibility of reassigning supervision of Tina Woodman from Weaver to herself during the executive session.

It notes that Tina Woodman was unaware that she would be discussed in the executive session and was not notified that she would be a subject of the session.

It additionally indicates that “upon information and belief” the other two commissioners were aware of the subjects Medina wanted to discuss before the unanimous vote to enter executive session.

In the 34-minute executive session, which the Jan. 17 BoCC minutes indicate included Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Commissioner Warren Brown, Medina and Weaver, the complaint states that the group discusses Tina Woodman, Weaver, Medina and the possibility of reassigning Tina Woodman’s supervision from Weaver to Medina.

Following the executive session, the complaint explains that Brown moved to reassign Tina Woodman’s supervision to Medina beginning in February.

According to the complaint, Medina requested that her supervision begin immediately and Brown amended his motion.

The complaint comments that the board “did not engage in any more substantive discussion or debate” of the issue before voting on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Five weeks after this vote, the complaint indicates that Medina fired Tina Woodman and then relinquished supervision of the HR Department back to Derek Woodman.

Medina relinquishing supervision was not immediate. At the March 14 BoCC meeting, the board voted by a split decision for Medina to retain supervision of the HR Department until a new director was hired and then for control to go back to the county manager.

Maez and Medina voted for the motion and Brown against, indicating before the vote that he saw no reason for supervision of HR to not immediately revert to the county manager.

The complaint explains that, on Feb. 22, Tina Woodman submitted a CORA request for the executive session recording, which was denied by Archuleta on Feb. 24.

On Oct. 18, the complaint states that Tina Woodman submitted a written notice to Weaver informing him of her intent to file a lawsuit challenging the denial of the CORA request and that the parties discussed the matter for two weeks after this notice was submitted but were unable to reach a resolution.

The complaint then presents two potential violations for the court to consider, including the unlawful withholding of public records and unlawful discussion in an executive session.

The second violation is offered in the complaint as an alternative to the first and is predicated on the executive session being valid, with the first allegation claiming it was not.

The complaint supports the contention that the BoCC and Archuleta unlawfully withheld the recording by noting that a board must be specific about the topic to be discussed in executive session and that staff must be informed they will be discussed prior to executive sessions held under the personnel matters exemption of COML so that the individuals discussed can request a public meeting on the matter.

It alleges that the motion to enter executive session did not disclose that the session would discuss Medina, Weaver or Tina Woodman, thus denying the parties their abilities to request a public meeting on the matter.

It adds that COML indicates that any improperly called executive session is a public meeting and thus available to the public.

The complaint adds that, since this executive session was improperly designated, it constitutes a public meeting and should be open to Tina Woodman’s review.

On this violation, the complaint asks the court to order Archuleta to appear and show the cause for why she should not provide Tina Woodman access to the recording.

Following this, the complaint requests that the judge issue an order to Archuleta to provide Tina Woodman access to the recording.

In addition, the complaint requests a declaratory judgment that Archuleta wrongfully withheld the records from the time of Tina Woodman’s initial request to when the requests are released and that the defendants pay attorney’s fees and costs.

On the issue of the BoCC holding an unlawful discussion in executive

session, the complaint notes that the personnel matters exemption in CORA does not apply to discussions of an elected official, such as Medina.

The complaint also reiterates that Tina Woodman was not informed she would be discussed in the executive session to support its assertions.

It concludes that, because discussion of Medina was not a legitimate executive session topic and Tina Woodman was not informed of the session, the discussion at the session fell outside the permissible subject matter allowed in COML.

The complaint requests an “in camera” review of the executive session recording to determine if the board discussed matters not allowed for an executive session under COML.

Following this, the complaint requests that the judge issue an order commanding the release of the sections of the recording containing discussion of Medina or Tina Woodman and that the judge provide a declaratory judgment indicating that the BoCC engaged in discussion of matters in the executive session not allowed by COML.

It also requests that Tina Woodman receive reimbursement for attorney’s fees and costs.

At the Nov. 21 meeting, the BoCC unanimously voted to go into executive session to receive legal advice on whether or not to give consent to Archuleta to release the Jan. 17 executive session recording.

Maez, Medina, Brown and Weaver then went into an 11-minute executive session.

Following the session, the board voted unanimously to authorize the release of the executive session to Roane.

Prior to the vote, Brown said, “I would like to make sure that I clarify that I had not still have I not received a briefing and/or been able to read the documentation with regard to the core matter of the executive session.”

Maez asked what Brown did not receive, adding that his question was intended to clarify the situation.

“The substantive topic on the executive session as I heard it and just was reminded... wasn’t it an employee complaint, I guess?” Brown said. “It spoke about one employee having an issue with another employee.”

Archuleta denied The SUN’s request for the executive session recording, stating in an email, “This Executive Session is no longer available. It was held until the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) directed me to release the recording to Mr. Roane. Once the fees were paid and the recording was provided to him on November 29, 2023, the recording was deleted. I am only required to hold recordings for 90 days. This specific recording was held until the BOCC made a decision and it was deleted upon completion of the request.”

The SUN also requested the recording from Tina Woodman through an email to Roane.

Roane responded that Tina Woodman declined to release the recording “until the pending case is resolved.” On Tuesday, Dec. 12, Weaver filed

an unopposed motion on behalf of Archuleta requesting that the deadline for the county to respond to the complaint be extended from Dec. 12 to Dec. 22.

In the motion, Weaver notes that the parties in the case are discussing “the possibility of dismissing the case without further action” but that more time is needed to determine if they can reach an agreement.

He added that the parties agree that the additional time would “benefit further discussions.”

In a Wednesday, Dec. 13, order, Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson granted Weaver’s request for a deadline extension.

Weaver did not respond to a request to comment on the case by press time Wednesday.

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Obituary

Richard W. Blide

Richard W. Blide, M.D. passed away on Dec. 3, 2023, at the age of 93. He was born in Rochester, N.Y., on Dec. 21, 1929, to Agnes Rylander and David F. Blide. He is survived by his sister, Jean Barney, daughter, Ann Leslie Vert, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He graduated from the University of Rochester and Albany Medical College, and served a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in pulmonary diseases at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md. He practiced academic medicine

and pulmonology at the same institution for seven years and then became medical director at the Will Rogers Hospital for six years. Subsequently, he practiced preventative medicine at the Cooper Clinic in Dallas, Texas. Then until his retirement in 1999, he practiced physical medicine in Dallas and Lubbock, Texas.



He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking and skiing with his wife, Patti, especially when they lived in Colorado. He also wrote four books, one about his political life in Pagosa Springs, Colo., “Heartfelt: A Memoir of Political Intrigue, Passion, and Perseverance,” where he was instrumental in getting the first hospital in the area built. His other three books — “Alien Threat,” “Botland” and “Xrypta” (in press) — were part of a science-fiction trilogy.

Dr. Blide is to be interred at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on Dec. 27, 2023.

A reception will be held at a later date.

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Business

Tourism board looking to fill vacancies

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board currently has four vacant seats and is seeking applications from individuals that would be interested in serving on the tourism board.

We are currently seeking a lodging representative, a short-term rental representative, a hospitality/recre-

ation representative and one at-large member.

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board is a volunteer advisory committee of the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. The tourism board's role is to make specific recommendations relative to expenditures of the 4.9 percent lodging tax in town and the 2 percent lodging tax in the county.

Board members are required to at-

tend monthly meetings, as well as actively participate in subcommittees and special projects.

To apply, please complete the following form: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWUWswHnaEaloyhryS-9h8S_n7Lq6B0c/view?usp=sharing.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 10, 2024. The board will interview applicants during its Jan. 16 meeting in order to make recommendations to

the Pagosa Springs Town Council and the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners.

Please contact Jennifer Green at (970) 903-9728 or via email at sales@visitpagosaprosprings.com with any questions.

For more information on the tourism board, please review information in the following link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12Cy6vSyq_8oF5_nEMsG0tfe8aZgPV3Hu?usp=sharing.

Sales tax revenues up 6.5 percent in October

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Sales tax revenues for Archuleta County in October rose compared to October 2022, according to a report released by the Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton.

Sales tax revenues previously rose by 2 percent in September compared to the previous year.

The report notes that the town and the county jointly received \$1,518,791 in gross sales tax revenue for the month of October, with \$757,112 going to the town and \$761,679 going to the county.

October gross sales tax revenues are 6.5 percent, or \$93,780, higher than October 2022.

According to the report, the categories that are up in comparison to October 2022 include:

- Construction at 5 percent, or \$1,629.
- Manufacturing at 21 percent, or \$13,256.
- Retail Trade at 11 percent, or \$88,322.
- Finance and Insurance at 10 percent, or \$109.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 84 percent, or \$7,680.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 3 percent, or \$6,610.

Categories that were down for October in the month-to-month comparison include:

- Information at 9 percent, or

\$2,576.

- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 14 percent, or \$4,147.
- Other Services (except public administration) at 3 percent, or \$515.
- Miscellaneous at 8 percent, or \$16,660.

The report notes that on the year-to-date comparison, sales tax revenues for January through October of 2023 are 0.8 percent, or \$121,391, lower than January through October 2022.

According to the report, the category that is up in the yearly comparison is Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 136 percent, or \$113,095.

The categories down in the year-to-date comparison include:

- Construction at 12 percent, or

\$40,822.

- Manufacturing at 23 percent, or \$141,473.
- Retail Trade at 12 percent, or \$952,495.
- Information at 17 percent, or \$46,675.
- Finance and Insurance at 1 percent, or \$128.
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 27 percent, or \$113,095.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 9 percent, or \$247,668.
- Other Services (except public administration) at 4 percent, or \$9,185.
- Miscellaneous at 10 percent, or \$217,568.

Recycle your Christmas trees for WinterFest Bonfire

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is preparing for WinterFest 2024. This event will be held Jan. 19-21, 2024.

In 2024, WinterFest will experience a few changes. The first change is that the Chamber will be putting on an event on Jan. 19, 2024. This event will be the WinterFest Bonfire.

The bonfire has been held in years past, and the Chamber is excited to add it to our repertoire of WinterFest weekend activities. The bonfire will take place on Jan. 19, 2024, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds. The event has free admission. There will be live music, food vendors, and hot and cold nonalcoholic and adult beverages.

We ask that the community participate in creating this bonfire by recycling their Christmas trees at the fairgrounds. You will be able to drop off your trees beginning Dec. 26. This year there will be two places where you can recycle your trees: the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) site, which is available to PLPOA residents, and the site at the fairgrounds.

The Town of Pagosa Springs, which has had a collection site previously, is asking residents to use the fairgrounds site this year so that we can have as many trees as possible at one location. There will be signage directing

you where to drop off your trees at the fairgrounds.

Please, recycle only live Christmas trees. Please do not drop off fake trees, furniture or pallets. This is not a substitute for the Archuleta County landfill, but a location where you can recycle your live Christmas tree and contribute to the WinterFest Bonfire. Questions about the tree drop-off or recycling can be directed to the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

The second change to WinterFest 2024 is that the Skijoring event will not take place this year. The organization is taking a year hiatus. Therefore, while you will not be able to enjoy this particular fast-paced event, you can still enjoy the other events that are occurring over the weekend such as the Penguin Plunge, Sledz on Rez, the BB Gun Biathlon and cross-country ski events, and the hot air balloon mass ascensions.

You can check out the information on the Chamber's site at www.pagosachamber.com. We do have that information available.

Delay in Community Award forms

In last week's article we mentioned that nomination forms for the 2023 Community Awards are available on the Chamber's website. Unbeknownst to us at the time, the Chamber encountered some significant website issues.

The Chamber's website is in the

process of being revamped and we apologize for the inconvenience and delay in getting those forms out to the public.

If you would like to receive a blank nomination form, contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360 or info@pagosa-chamber.com and we can send you a blank nomination form that also includes the category criteria. You can also write the nomination on a blank piece of paper and email it to the address listed here.

Remember that for all nominations, whether an individual or an organization, they need to have been in the community for a minimum of three years. There is a distinct difference in the Volunteer and Citizen of the Year categories. For Citizen of the Year, the nominees must have made a lasting contribution to the community in one of the following ways: philanthropic, cultural, economic or lifestyle.

There are many businesses, organizations and residents who contribute so much to this community. Please take the time to nominate them for one of the four categories for the Community Awards: Citizen, Volunteer, Non-Profit and Small Business of the Year.

The awards will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting Event, which will be held on Feb. 9, 2024, at 5 p.m. at the Tennyson Building Event Center. Stay tuned for more exciting details on the celebration and the guest speakers.

Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway receives grant

Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway Commission

The Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway Commission (TABB) has been awarded a Destination Development Mentor Grant by the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO).

The grant provides for consulting services from a tourism expert and is valued at approximately \$10,000.

The byway is relatively new, having been designated in 2015, so is not well-known locally and regionally. Therefore, the TABB Commission plans to use the grant to develop a robust marketing plan, which will include an expanded outreach to organizations and tourism-related businesses along and near the byway.

The goal is to expand travel on the byway, thereby boosting tourism rev-

enues for the counties and towns along the byway route.

The TABB is a 126-mile byway from Chama, N.M., to Durango through Archuleta, La Plata and Rio Arriba counties.

It is one of 26 byways in Colorado and an equal number in New Mexico, officially designated by the respective state transportation departments. The byway closely follows the route of the old narrow-gauge Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) that ran from Chama to Durango, abandoned in 1969, with a short side trip to Chimney Rock National Monument.

In addition to Chama and Durango, towns along the byway include Dulce in New Mexico and Arboles, Allison, Tiffany, Ignacio, and Oxford, along with the "ghost" towns of Juanita and Pagosa Junction in Colorado. In addition to

Chimney Rock, highlights of the byway include the Jicarilla Apache Cultural Center in Dulce, Navajo State Park, and the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum in Ignacio.

At either end of the byway are two operating segments of the same D&RGW rail line, the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad and the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

In addition to the past tracks of the old D&RGW, the byway celebrates other tracks as well — the tracks of the wildlife that inhabit the area, of Native American trails, of Spanish missionaries in the 1600s, of oxen on the Old Spanish Trail in the 1800s and of the wagons of pioneers.

More information on the byway can be found at tracksacrossborders.org. Questions can be directed to tracksacrossborders@gmail.com.

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Board of Health reviews public health improvement plan priorities

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 16 meeting, the San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) Board of Health (BoH) discussed and heard a presentation on recommended priorities for the updated public health improvement plan (PHIP) for the region.

Assessment and Planning Supervisor Shannon Shropshire and Interim Director of Epidemiology and Data Surveillance Sammie Stephens presented the recommendations from the PHIP advisory committee, with Stephens beginning by noting that the BoH reviewed the community health assessment at its previous meeting.

Shropshire pointed out that state law requires that local public agencies complete and obtain BoH approval for an updated PHIP every five years, with SJBPH last completing one in 2018.

She added that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) indicated that it would not require the district, which is dissolving at the end of the year, to complete a PHIP, but that the SJBPH BoH directed staff to complete one which will then be distributed to the county public health departments.

In response to a question from BoH vice president Jon Bruss, SJBPH Interim Executive Director Brian Devine explained that SJBPH will submit the PHIP prior to its dissolution by the end of the year and that the PHIP will be offered to the counties, which can then resubmit it under their own names in 2024 or later.

Shropshire explained that a PHIP serves to engage the community, align public health policy and community efforts, investigate and address health inequalities, outline shared action plans for community public health partners, support grant applications, and engage with the state PHIP to strengthen partnerships and public health efforts.

Devine added that the state and local PHIPs are intended to build on each other, though this does not always occur.

Shropshire explained that the PHIP is compiled using data from the community health assessment, secondary data sources, SJBPH staff and advisory committee expertise, and legal guidelines for public health capabilities in addition to being shaped by SJBPH's mission and vision.

Stephens indicated that the PHIP-creation process involved a 17-person advisory committee, including representatives from both of the new county health departments.

She stated that the committee's work in late 2022 focused on developing and distributing the community health assessment.

She added work in 2023 focused

on gathering data and drafting the PHIP, in addition to creating decision-making criteria for selecting public health priorities.

She explained that each advisory committee member then created a list of public health issues that were examined using the decision-making criteria to develop the final list of priorities.

She explained that the decision-making criteria included if an issue's importance is supported by data, if public health can impact an issue, and if there is community momentum and interest in an issue.

The advisory committee's recommended priorities include access to care, behavioral health promotion, environmental health and living conditions, climate and health, social determinants of health, and public health system capacity, Stephens indicated.

She added that the priorities were kept "broad" to allow for flexibility for the county public health departments.

Stephens explained that access to care includes improving affordability of health care, increasing access to mental health and substance abuse services, and to immunizations.

She stated that a PHIP typically includes specific action plans and goals, although such specific goals are not included in this plan due to the upcoming dissolution and associated uncertainty about what resources would be available to pursue issues.

In response to a question from Bruss, Stephens and Devine indicated that the PHIP will include a range of data to support its priorities and will emphasize that the data cited are only examples to provide additional flexibility to the counties.

Shropshire explained that access to care was a significant issue in the community health assessment and that both La Plata and Archuleta counties have lower rates of health insurance coverage for people under 65 than state averages.

The group also discussed if the data indicates greater concerns about access to mental or physical health care, with Shropshire indicating that the data provides some limited indicators, though staff had not extensively examined them.

Shropshire added that, although the number of primary care providers per capita in the region is higher than the state average, access remains a major issue in the region, as indicated by other data sources and SJBPH partners.

Bruss noted that many primary care providers do not accept patients without insurance and that the low percentage of insured people may impact access to care.

Stephens then covered behavioral health promotion, which includes

addressing substance use, suicide prevention, and improving mental health and wellness.

She added that public health's primary involvement in these issues would be promoting and coordinating other resources in the community.

Shropshire stated that suicide and substance use issues are major concerns in both counties identified in the community health assessment.

Additionally, she indicated that rates of overdose deaths and suicide are higher in La Plata and Archuleta counties than the Colorado average.

Shropshire noted that a 2021 survey of the Region 9 economic development district — covering Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan and Dolores counties — showed trends of increasing hopelessness and sadness among students in the region.

Devine pointed out that much of the data used in the PHIP is not annual and is staggered in a way that makes using 2023 data in the PHIP difficult.

Stephens then covered the climate and health priority, including local strategies for living with climate change impacts, individual and community-level climate action, and climate change adaptations.

Stephens noted that these impacts can include increased wildfires, drought and periods of high heat.

She indicated that the public health work involved would focus on planning, including preparing for new and more prominent communicable diseases, and emergency response to wildfires and poor air quality.

Devine noted that a PHIP should not be thought of as an organizational chart and that climate change responses will be spread across the public health organizations.

Bruss commented that, in addition to other climate change impacts, high spring winds can also have negative public health impacts by decreasing air quality and accelerating snowmelt.

Shropshire indicated that climate change was in the top 10 major concerns for both counties.

She also noted data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that indicate that climate change may impact rates of temperature-related death and illness, air quality, spread of vector borne diseases such as West Nile virus and water-borne illnesses, food safety and nutrition, mental health, and populations of concern in the southwest Colorado region.

She also noted that the region was currently experiencing drought as of the date of the meeting.

Devine noted that there is a "vast quantity" of data on the impacts of climate change on aspects of public health at an increasingly local level.

BoH member and La Plata County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton commented on the impacts of climate anxiety on younger people and questioned if this anxiety also has an impact on mental health issues.

Bruss noted that the drought has a high impact on the ranching community by increasing the price of obtaining cattle.

Porter-Norton also pointed out that she heard a statistic that the suicide rate among farmers and ranchers is now higher than among veterans, and that the Colorado Department of Agriculture is implementing a mental health program for farmers and ranchers.

Stephens added that a recent climate report also shows that the agricultural community may be particularly impacted by climate change due to spending more time outside in periods of extreme heat.

She then covered environmental health and living conditions priority, including consumer protection through restaurant inspections, on-site wastewater treatment system inspections, air and water quality, and the indoor environment and built environment.

She indicated that a potential goal statement for public health in this area would be to, "Decrease health and safety risks associated with housing by providing drinking water, radon and lead testing."

Shropshire stated that environmental health issues such as air quality, water quality and radon levels were significant concerns in the community health assessment and that radon levels in the region are high.

Stephens then covered the social determinants of health priority, including affordable housing, housing and homelessness, and support for children.

She indicated that the public health role would focus on enabling safe and stable housing, developing partnerships and removing barriers wherever possible, with a potential goal being to improve access to food security resources.

Shropshire explained that social determinants of health, such as affordable housing, child care and poverty are major concerns in the community health assessment.

She also presented economic data indicating that more than 30 percent

■ See Health A7

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SJBPH completes community health assessment

San Juan Basin Public Health

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) has completed a community health assessment, a component of the overall public health improvement planning process for the health district encompassing Archuleta and La Plata counties.

"SJBPH is proud to share this assessment with the community as Archuleta and La Plata counties launch individual health departments in 2024 following SJBPH's dissolution," stated Interim Executive Director Brian Devine. "It is our hope that this assessment will prove invaluable to informing the path forward for each new public health department."

Every five years, SJBPH takes a close look at the health and wellness needs of Archuleta and La Plata counties through a community health assessment.

This assessment seeks input from

community members to identify the top priorities among our residents, providing an opportunity to strategically develop and fund public and environmental health programs relevant to those needs.

It reflects the responses of more than 1,500 community members, as well as targeted population data collected from focus groups and key informant interviews.

Devine added, "It has been our privilege to serve Archuleta and La Plata counties as your local public health agency for the last 75 years. As we bring our existence as an independent agency to a close, we hope the community finds this information useful as a reference in the coming years."

The 2023 Community Health Assessment is available on the SJBPH website at <https://sjbpublichealth.org/257/Community-Health-Assessment>.

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Pavilion

Continued from front using the town-owned site for other purposes, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis suggested that South Yamaguchi Park might be a better site for the pavilion.

The pavilion's location would be just south and adjacent to the pickleball courts at South Yamaguchi Park, according to agenda documentation on the matter.

Agenda documentation also states that a preliminary site and soil analysis was conducted and the conclusion of that analysis found that the site is "workable, but would require a micro-pile foundation system to provide the desired structural support for the proposed roofed structure and concrete slab for the ice rink."

Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte explained that putting the pavilion on that particular site would "necessitate some additional work that would cost some money, but that the pavilion folks still think that South Yamaguchi is, given the totality of the circumstances, the best site" for the pavilion.

The PMPP's proposal states, "We have assessed all other locations, and, in our opinion, S. Yamaguchi is the best location."

The PMPP board proposes that if the council officially designates the location as the permanent site for the pavilion, it would come with the "contingency" that the PMPP would have a two-year deadline to raise

funds and complete the project — with the possibility for an extension — and if the PMPP fails to get the pavilion built by the two- to three-year deadline, the town would have the option to use the site for a different purpose.

Schulte explained the town staff recommends that, if the PMPP is given the green light, board representatives should return to town council every eight months to give updates on the project.

The PMPP proposal estimates the total cost of the project will be around \$3.4 million, but that costs would probably rise the longer the project takes to break ground.

The proposal states, "Funding will be sought from multiple sources that include private, corporate, grants, and local government."

The PMPP estimates that it will raise around \$1 million in private funding and states that the more that the board can raise through grants and private funding, it would lessen "our ask from government entities."

The PMPP states in the proposal that its request from the town, county and the tourism board would be about \$300,000 from each entity.

PMPP board member Brian Collabolletta told the council that "within eight months, I think we're really gonna know where we're going and, within 16 months, if we're not full-blown into it, then we're pretty much gonna know that it isn't gonna happen."

When opened up to questions from the council, Mayor Shari Pierce expressed some concern about the long-term maintenance of the pavilion and if the town would ultimately end up being responsible for maintaining the pavilion.

Lewis explained that, currently, the PMPP is fully responsible for maintaining the ice rink and that "going off of past history" that he anticipates that they will also be fully responsible for maintaining the new roofed ice rink if it is built.

However, he also noted that, since it would be a multi-use facility, he could imagine that the town could be "responsible for some type of maintenance" for perhaps "half of the year."

He added that would involve "ensuring that it's clean, ensuring that everything is working properly."

Lewis mentioned that the Pagosa Youth Soccer Club has expressed interest in using the facility during the warmer months.

He added that he doesn't foresee town staff having to regularly mow the area or maintain the landscape around the pavilion, saying that the town xeriscaped the area.

"I'm not concerned about additional maintenance costs in regard to this particular venue being down there," he said, adding that it would be similar to how the town's Parks and Rec Department handles the pickleball courts in the park.

Council member Madeline Ber-

gon added that the PMPP is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers and that she doesn't foresee "those volunteers just dropping off. In fact, I see them hopefully growing as the space gets a little bit more reliable."

Collabolletta said, "As far as who's gonna maintain it, you know, we haven't gotten that far yet, but there are different scenarios where maybe it's possible that we just run it full time and you guys wouldn't have to worry about it. We take care of the maintenance."

He suggested the organization could do something similar to Seeds of Learning, which rents a space for early childhood education on town property for \$1 per year and handles all of its own operations and maintenance.

"We could possibly do something similar," he said.

To round out the discussion, Schulte made the council aware that the town would need to be the official applicant on behalf of the PMPP for any grant funding for the pavilion.

A motion was then made to approve South Yamaguchi Park as the preferred location for the multipurpose pavilion, with the stipulation that the PMPP would need to secure funding and complete the project within a two-year time frame and show its progress along the way.

The motion was unanimously carried by the council.

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Health

Continued from A6 residents in both counties are "cost burdened" by housing costs, meaning that they spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on either rent or a mortgage.

Bruss noted that rates of home ownership are relatively high, and Porter-Norton speculated that this could be due to retirees.

Shropshire noted that the costs of child care in the community are above the national average and that the rate of food insecurity in Archuleta County is higher than the Colorado average, although La Plata County is similar to the state rate.

She also noted that a survey of Region 9 indicated that about 11 percent of children sometimes or often went hungry, which she commented is "not acceptable."

Stephens then discussed public health system capacity, including addressing health equity, enhancing public health through programs, developing partnerships with entities in the community, and having the staffing and funding available to address public health needs.

She stated that a potential priority in this area would be to expand partnerships with community organizations to enhance public health system capacity.

Shropshire noted that the community health assessment indicated that Archuleta County respondents use about 2.8 SJBPH services while La Plata County respondents use three services, which she commented demonstrates the importance of public health to the community.

She added that the advisory com-

mittee extensively discussed the importance of the counties having the necessary capacity in their public health departments.

Porter-Norton commented that the data collected is "really impressive" and that the information will be "super helpful" to La Plata County in developing and operating its public health department.

BoH member and Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown concurred, adding that the information will give the county a "head start."

Devine indicated that the next steps would be for staff to bring the PHIP to the BoH for adoption at its December meeting.

BoH member Bob Ledger commented that the PHIP presentation was "outstanding."

Devine commented that the PHIP was a "product we invested a lot of time in" and that the advisory committee's work on the PHIP extended from 2022 to the present.

He added that SJBPH believes that extensive data collection and discussion of the PHIP is critical, particularly given the upcoming dissolution of SJBPH.

The discussion concluded with the BoH thanking Shropshire, Stephens and Devine.

The BoH is slated to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14. The meeting will be held at the SJBPH office building in Durango and will be available by Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83189339696>. Or, call (719) 359-4580 or (312) 626-6799 and use webinar ID 831 8933 9696.

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 14

San Juan Basin Public Health Board of Health meeting. 9 a.m., Larkspur Training Room, San Juan Basin Public Health Office Building, 281 Sawyer Drive, Durango. To join the meeting via Zoom visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83189339696>, or call (719) 359-4580 or (312) 626-6799 and use webinar ID 831 8933 9696.

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=ZzlkSjYlLlBkbnRzRUpZcUkxUkx5Zz09>.

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>.

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Prices

Continued from front

to local gas station owners and relay the challenges citizens face with high gas prices.

The group is also circulating a petition, available at <http://tinyurl.com/43svx8fn>, to document the impact of high gas prices on the community and gather data on where residents get fuel.

Davison explained that the organization started with her seeing posts on social media platform NextDoor discussing the high gas prices and becoming interested in the issue.

Following discussions with county commissioners Ronnie Maez and Warren Brown, who updated her on the county's unsuccessful efforts earlier this year to obtain assistance from Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser's office in reducing gas prices, Davison stated that she began doing research and gathering data on local gas prices.

She highlighted that her background as a retired project manager, particularly in the information technology sector, influenced her decision to pursue a fact-focused approach with a goal of gathering additional information and potentially supplying it to Weiser's office.

According to Davison, the organization currently has 14 core members and more than 200 additional supporters, witnessed through engagement with posts on NextDoor and signatures on the petition the group is distributing.

Davison then discussed the data on gas prices in the region, explaining that, on Nov. 29, gas prices in Pagosa Springs averaged \$4.02 while Bayfield averaged \$3.44, Durango averaged \$3.38 and Chama, N.M., averaged \$3.19, according to GasBuddy.com.

She stated that, in Colorado overall, gas prices began falling in September, while they only began to drop in Pagosa Springs in November.

Davison cited this as evidence that gas prices in the area are being set "artificially high."

She explained that, according to the American Petroleum Institute, gas prices are impacted by a range of factors, including crude oil prices, refining costs, distribution and marketing costs, and state taxes.

She stated that the gas stations in the community are owned by a range of companies, including large chains like 7-11 or City Market and independent owners, including one group of owners that own three gas stations in the community.

Davison stated that she gathered data on the local gas stations from a range of sources, including interviewing owners, state databases, and local property records and business

licenses.

She explained that, in her conversations with one independent gas station owner, the owner indicated to her that he collaborated with other gas stations in the community to set prices, which Davison alleged is an "antitrust issue," particularly because the stores that are potentially collaborating represent a majority of the fuel capacity in the area.

She explained that she also believes, based on data from Archuleta County, that the bulk fuel prices and delivery fees for fuel in the area are lower than often supposed.

She pointed out that gas stations and other entities that receive fuel deliveries from the same companies often display significantly differing final costs between gas stations and bulk buyers, in her view negating the argument that the high prices are driven by high delivery expenses.

Davison stated that the area is also supplied by a wide range of different fuel delivery companies from a range of locations, including Alamosa, Denver and Albuquerque, N.M.

Davison explained that price gouging can be defined as "the practice of increasing the prices of goods, services, or commodities to a level much higher than is considered reasonable or fair."

She alleged that she is "pretty darn certain" that this is occurring in the community.

Davison pointed out that the high gas prices have an impact across the community, particularly on residents living below the poverty line, on local government entities that have to purchase gas, such as Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS, and on local businesses that perform deliveries.

She explained that a survey being conducted by the group as part of a petition indicates that a substantial number of community members get fuel in neighboring communities because the costs are lower, thus negatively impacting Highway User Tax Fund revenues for local government and revenues for local businesses, which receive fewer customers.

Davison explained next steps for the organization include circulating a letter to gas station owners and managers highlighting the group's goal of lowering fuel prices and inviting them to the Jan. 18, 2024 Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing meeting in addition to accumulating signatures on a petition the group is distributing.

The letter is also included as a letter to the editor in this issue of The SUN.

She stated that the petition is intended to show that gas prices are a broad concern in the area as well as gathering data on where community

members buy fuel.

Depending on the results of Jan. 18, 2024, meeting, Davison indicated that the information collected by the group may be sent on to Weiser for potential further legal action.

She added that boycotts and protests at gas stations have also been considered.

When asked about what the end goal of the organization is, Davison stated that the objective is make gas prices in Pagosa more comparable to Bayfield and Durango, with a potential objective of making prices in Pagosa only 10 to 15 cents higher than in Bayfield.

She added that achieving this goal and lowering prices would likely be "very difficult" and that she believed that Weiser's involvement might be necessary for the group to succeed.

County involvement

At the Dec. 1 Citizens for Fair Fuel Prices meeting, the group also heard an update from County Commissioner Warren Brown on the county's ongoing interactions with Weiser and efforts to lower fuel prices.

In an interview with The SUN, Brown explained that he raised the issue of high gas prices again to Weiser at a Colorado Counties Inc. conference last month, where Weiser indicated that he would have his office look into the issue.

Brown stated that, to support this effort, he intends to take the information gathered by Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing, in addition to information about his role in the fuel prices issue, and have it reviewed by County Attorney Todd Weaver before submitting it to Weiser for review.

However, he noted that he advocates for Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing holding a meeting with gas station owners prior to submitting information to the attorney general.

He commented that he does not want to "alienate anyone."

"Sometimes I have found ... a lot of times we run into situations where it's just a lack of good, solid communication," Brown said. "They're our neighbors. Their kids go to school with our kids and so on, and I think that if we can, in a thoughtful way, reach out to them and try to reason with them and say, 'This is what's affecting us. Here, can we work together? We wanna pay a fair price but we want to work together.' And to provide for that opportunity, I think that's the best way to go if we can do that."

He added that, if this approach does not produce results, he feels sending the information to Weiser for the attorney general's office to review and investigate potential improprieties would be the next step.

Although Brown indicated he was unsure the exact steps the attorney general's office would take, he noted that the attorney general is dedicated to consumer protection and has previously assisted the county with such issues during a propane supply crisis in December 2021.

He added that, if antitrust issues exist or "wrongful acts" have been committed, he believes the state might pursue legal action to compel gas stations to adjust prices.

Brown noted that the high fuel costs impact the county's operations, since some departments, such as the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, purchase fuel at local stations.

Brown highlighted that he sees himself as an advocate for "the citizens of the community."

He also commented that it is "really important" that "we have community members who are standing to take action and impact a challenge we're having. I think this is a huge step."

Brown added that he hopes the activities of Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing will make community members more "confident in addressing other issues that come up that they have concerns about as a group of citizens."

He added that, when the county first attempts to involve Weiser's office in area prices failed, he commented that citizens would need to advocate for themselves and potentially write letters to the attorney general's office to gain acknowledgment of the challenge the community is having.

Brown added that this is the type of advocacy Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing is now pursuing and commented, "It's nice that we have citizens who are advocating for themselves."

Area gas prices

Gas prices in Archuleta County have dropped in recent days, with the AAA gas prices tracker indicating that average for regular fuel was \$3.82 per gallon on Dec. 13.

The average price in La Plata County was \$3.35 per gallon for regular fuel, according to AAA.

The average state gas price for regular grade gas in Colorado is \$2.82 per gallon with Adams County having the lowest average prices at \$2.54 per gallon and Pitkin County having the highest prices at \$4.40 per gallon.

AAA indicates that only Pitkin and Gunnison counties have higher average gas prices than Archuleta County out of all Colorado counties.

Colorado gas prices are below the national average of \$3.12 per gallon and have fallen from an average of \$2.92 per gallon a week ago.

josh@pagosasun.com

that buyer Ronnie Urbanczyk would perform a "build to suit" to construct a new building.

Woodman and Weaver explained that this was included in an initial offer Urbanczyk made, but not in the final offer the county accepted.

Woodman added that it is possible that Urbanczyk still has an interest in constructing a building for the county.

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Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sunday, Dec. 24, 7 PM

New Year's Eve Day Service, Dec. 31, 10:30 AM

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Offer for construction of county admin building withdrawn by developer

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Archuleta County's efforts to secure a deal with a private developer for the construction of a new county administration building in Harman Park have gone "up in flames," according to County Manager Derek Woodman at the Dec. 12 Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session.

Woodman explained that the developer pulled out of his offer to construct a building for the county and lease it back to the county due to him not being able "get past" the idea that state law requires that the county annually appropriate money to fund leasing the project.

He explained that the developer provided an alternative offer for the county to purchase the 24-acre parcel in Harman Park the developer planned to build on and construct the administrative building on the originally planned two- or three-acre area.

He indicated that the developer

would continue to assist with the design and permitting of the building as in earlier proposals but that the county would have to solicit bids for the construction of the building.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked if the developer owns the 24-acre parcel.

Woodman stated that he does not currently.

"So he's trying to sell us property that he doesn't own," Brown commented.

County Attorney Todd Weaver added that he understood the developer to have an "option" to purchase the property, but that he had not done so yet.

Woodman recommended to the board that it not move forward with the offer and work to construct a building on land the county already owns or other land that "might be more suitable."

He commented that he believes there is a "bigger rationale" for the developer's current offer, noting that two of the "primary property inholders" planned to be involved in the

overall project, including a Maverik gas station and a U-Haul facility, have withdrawn.

"And, so now he has nobody to go there," Woodman said, adding that he felt the developer was trying to make "some sort of deal, something on 24 acres."

"It doesn't make a whole lot of sense, doesn't seem like it's in the best interests of the county to pursue," he added.

Weaver pointed out several negative features of the property, including the lack of streets or utilities and the large portion of the property that is wetlands.

"The initial offer was attractive," Weaver said. "To me, this really is not."

He added that the county may also be restricted from owning property as an investment, which he stated would be the most likely use for the remaining acreage.

Brown indicated that he understood that a portion of the county's deal to sell the old Archuleta County courthouse at 449 San Juan St. was

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Education



The Archuleta School District Board of Education poses for a photo at its Dec. 12 meeting — the first meeting of the board following the certification of the November election results. From left are Bob Lynch, Amanda Schick, Dana Guinn, Butch Mackey and Tim Taylor.

Safe2Tell report reveals second highest monthly report volume ever, student's life saved

Colorado Attorney General's Office

As Safe2Tell reports increased to the second highest monthly volume ever recorded in November 2023, details also reveal how a Safe2Tell report saved a student's life, according to the monthly report released this week.

Last month, an individual reported a peer's social post indicating suicidal ideation. Local law enforcement, responding to the report, discovered the student actively attempting suicide. Immediate notification was given to the student's parents, and the student was promptly transported to the hospital, where they were placed on hold.

"Today, we not only celebrate Saf-

e2Tell's proven success story; we celebrate a life saved," explained Attorney General Phil Weiser. "The intervention prompted by the Safe2Tell report prevented a tragedy and serves as a powerful reminder of the impact we can achieve when we come together to protect our youth. I sincerely want to tell the person who submitted the report how proud we are of you."

In November, the program received 2,999 reports, which is a 5 percent increase over October reports and a 46 percent increase when compared to the same month last year. Suicide (336), bullying (307) and school complaint (252) were among the top categories of reports. Additionally, report volume for the

2023-2024 school year is up 39 percent from this point last year with 10,044 reports.

"The strength of Safe2Tell echoes loudly in our second-highest monthly report volume and is a poignant reminder of the program's ability to turn collective vigilance into tangible, life-saving outcomes," said Stacey Jenkins, director of Safe2Tell.

In this school year, false reports are 3.5 percent of all reports submitted to Safe2Tell. False reports are those that contain untrue information and are submitted with the intent to harm, injure or bully another person.

Anonymous reports from students and other individuals successfully helped protect students' safety in November. In addition to the example above, a person reported a student was feeling depressed and struggling with taking their medication. School teams investigated and the school psychologist spoke with the student, who expressed feeling safe but made a plan to utilize their resources to feel better. The school contacted the parent and are monitoring the student.

Safe2Tell is a violence intervention and prevention program for students to anonymously report threats to their own, and others', safety. Safe2Tell is not an emergency response unit nor mental health counseling service provider; it is an information

pathway for distributing anonymous reports to local law enforcement and school officials pursuant to state law.

To make a report, individuals can call (877) 542-7233 from anywhere, at any time. Reports also can be made at Safe2Tell.org, by texting S2TCO to 738477, or through the Safe2Tell mobile app, which is available on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Fort Lewis College expands FLC Tuition Promise for low-income Colorado families

By Nardy Baeza Bickel
Fort Lewis College

In an effort to increase college accessibility for Colorado residents, Fort Lewis College is expanding its FLC Tuition Promise, covering tuition for in-state students whose family income is \$70,000 or less.

Previously the benefit was available for families earning less than \$65,000.

The program's expansion is possible thanks to an anonymous gift to the President's Impact Fund, said FLC President Tom Stritikus.

"FLC wants to make sure that every student in Colorado, regardless of their family's income, has the opportunity to attend college," he said. "Unrestricted gifts like this allow us to leverage other forms of support to help students maximize their financial aid to ensure they graduate with as little debt as possible."

The award is a combination of federal, state, and institutional grants and institutional scholarships. If they don't cover the full cost of tuition, FLC funds are awarded to meet 100 percent of the student's share of in-state tuition.

To qualify, students must be seeking their first bachelor's degree and must be enrolled in college full-time, must be Colorado residents for tuition purposes, complete the FAFSA, apply for the College Opportunity Fund and have a complete financial aid file by Census Date for full

Thanks

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta and the seven Food Pantries thank IBEW 111 and LPEA for hosting the Annual Food Drive at City Market and Natural Grocers. We also thank RE/MAX Eagle's Nest and San Juan CO Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club for collecting donations to support the Food Pantry Network.

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We also would like to thank Steve Blechschmidt, Gustoso Italian Restaurant, Michelle Clark, Tucker Jacobson and all our volunteers.

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Sports

CHEER

Pirates place 11th at state competition

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate cheerleading squad finished 11th at last week's state competition for 3A cheer, with the team's coach highlighting the team's devotion and the difficulty of its state routine.

The team finished 11th out of 14 teams with a total score of 63.4 in the semifinals.

The event was held last week as part of the three-day state spirit competition at the Denver Coliseum.

"We feel they left it all out on that mat," coach Toni Gallegos wrote in an email to The SUN. "They gave the best performance that we'd seen in the last two months of practice. It was amazing to see the team come together under pressure and pull it off. We are beyond proud and are excited to see what the next year brings!! We had some tough competition but I feel we came out and stood our ground against teams who have been practicing and competing for years together!"

Gallegos explains teams have 2.5 minutes to showcase their best dance, tumbling, cheer, stunts and crowd engagement while showing smooth transitions and sharp moves, being "extra peppy" and showing how much school spirit they can bring.

She notes the PSHS team had the hardest stunts "by far" and the judges commented on how great the Pirates' jumps were, adding most of the Pirates could not even jump at the beginning of the season.

She adds the PSHS team had eight weeks to prepare after finishing the football season.

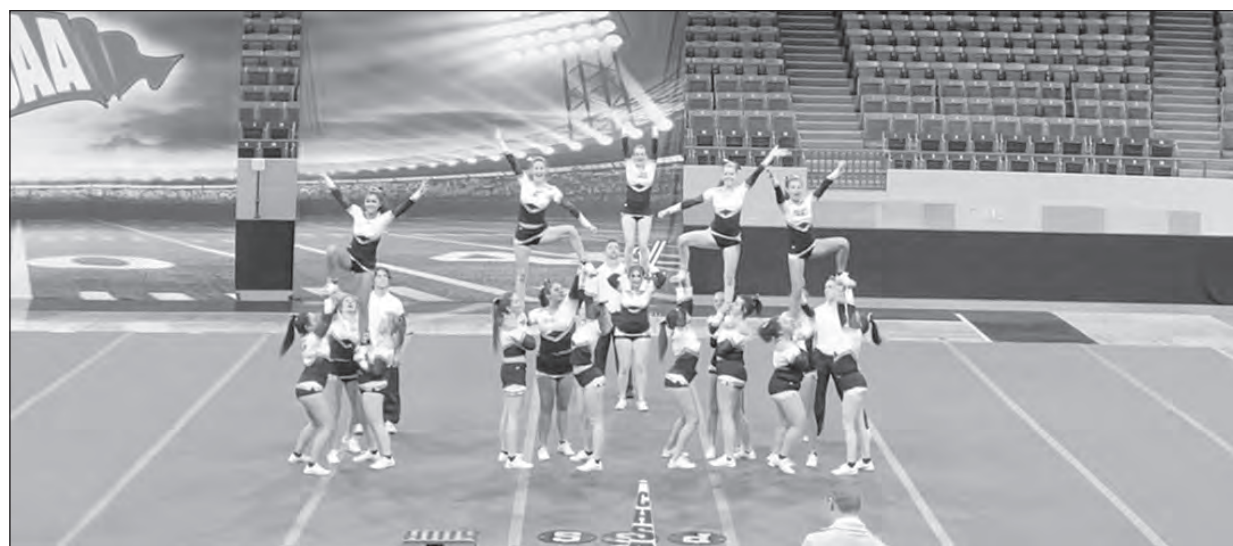
The coach also notes the team put in a lot of hard work, putting in days with three-hour practices, and stuck with it and give it their all.

The team originally had 30 athletes, according to the coach, but could only take up to 20 to state. After two dropped out at the last minute, 18 traveled to the competition.

Of those, she notes, only four had been to state competition before.

Gallegos adds she and fellow coach Savannah Moore "are super grateful for this opportunity to develop the High School Cheer program! It's been amazing seeing the devotion these athletes have had this year and how far they have developed in just 4 months!"

randi@pagosasun.com



The Pirate cheer squad participated in the 3A cheer state competition at the Denver Coliseum last week. The team placed 11th in the event. Photos courtesy Toni Gallegos

WRESTLING

Lady Pirates compete in Bloomfield tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling division competed at the Bloomfield Girls Tournament on Dec. 9 in Bloomfield, N.M., placing in a 10-way tie for ninth place at the 19-team tournament.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained that the tournament used a round-robin format where each wrestler wrestles all others in their weight class, which he stated is "designed to get as many matches as possible."

He added that the tournament was a developmental one for the division and gave an opportunity for the wrestlers to build their skills.

He also noted that the team was

challenged by many programs at the event that have existed for longer, though Janowsky noted the importance of "paying your dues" by competing against more difficult teams and developing skill.

In the 107-pound weight class, Madisen Stretton took second place.

Stretton won the first round by decision and received a bye in the second round.

She then won the third round with a pin before being pinned in the first-place match to take second place.

Janowsky highlighted her continued high performance.

Stretton also took second at the Farmington Girls Wrestling Invite on Dec. 1.

In the 120-pound weight class,

Dalton Hoover took 11th place.

She was pinned in the first and second rounds before receiving a bye in the third round and winning the 11th-place match with a forfeit.

Kylie Matyniak competed for Pagosa in the 132-pound weight class, being pinned in the first round, receiving a bye in the second and being pinned again in the third.

In the 145-pound weight class,

Aspen Salazar took sixth place.

She was pinned in the first round, received a bye in the second and was pinned again in the third round.

She was then pinned again in the fifth-place match to take sixth place.

The Lady Pirates girls' division will next compete at the Bayfield Tournament in Bayfield on Dec. 16 beginning at 9 a.m.

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Thursday, December 28

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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

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SWIM



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lady Pirate Grace Cram swims the backstroke at the Scorpion Invite in Farmington, N.M., on Dec. 9. Cram placed fifth in the event, earning 13 points for the team.

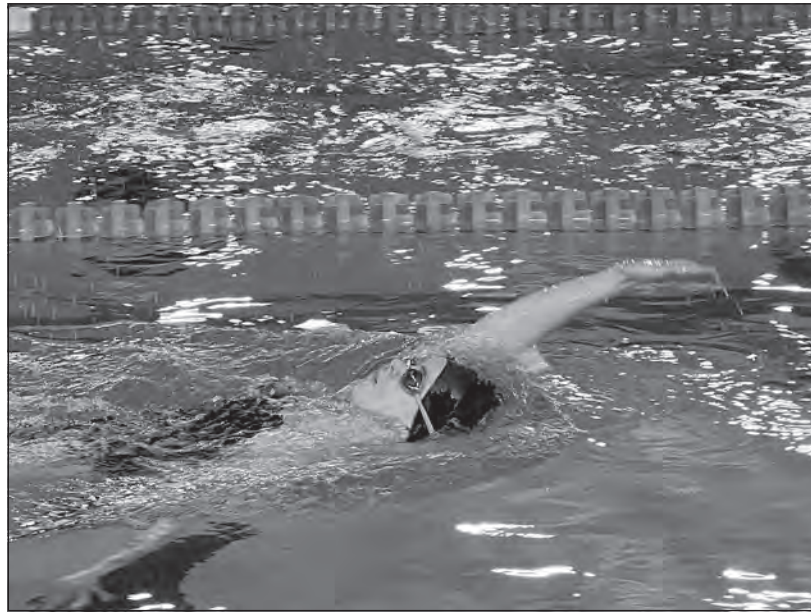


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Karis Blackman swims at the Scorpion Invite in Farmington, N.M., on Dec. 9. Blackman swam in four events at the meet, helping the Lady Pirates to a fourth-place finish.

Swim team opens season with personal bests, fourth-place finish

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team opened its season last weekend with many of the team's swimmers setting new personal bests.

The team finished fourth out of seven teams at the Scorpion Invite in Farmington, N.M., on Saturday, Dec. 9, with 319 points. Farmington won the meet with 479 points.

"Overall the meet went very well for our first meet!" coach Heather Miller wrote in an email to The SUN. "We had nearly all personal best times and those that were not best times were very close to their best."

The Pirates had two teams compete in the 200-meter medley relay on the day, with the team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Karis Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Dharma Adams taking fifth with a time of two minutes, 24.70 seconds to earn 28 points for the team.

The team of Rebecca Stewart, Leah Blackman, Natalia Monterroso and Elissa Mars finished seventh with a time of 2:29.21 to earn 24 points.

In the 200-meter freestyle, Asia Gorman finished sixth in 2:48.28 to earn 13 points for the team. Grace Cram followed in seventh with a time of 2:49.66 to earn 12 points, and Gemma Slingerland finished ninth and earned nine points with a time

of 3:03.14.

A trio of Lady Pirates also took part in the 200-meter individual medley, with Gantt placing fourth with a time of 3:11.38 to earn 15 points. Karis Blackman finished fifth in 3:15.40 to earn 14 points, and Hedgecock followed in sixth with a time of 3:20.03 to earn 13 points.

Nine Lady Pirates competed in the 50-meter freestyle. Adams led the Lady Pirates with an 11th-place finish, earning six points and finishing with a time of 31.01 seconds.

Leah Blackman followed in 22nd with a time of 35.52 seconds, Monterroso took 30th with a time of 37.52 seconds, Mars took 31st with a time of 37.65 seconds, and Rebecca Stewart finished 32nd with a time of 38.32 seconds.

Bella Gutierrez finished 41st with a time of 42.26 seconds, and was followed by Natalie Talley with a time of 44th in 44.11 seconds, Marie Smith with a time of 48th in 4.48 seconds, and Lucia Rivera in 49th with a time of 46.28.

Adams finished fifth in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 1:13.24 to earn 14 points. Hedgecock finished eighth in the event with a time of 1:15.31, earning 11 points. Stewart logged a 16th-place finish to earn one point with a time of 1:24.78.

Gorman took seventh and earned 12 points in the 500-meter freestyle,

finishing with a time of 7:49.48.

Three Lady Pirate teams took part in the 200 freestyle relay.

The team of Hedgecock, Gantt, Karis Blackman and Adams finished fifth with a time of 2:08.67 and earned 28 points.

The team of Slingerland, Cram, Leah Blackman and Gorman finished seventh with a time of 2:19.35, earning 24 points.

The team of Smith, Rivera, Talley and Gutierrez finished 13th with a time of 3:02.00 to earn eight points.

Six Lady Pirates competed in the 100-meter backstroke event, with Cram leading the Lady Pirates with a sixth-place finish that earned the team 13 points. She swam the event in 1:30.35.

Monterroso followed in 10th with a time of 1:45.26 to earn seven points. Mars finished 11th in 1:48.26 to earn six points, and Smith finished 12th with a time of 1:49.11 to earn five points.

Talley finished 15th in 2:00.21 to earn two points, and Gutierrez finished 16th in 2:06.06, earning one point.

Karis Blackman was the first of five Lady Pirates to finish the 100-meter breaststroke event. She finished fifth and earned 14 points with a time of 1:29.63. Leah Blackman followed in seventh with a time of 1:35.10 to earn 12 points.

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WRESTLING



Photo courtesy Rebecca Aucoin

Pirate wrestler Colton Lucero grapples his opponent during the Columbine Tournament in Littleton on Dec. 9. Lucero placed second in the 144-pound weight class, helping lead the Pirates to a second-place finish overall.

Pirates take second at Columbine Tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team took second place at the Columbine Tournament at Columbine High School in Littleton on Dec. 9.

The tournament was the first of the season for the Pirates.

The team placed second out of 19 teams in the tournament with 160 points behind Legend High School, a 5A school in Parker at 191.5 points.

Coach Dan Janowsky highlighted that the tournament's field was the "toughest" it has been, with Pagosa being one of only three 3A teams in a tournament otherwise composed of 4A and 5A schools.

"It was a good experience for us developmentally," he said. "There were good high-level wrestlers and there were good mid-level wrestlers so that your best guys got a good test

and developmental guys got some competition that was appropriate for them."

He added that the larger schools tend to have strong lineups that "push us," although he noted that Pagosa won 65 to 70 percent of its matches.

Janowsky commented that the capable competition helps develop the team's skills and conditioning, and that the final matches were "in-

tense," both in terms of the level of competition and the "electricity" in the room.

The ability to succeed in such an environment is critical for wrestlers, he added, noting that this experience is difficult to replicate in practice or at lower-level tournaments.

"So, that was a good test for us in those ways, for sure," he said.

■ See Wrestling A13

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Community Choir concert

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir presents its "Sounds of the Season" Christmas concert on Dec. 10. The choir presented its Christmas concert series, which included 16 festive songs, over three days in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.



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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates go 1-1 at Heritage Tournament

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates played in the Heritage tournament in Fort Collins last weekend and came away with one win and one loss.

The Lady Pirates opened with a loss Friday, Dec. 8, against the 2A Sedgwick County Cougars from Julesburg, losing by a score of 54-49.

Coach Sarah Osborn indicated she knew that it would be a tough matchup, stating, "They are very well-coached. I think they have a great coach ... and they won state last year for 2A, so they're a good team. [Abigail Dille] she's a junior this year — as a sophomore she got 2A Player of the Year."

Pagosa's defense and 3-point shooting allowed the team to take a 12-7 lead in the first quarter, but the Cougars came back and closed the period with a 3-pointer, leaving the teams tied at 15-15.

In the second quarter, Sedgwick put up nine points to the Pirates' five to hold a 24-20 lead at halftime.

Osborn noted one big difference between this game and last year's game with the Cougars, saying, "They were pressing us. We never turned it over in the press, which is very dif-

ferent from last year. Last year we struggled with press and pressure."

The Lady Pirates played well in the third quarter, outscoring Sedgwick 20-15 to take a one-point lead at the end of the period, 40-39.

"I don't think they were expecting us to come out that strong in the third quarter," Osborn said. "I thought we just executed our offense even better. We slowed down a little bit more, got more sets in, more set shots and kept that 34 [Dille] from scoring a little bit in the third quarter."

Unfortunately for the Pirates, timely steals and 3-point baskets by the Cougars allowed them to outscore Pagosa in the fourth quarter 15-9 to seal the victory.

The Pirates were plagued by foul trouble early in the game, which caught up with them in the final quarter as Daveyann Snarr and Kylie Ketchum both fouled out. The Lady Pirates made three of their 13 attempts from the free-throw line for a success rate of 23 percent while Sedgwick made 12 of 15.

The Lady Pirates had a balanced scoring attack, led by Liz Currier with 12 points, Annie O'Donnell with 11, Ketchum with 10, Karsyn Shahan with nine and Amber Snarr with six.

O'Donnell led the team with eight

rebounds and also had three assists, two steals and one block.

Currier had six rebounds, five assists and one steal.

Shahan had one rebound, three assists, two steals and three blocks.

Amber Snarr and Daveyann Snarr had one rebound each, and Ketchum added two assists.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Lady Pirates played the Hoehne Farmers.

Hoehne came into the tournament 3-0, but lost On Dec. 8 to Heritage Christian. Hoehne was in the top 10 for the 2A classification last year.

The Lady Pirates ended their three-game losing streak with a 51-36 win over the Farmers.

The Pirates started slowly in the first quarter, committing six turnovers in the first four minutes, with Osborn explaining she called a timeout and urged her team to "play the way we know how to play."

She added, "Immediately from there we kind of turned it around."

Pagosa played well throughout the remainder of the game, maintaining a consistent lead and ultimately winning 51-36.

"We had to dig ourselves a little bit out of the hole and we still always have things to work on, but I thought [the team] played a really, really good

offensive game against Hoehne," Osborn said. "We executed way more than we have any other game and we kept that 10- to 15-point gap the whole game that made us feel a little bit more comfortable."

Currier led the team in scoring with 18 points, Daveyann Snarr had 11, Ketchum scored seven and Shahan added six. O'Donnell and Amber Snarr scored five and four points, respectively.

Currier had four rebounds, five assists, four steals, and one block. Shahan had nine rebounds, one assist and two steals. 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 2 rebounds, one assist and one steal.

The Lady Pirates committed 13 turnovers for the game.

Pagosa will continue play this week with two home games.

The Lady Pirates will play the Salida Spartans at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14, and play at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, against the Buena Vista Demons.

The Spartans are 2-3 on the season, while the Demons are 3-1.

robert@pagosahun.com

Wrestling

Continued from A11

Janowsky added that the challenge of the tournament was amplified by the long distance the team had to travel for the tournament compared to many of the other schools attending that are located in the Littleton area.

"Not only are we the small school there, but we're also five hours away from home in a hostile environment," the coach commented, adding, "Those kinds of things do develop wrestlers."

Janowsky also explained that, while some weight classes that were not filled at the recent duals were filled in the tournament, some of the lowest weight classes were not filled at the tournament due to Janowsky feeling that the younger athletes at those weights would benefit more from junior varsity tournament experience instead of competing at a longer, varsity-level tournament.

In the 120-pound weight class, Xavier Haney took third place, scoring 19 points for the team.

Haney pinned his opponents in the first championship round and the quarterfinals before being pinned in the semifinals.

He then recovered to pin his opponent in the third-place match to take third place.

Gabe Ramirez, in the 126-pound weight class, placed fourth, earning 14.5 points.

He won with a pin in the first championship round and with a technical fall in the quarterfinals before being pinned in the semifinals and losing the third-place match with a major decision.

Janowsky highlighted that Haney and Ramirez were both formerly junior varsity wrestlers who are making the transition to varsity.

He added that he was "really pleased" with Haney's third-place finish and that they both "did well."

Hudson Mazur, in the 132-pound weight class, scored 17 points and took fifth place.

Mazur won the first championship round with a pin before losing the quarterfinals by decision.

He went on to win the second consolation round, consolation semifinals and fifth-place match with pins to take fifth place.

The coach commented that Mazur partially only took fifth place due to losing at the wrong time during the tournament, but added that, as a freshman, he did "very well."

In the 138-pound weight class, Luke Tressler, who is 11-2 on the season, took fifth place and scored 17 points.

He won the first championship round with a pin before being defeated in the quarterfinals after his opponent declined to continue after a slam call was made against Tressler, thus

awarding his opponent the victory.

He then pinned his opponents in the second consolation round, consolation semifinals and fifth-place match to take fifth place.

Janowsky commented on the slam call that such calls are somewhat subjective and added that Tressler was not "overly aggressive," but that his opponent was oddly positioned and was thus unable to break his fall when Tressler attempted to return him to the mat after he stood up during the match, resulting in a slam.

He added that Tressler's opponent had a "pre-existing condition" and was thus unwilling to continue the match, resulting in Tressler losing the match.

Janowsky added that this incident had a potentially significant impact on the Pirates' team score as it prevented Tressler from taking higher than fifth place when the coach believed that he could have potentially won his weight class, which would have garnered Pagosa up to 15 additional points.

"But, those things happen. You gotta know that as an athlete and as a coach. You gotta know that, and you gotta wrestle accordingly," Janowsky concluded.

In the 144-pound weight class, Colton Lucero, who is 11-1 on the season, took second place and scored 23.5 points.

Lucero won the first championship round with a technical fall and the quarterfinals and semifinals with pins before being defeated by a 7-2 decision in the first-place match.

Janowsky commented that Lucero defeated most of his opponents "without really being tested," but that his opponent in the final round was a "really good" previous 5A state placer who successfully used a delaying style to blunt Lucero's "explosive" offense and secure a victory.

"It was a very exciting match," he said, adding that the coaches will have to focus on refining Lucero's ability to deal with this defensive style as it will be commonly used by other level opponents to mitigate his offensive abilities.

In the 150-pound weight class, Taylor Hancey placed sixth and earned 19 points.

He defeated his opponent in the first championship round with a pin before being defeated by a major decision in the second championship round.

He won the first, second and third consolation rounds with pins before pinning his opponent in the consolation semifinals and being pinned in the fifth-place match to take sixth place.

Wyatt Hoover competed as a non-scoring wrestler in the 150-pound weight class, receiving a bye in the first championship round before win-

ning the second by a major decision.

Hoover was defeated by decision in the quarterfinal and in the fourth consolation round.

In the 157-pound weight class, Derek Carter scored four points for the Pirates.

He received a bye in the first championship round before being pinned in the second.

He received another bye in the second consolation round and achieved a pin in the third before being pinned in the fourth consolation round.

Seth Aucoin, in the 165-pound weight class, scored seven points for the team.

He pinned his opponent in the first championship round before losing by decision in the quarterfinal.

He then won with a pin in the second consolation round before being pinned in the consolation semifinals.

In the 190-pound weight class, Connor Kelly, who is 11-1 on the season, took second place and scored 24 points.

He pinned his opponents in the first championship round, quarterfinals and semifinals before losing by decision in the first-place match.

Janowsky commented that Kelly wrestled "well," although he was defeated in a "really intense" final match against a challenging opponent.

"That intensity is tough to duplicate and so we're grateful for it and we'll learn our lessons and move on," he concluded.

In the 215-pound weight class, Harley Armijo, who is 9-3 on the season, took fourth place and earned 15 points for the Pirates.

He won both the first championship round and quarterfinals with pins before being pinned in the semifinals and third-place match to take fourth place.

The coach explained that Armijo's achievements were heightened by the fact that he is closer to Kelly in weight and size, making him smaller than most of his opponents in the 215-pound weight class and putting him at a significant disadvantage, especially against high-level opponents.

"I give Harley huge credit" for wrestling against larger opponents, Janowsky stated, adding that Armijo is a "very smart" and "really tough" wrestler.

Antonio Quesada competed for the Pirates in the 285-pound weight class.

He received a bye in the first championship round before being pinned in the quarterfinals.

He received another bye in the second consolation round before losing by decision in the consolation semifinals.

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New Listing



155 Pike Drive
\$650,000

MLS 809504
Three bedroom, 2 bath, 1684 square feet, 1.24 acres. Located between uptown and downtown with a wrap around driveway.



1304 & 1402 Hersch Avenue
\$1,060,537

MLS 797954
This home with amazing valley views was built in 1976 — located on 10± acres. 2,518 sq. ft. with 4 beds/3baths. Upgrades include an attached garage and a formal dining room. The adjacent land of 6± acres has a 2,000 sq. ft. barn built in 2006.
To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1304Hersch>



Under Contract



3440 Running Horse Place
\$840,000

MLS 803367
3 bed, 2 bath, 1,566 sq feet on 35+ acres. Also has a 1,500 sq ft shop/garage and Borders 70 acres of BLM.
To tour this home go to:
<https://vimeo.com/827436529?share=copy>



2453 Running Horse Place
\$2,400,000

MLS 806520
35.2 Acres with guest house, set up for horses. Property comes with workshop/garage, growing dome, round pen, 3 stall + barn and numerous outbuildings.
To see this property go to:
<https://vimeo.com/850327930>



Cloman Industrial Park
\$395,000

MLS 807337
68 acre, 1,440 sq. ft. building. Room for additional building. 3,000 BTU gas heater, sink, stove, half bath, 8'x10' overhead door.

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219 Lakeside Drive —MLS 800074, \$190,000	X Montezuma Circle —MLS 804535, \$90,000.
30 High Drive — MLS 794628, \$59,900	.82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.
72 High Drive — MLS 803168, \$39,000	153 Greenway Drive — MLS 805178, \$25,000.
17736 County Road 500 — MLS 804532, \$90,000.	147 Cat Creek Overlook MLS 806842 \$25,000
.82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.	



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www.shelliehogue.com



Barbara Swindlehurst
CIPS CRS GRI SFR CNE
REALTOR®, BROKER/ OWNER
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Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com



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BASKETBALL

Pirates claim Heritage Tournament championship

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirates played in the Heritage tournament in Fort Collins last weekend and came away with two wins and the tournament championship.

In addition, Colt Lewis was named the MVP of the tournament, and both he and Blake Laner were named to the all-tournament team.

The Pirates opened with a win Friday, Dec. 8, against Heritage Christian defeating the Eagles by a score of 64-49.

Going into the game, Pagosa coach Wes Lewis indicated he was expecting a tough matchup.

Early in the game Pagosa struggled, with Wes Lewis explaining, "It was tough in the early going. We got down eight in the first quarter, but got it tied by halftime. Went in locker 24 apiece."

The coach also indicated the team

struggled with turnovers in the first half.

"In the early going, we had a lot of turnovers, kind of unforced, unnecessary turnovers that [were] really hurting us and plaguing us," he said.

Wes Lewis noted that Ridge Wilson and Colt Lewis had strong first halves, saying, "[Wilson] hit the big buckets when we were needing them. Colt played steady throughout."

In the second half, the Pirates continued to pull away to seal the 64-49 victory.

"I thought we shot the ball well, we stayed composed and played with poise," the coach said. "Heritage Christian had a couple players get technicals, then their coach got one. I think I just felt like our boys stayed pretty calm throughout the chaos and didn't get rattled, and I thought that was big for us."

The Pirates had three players in double figures, led by Colt Lewis with 25 points, Laner with 19 and

Wilson with 11. Creede Dozier had three points, while Chase Harper, Seth Ziegler and Jaxten Schiel each chipped in two points.

Colt Lewis had three rebounds, six assists and four steals to go with his 25 points.

Laner led the team in rebounding with six and also had one assist, one steal and one block.

Wilson had five rebounds, three assists, and one steal.

Dozier had three rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Nathaniel Kinsley had three rebounds and three assists.

Ziegler and Schiel snagged two rebounds each.

The Pirates shot 71 percent from the free-throw line, hitting 27 of 38 chances.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, Pagosa played Sedgwick County and posted a 59-30 victory over the Cougars.

Wes Lewis noted he expected the game to be much closer than it was,

saying, "Sedgwick County looked pretty good Friday night when we were scouting them. They shot the ball really well from the 3-point line. I kind of anticipated a much closer game on Saturday night."

The coach attributed much of the win to his team's defense.

"Our kids were just dialed in defensively and [Sedgwick] didn't get any open looks and I mean, everybody was just really good defensively," he said. "It starts with our guards, but we were just, when the subs came into the game, they were equally as good. I mean, we were just really, really good defensively, kind of took them out of everything they were trying ... They had a hard time finding any open shots."

The Pirates were led by Laner's double-double with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Kinsley also had a strong game with 12 points and five rebounds.

■ See Championship A15

SIGN OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

By: /s/ Elias Thomas
Elias Thomas, Secretary
Dated: November 1, 2023
Alamosa Drilling, Inc.
c/o Lucas Satterlee
Attorney for Alamosa Drilling, Inc.
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
1550 17th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202
Lucas.satterlee@dgsllaw.com
Published December 14, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223666)

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
v.
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 Koski LLC
160 E. 12th St, Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: d.eggleston@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 situated 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 Koski LLC
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.
ELVIRIA M. CANDELARIA AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PERSONS WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION,
Defendants.
Attorney for Plaintiff:
The Law Firm of Marla C. Underrell, LLC Marla C. Underrell, Atty. Reg. No. 31076 101 West 11th Street, Suite 104
Durango, Colorado 81301
Cell Phone Number: 970-403-8093
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, aka Ditch No. 182 off the Piedra River, pursuant to Priority No. 258, with an historic date of June 1, 1912, and a decreed date of June 1, 1921; ALSO TOGETHER WITH all surface and subsurface mineral interests, of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to oil, gas, CO2 and their constituents and all other minerals owned by Grantor that may be produced from the property.
Dated this 7th day of November, 2023. Published in the Pagosa Sun Newsprint.
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. 2023CV003030 DIVISION NO. 1
COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEM
Sheriff Sale 2023-17
Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association v.
Defendants, CAROLINE LEE; CHRISHNA WALKER et al

Regarding: Sheriff Sale of Real Property under Decree of Foreclosure, pursuant to Court Order and C.R.S. §38-38-101 et seq., County of Archuleta, State of Colorado.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, Please take notice:
This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated August 23, 2023, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of the lien according to the plat thereof filed for record March 13, 1970 as Reception No. 72998 through 73013 and pursuant to Resolution No. 99-39, A Resolution Approving the Consolidation of Certain Lots in Archuleta County, Colorado filed for record June 22, 1999 as Reception No. 99060078.

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: 11/16/2023
Published in: Pagosa Sun
DATED in Colorado this 12th day of July, 2023.
Mike Le Roux, Sheriff
Archuleta County, Colorado
Signed 10/04/2023
By: Lorena Medina, Office Manager
ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF
ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
1445 Market Street, Suite 350
Denver, CO 80202 (218330)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING

January 2, 2024 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 30-28-116 that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider revising the County Land Use Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department 970- 264-1190 and on the County Website.
The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing.
Published December 14 & 28, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223699)

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 is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted and reviewed by the Loma Linda Metropolitan District (LLMD) Board for the 2024 Calendar Year. A copy of this budget has been posted on the LLMD website, (lomalindametrodistrict.org) and is also posted on the Bulletin Board at the subdivision entrance where it is available for public inspection.
Such budget will be reviewed, updated, and adopted at the regularly scheduled meeting of the LLMD Board at 4pm on Tuesday, January 9th at the Ross Aragon Community Center.
Any interested elector of LLMD may inspect and register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.
Published December 14, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223831)

BEFORE THE ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ALAMOSA DRILLING, INC REQUESTING A VARIANCE FROM RULE 419 BRADENHEAD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ALBERT MARTINEZ NO. 1 WELL, LOCATED IN SECTION 18: NENE TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO CASE NO. 1
DOCKET NO. 230900311
TYPE: VARIANCE
NOTICE OF HEARING
Alamosa Drilling, Inc. ("Applicant"), filed an Application for a Variance from the Bradenhead requirements in Rule 419 for the Albert Martinez No. 1 well (the "Well") (API No. 05-007-06253, Location ID 320912, Location Name: ALBERT MARTINEZ-N32N1E18NENE), located in the below-described lands (the "Application Lands"). This Notice was sent to you because the Applicant believes you may be an interested party in the Application Lands.
APPLICATION LANDS
Township 32 North, Range 1 East, 6th PM, Section 18: NE14NE14
DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF HEARING
(Subject to change)
The Commission will hold a hearing on the above referenced docket number at the following date, time, and location:
Date: January 24, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission
The Chancery Building
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203
PETITIONS DEADLINE FOR PETITIONS BY AFFECTED

PERSONS: December 26, 2023
Any interested party who wishes to participate formally must file a written petition with the Commission no later than the deadline provided above. Please see Commission Rule 507 at <https://ecmc.state.co.us/#/home>, under "Regulation," then select "Rules." Please note that, under Commission Rule 510.1, the deadline for petitions may only be continued for good cause, even if the hearing is continued beyond the date that is stated above. Pursuant to Commission Rule 507.1, if you do not file a proper petition, the Hearing Officer will not know that you wish to formally participate in this matter and the date and time of the hearing may change without additional notice to you. Parties wishing to file a petition must register online at <https://olco.hylandcloud.com/DNRCCOGExternalAccess/Account/Login.aspx> and select "Request Access to Site." Please refer to our "eFiling Users Guidebook" at https://ecmc.state.co.us/documents/realHearings/External_FilingSystemGuidebook_2023_FINAL.pdf for more information. Under Commission Rule 508, if no petition is filed, the Application may be approved administratively without a formal hearing.
Any Affected Person who files a petition must be able to participate in a prehearing conference during the week of **December 26, 2023**, if a prehearing conference is requested by the Applicant or by any person who has filed a petition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For more information, you may review the Application, which was sent to you with this Notice. You may also contact the Applicant at the phone number or email address listed below.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if any party requires special accommodations as a result of a disability for this hearing, please contact Margaret Humecki at Cogco.Hearings_Unit@state.co.us, prior to the hearing and arrangements will be made.
ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

ARCHULETA COUNTY NOVEMBER 2023 PAYABLES	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
SUNLAND ASPHALT & CONSTRUCTION KILGORE COMPANIES, LLC	UMB BANK	CHIP AND SEAL ROADWORK	\$ 1,965,138.83
WAGNER EQUIPMENT CO	MUSTANG EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL	PEIDRA ROAD PAY EST 4	\$ 678,066.62
INLAND KENWORTH US INC.	ARCHULETA HOUSING CORPORATION	JUSTICE CENTER ANNUAL PAYMENT	\$ 615,350.01
TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS	LA PLATA COUNTY TREASURER	FLEET PARTS AND SUPPLIES	\$ 295,528.98
CIGNA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE	ARCHULETA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY	PORTABLE BRIDGE	\$ 191,615.00
CRG CONSTRUCTION INC	PAGOSA SPRINGS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP	FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 180,510.25
PAGOSA SPRINGS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS CREDIT COMPANY LLC	ARPA SUBMISSION #3	\$ 178,089.76
ALBUQUERQUE PIPE & PUMP SUPPLY CO	NONSTOP ADMINISTRATION & INSURANCE	COUNTY SHARE DA EXPENSE	\$ 131,654.80
MASTERCRAFT CONCRETE	HUMDINGER EQUIPMENT LTD	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 123,780.71
FOUR STATES TIRE AND SERVICE	WELLS FARGO	ARPA SUBMISSION #12	\$ 90,602.56
FLYERS ENERGY LLC	EAGLE CRANE LLC	LANDFILL REPAIRS	\$ 56,575.00
HONNEN EQUIPMENT	VAL'S VIP CLEANING LLC	2023 Q3 REDI GRANT, BROADBAND, CONTRACT SVCS	\$ 53,397.84
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	WORLD FUEL SERVICES, INC	ANNUAL RADIO LEASE	\$ 49,347.00
CROSSFIRE AGGREGATE SERVICES LLC	HEALTHY ARCHULETA	R&B CULVERT & CORRUGATED	\$ 45,900.00
GENERATOR SOURCE LLC	HANDLEBAR MOTORSPORTS	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 43,540.76
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ARCHULETA	SHAMROCK FOODS COMPANY	VETERANS PARK CONCRETE INSTALL	\$ 39,939.00
ACECLA INC	PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT	LF TANA SHREDDER RENTAL	\$ 32,031.96
HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS	THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN	HEAVY EQUIPMENT SNOW TIRES	\$ 29,772.42
THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN	VISIONARY COMMUNICATIONS INC	COUNTY P CARD PURCHASES	\$ 29,484.53
VISIONARY COMMUNICATIONS INC	CENTURY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	COUNTY FUEL	\$ 27,215.00
CENTURY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	DIGIUM CLOUD SERVICE	R&B CRANE-SET TEMP BRIDGE	\$ 26,686.00
DIGIUM CLOUD SERVICE	ARCHULETA COUNTY TREASURER	AIRPORT RUNWAY PROJECT	\$ 24,730.00
ARCHULETA COUNTY TREASURER	PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	\$ 23,846.13
ROSE MOUNTAIN DHS LLC	BROWNSTEIN HAYTT FABER SCHRECK LLP	COUNTY PROFESSIONAL CLEANING	\$ 22,588.05
BROWNSTEIN HAYTT FABER SCHRECK LLP	LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION INC	COUNTY FUEL	\$ 19,051.44
MUTUAL OF OMAHA	NEWEGG BUSINESS INC.	ROADBASE GRAVEL	\$ 17,570.00
TURN KEY HEALTH CLINICS, LLC	DELTA DENTAL OF COLORADO	OCTOBER CONTRACT	\$ 17,388.66
DELTA DENTAL OF COLORADO	POWER EQUIPMENT COMPANY	B&G BACKUP GENERATOR SERVICING	\$ 17,084.67
POWER EQUIPMENT COMPANY	GOVOPAPPS	W&P OF MOTO UTV	\$ 14,504.99
PAULEK TOOLS INC.	EQUATURE	ARPA SUBMISSION #7	\$ 14,332.14
CONSERVANCY OIL CO. OF DURANGO INC	COLORADO STATE TREASURER	INMATE FOOD	\$ 13,886.31
COLORADO STATE TREASURER	BOB BARKER COMPANY, INC	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL	\$ 13,693.36
AXIS HEALTH SYSTEM	AT&T MOBILITY LLC	DHS WATER UTILITY	\$ 12,236.80
CENTURYLINK	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	FOUNDRY FEES	\$ 11,666.68
LEDS, LLC	DAVIS ENGINEERING SERVICE INC	COUNTY AD SPACE	\$ 10,480.35
DAVIS ENGINEERING SERVICE INC	ROCKY MOUNTAIN FORENSIC SERVICES PLLC	COUNTY BROADBAND SERVICE	\$ 10,071.58
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FORENSIC SERVICES PLLC	CHARM-TEX INC	FLEET EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$ 10,036.32
SAFE PLACE IN PAGOSA, INC	ARCHULETA COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE	QUARTERLY VOIP SERVICES	\$ 9,714.63
ARCHULETA COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE	RELAUCTION.COM LLC	PHASE V TREASURER'S DEEDS	\$ 9,150.38
CRS TECHNOLOGIES LLC	FOUR CORNERS MATERIALS	LAW ENFORCEMENT COURSES	\$ 8,709.59
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC	DHS LEASE NOV & DEC 23	\$ 8,333.34
ARCHULETA COUNTY VICTIM ASSIST	WARNE CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT	PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 7,967.27
DURANGO FAMILY LAW	DURANGO FAMILY LAW	COUNTY ELECTRIC UTILITY	\$ 7,923.33
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING ASSOCIATION	THE PONDEROSA LUMBER COMPANY	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 7,908.91
THE PONDEROSA LUMBER COMPANY	COLORADO CUSTOM LIFT, INC	IT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES	\$ 7,891.28
COLORADO CUSTOM LIFT, INC	EDUCE LLC	MEDICAL SERVICES	\$ 7,720.56
LA PLATA FAMILY CENTERS COALITION	RMC TRUCKING LLC	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 7,506.84
RMC TRUCKING LLC	VAN DIEST SUPPLY COMPANY	FLEET PARTS AND SUPPLIES	\$ 6,677.66
RICHARD KELLY JACOBS	RICHARD KELLY JACOBS	DIAGNOSTIC SOFTWARE TOOL	\$ 6,612.00
STATE OF COLORADO (IDS)	STATE OF COLORADO (IDS)	DISPATCH ANNUAL SOFTWARE	\$ 6,056.27
TRIAID EAP	COLORADO STATE TREASURER	COUNTY FUEL SUPPLIES	\$ 5,856.00
COLORADO BARRICADE COMPANY	PARTS PLUS OF NEW MEXICO	2023 Q3 UNEMPLOYMENT TAX	\$ 5,516.15
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	MHO OF NEW MEXICO	INMATE SUPPLIES	\$ 5,001.49
MHO OF NEW MEXICO	SIRCHIE	COUNTY CELL AND DATA	\$ 4,940.64
COLORADO DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC	FAIR EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$ 4,853.40
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC	LEADSONLINE LLC	INMATE HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 4,646.50
LEADSONLINE LLC	ALSCO	COUNTY TELEPHONE UTILITY	\$ 4,306.30
JLM TIRE	GALLS, LLC	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 4,204.62
BUCKSKIN TOWING & REPAIR LLC	DOGHOUSE SYSTEMS INC	TAKEN NOTICE PRINTING	\$ 4,172.27
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	DIGITCOM ELECTRONICS, INC	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MARTINEZ CREEK CULVRI	\$ 4,001.50
DIGITCOM ELECTRONICS, INC	KUBL GROUP, LLC	POSTMORTEM EXAMS	\$ 3,900.88
QUILLER ELECTRIC LLC	AT YOUR DISPOSAL	INMATE UNIFORMS	\$ 3,890.56
JUST CLICK PRINTING, INC	CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	ARPA SUBMISSION #17	\$ 3,856.03
CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY		AIRPORT REPAIRS PARKING PAD	\$ 3,781.99
		2023 TAX LIEN CERTIFICATES AD	\$ 3,740.00
		INMATE SUPPLIES	\$ 3,729.05
		ASPHALT DELIVERY	\$ 3,671.61
		NATURAL GAS UTILITY	\$ 3,523.47
		COPIER LEASE AND USAGE FEES	\$ 3,436.95
		CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 3,334.00
		W&P 50GAL UTV Sprayer	\$ 3,097.00
		PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 3,081.40
		EMPLOYEE TESTING	\$ 3,029.32
		HARDWARE SUPPLIES	\$ 3,006.32
		SEMI ANNUAL INSPECTION	\$ 2,810.00
		GRANT WRITING SERVICES	\$ 2,625.00
		NATURAL GAS UTILITY	\$ 2,582.74
		TRANSPORT FEES HEAVY EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,500.00
		HERBICIDE SUPPLIES	\$ 2,487.64
		REFUND BUILDING PRMT	\$ 2,428.80
		REGISTRATION MAILINGS	\$ 2,401.38
		EAP SERVICES	\$ 2,318.40
		PARKING SIGN	\$ 2,277.08
		FLEET PARTS AND SUPPLIES	\$ 2,153.77
		POSTAGE METER	\$ 2,000.00
		EQUIPMENT SERVICING	\$ 1,950.00
		INVESTIGATIONS SUPPLIES	\$ 1,894.76
		BRAIS SURCHARGES	\$ 1,840.00
		SO SUPPLIES	\$ 1,794.91
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		SOFTWARE TROUBLESHOOTING	\$ 1,187.60
		PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 1,131.41
		DISPOSAL UTILITY	\$ 1,118.20
		ELECTION SIGNS	\$ 1,098.73
		FIRST AID SUPPLIES	\$ 1,098.73

Ranchers suing Colorado, federal agencies over wolf reintroduction

By Derek Draplin
The Center Square

A pair of trade groups representing Colorado ranchers are suing state and federal wildlife agencies to delay reintroducing gray wolves to the Western Slope.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, comes before the state's deadline to reintroduce gray wolves by the end of this year.

Colorado voters passed Proposition 114 in 2020, which requires the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

Commission to re-establish wolves by the end of this year.

Last month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), one of the defendants in the lawsuit with CPW, approved a decision to designate Colorado's wolves as an experimental population under the Endangered Species Act's 10(j) rule.

"The decision to pursue legal action comes after extensive discussion and consultation with CCA and GCSA members, who are deeply committed to the prosperity of Colorado's agricultural industry and the well-being of their livestock," the groups said in a statement. "Both organizations,

CCA and GCSA, have opposed wolf introduction since it was a proposed ballot initiative and were involved in every step of the process."

The groups added that they participated in developing the commission's plan and voiced their concerns throughout the process.

"Those concerns and looming conflicts were not sufficiently resolved during that public process," they said.

While the groups say they're "grateful" for the 10(j) rule's approval, which allows for more flexibility in dealing with conflicts, the lawsuit asks the court to require the USFWS

to conduct an environmental impact statement in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The groups also ask for an injunction to bar CPW from releasing any wolves until an environmental impact statement is completed.

"Impacts of wolf reintroduction, as would any other action of this magnitude, need to be properly reviewed to avoid unintended negative consequences to the natural environment, wildlife, and people of the impacted communities," GCSA President Andy Spann said in a statement.

CPW has an agreement to bring 10 gray wolves from Oregon to Colorado.

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Counties approve coroner services agreement

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved an intergovernmental agreement with Hinsdale County for coroner services at its Dec. 5 meeting.

Coroner Brad Hunt explained that he discussed creating a mutual-aid agreement for coroner services with Hinsdale and Mineral counties with Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux.

He stated that Le Roux recommended this due to the long time it might take those counties to respond to deaths in their jurisdictions on the southern side of the Rocky Mountains.

He indicated that he assisted with responding to a death in southern Hinsdale County this year, relieving the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) deputies that were at the

scene and waiting for the Hinsdale County Sheriff's Office to arrive, which he stated took approximately an hour from when the ACSO deputies departed.

Hunt suggested that the mutual aid agreement would mostly involve Archuleta County assisting Hinsdale County and that it includes terms for the coroner to be compensated for assisting with calls.

He noted that County Attorney Todd Weaver reviewed the agreement and his suggested edits were incorporated.

He then requested that the commissioners approve the agreement, adding that the county could withdraw from the agreement with a 14-day notice.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked if Hinsdale County would still have responsibility for conducting autopsies for persons who die in their county.

Hunt confirmed this, indicating that the Archuleta County coroner's office would bring the deceased back to Pagosa Springs and the Hinsdale County coroner would make arrangements for transportation or autopsies from there.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez stated that the agreement is a "good service that we need to do, working with the other counties. I really appreciate this coming before us."

Brown added that he appreciates the "professionalism" that Hunt brings to the coroner's position.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that she appreciates Hunt's communication with the ACSO and Hinsdale County.

The board then unanimously approved the agreement.

At a Dec. 6 meeting, the Hinsdale County BoCC also unanimously approved the agreement.
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 11- 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 Mon-

days through Thursdays at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

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 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.

Championship

Continued from A11

Wilson scored seven points and had one rebound, one assist and three blocks.

Colt Lewis also had seven points, five rebounds, nine assists and five steals.

Trey Garcia scored four points and had two rebounds, and Harper had four points and three steals.

Ziegler had two points, four rebounds, one assist and one block.

Dozier had one rebound, one assist and two steals. Schiel finished

with one rebound and one block.

The Pirates shot 46 percent from the free-throw line, hitting six of 13 opportunities.

With the two wins, the Pirates improved their record to 4-1. Heritage Christian's defeat dropped its record to 1-1 after losing to Pagosa. Sedgwick County now has a record of 1-2.

Pagosa will continue play this week with two home games.

The Pirates will play the Salida Spartans at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec.

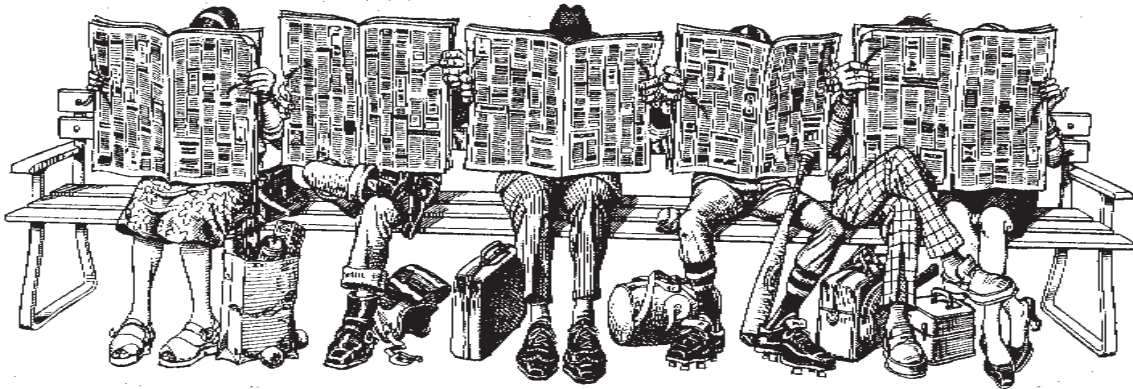
14, and will play again at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, against the Buena Vista Demons.

Salida is 4-1 on the season, while the Demons are undefeated at 5-0.
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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member **FDIC**

Commissioners approve landfill engineering contract amendment

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 21 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a contract amendment in the county's agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) for engineering services at the county landfill.

At a BoCC work session earlier in the day, County Manager Derek

Woodman explained that SEH is currently "wrapping up" the repair and design of cell 4A.

He indicated that the 2023 budget includes funding for cell 4B design, but that SEH wanted to reallocate \$61,000 from this funding to provide additional funds to finish the cell 4A project.

He noted that all the money involved was already budgeted in the 2023 budget.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that, because the funds are already budgeted, he did not have a problem with the amendment.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked if the transfer would make the budget for the cell 4B short and if additional funds to cover the transfer are included in the 2024 budget.

Woodman indicated that the cell 4B project will cost \$1.4 million, with \$105,000 allocated in 2023 before the

transfer and that funds to cover the transfer are included in the proposed 2024 budget.

Maez commented that the cost of the cell 4B project may need to be budgeted higher than is currently planned in 2024 due to the potential for a cost increase.

At the BoCC meeting, the board unanimously approved the agreement.

josh@pagosahun.com

Community Connections announces case management agency contract and leadership changes

Community Connections

Community Connections recently announced that it has been awarded the Case Management Agency contract for long-term services and supports (LTSS) in Southwest Colorado.

LTSS provides a range of supportive services for people with physical, cognitive, or mental disabilities or conditions that limit their ability to care for themselves. Services range from personal and homemaker services to skilled nursing care.

As of Nov. 1, Community Connections became the single LTSS case management agency for older adults and people with disabilities of all ages in the five-county region that includes Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

Previously, Community Connections provided these services for people

with intellectual and developmental disabilities in this same region, and for older adults and people with physical and sensory disabilities in Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties.

Several staffing changes are taking place with this transition to support the increased caseload and changes to organizational structure.

Lana Burns has accepted the newly created position of vice president of operations. Burns had served as Community Connections' Single Entry Point director since 2020. In her new role, she will support process improvement, data analysis, quality assurance and key performance indicators across departments, and ensure all compliance requirements are met.

Also new is the training supervisor role, which has been filled by Laura Ripple. This position is intended to meet the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's increased concentration on quality and consistency within case management

across the state.

Ripple will develop effective and high-quality training programs for case managers and ensure that case managers receive the initial and ongoing training support they need.

Jody McCall and Ondine Wilson have been promoted to the role of case management program manager. They will support the day-to-day supervision of case managers in their communities and help ensure adequate management support with a team that is almost doubling in size with the new contract.

This is the first of two transitions that Community Connections will undergo within the next year.

"State and federal rules require that as of July 2024, the same organization cannot provide both case management and direct services," explained Tara Kiene, Community Connections' president and CEO. "Because we are the only direct service provider for people with intellectual and development disabilities for most counties in

our region, we are spinning off a new nonprofit that will continue providing all direct services."

The new organization, called Our Own Lives, will operate as a program of Community Connections until all the steps for creating a new nonprofit organization are completed.

Our Own Lives has already received its 501(c)(3) designation, and a CEO and board members are currently being recruited to lead the organization.

"Our goal is to have a seamless transition for direct services clients and staff to the new, improved organization starting July 1, 2024," said Kiene.

Community Connections has been serving children and adults with disabilities and their families in Southwest Colorado since 1985.

For further information and answers to frequently asked questions about the future of Community Connections and Our Own Lives, please visit www.communityconnectionsco.org.

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Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program sees a record-breaking number of applications

Colorado Department of Human Services

For the second straight year, Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is receiving a record number of applications to start the heating season as the cost of energy and other essentials continue to rise and many Coloradans struggle to pay their bills.

As a federally funded, statewide program, LEAP helps eligible individuals and families pay a portion of winter home heating costs by making a onetime payment directly to the utility company on behalf of each LEAP-eligible household.

Since Nov. 1, more than 65,500 Coloradans have applied for LEAP, a 10 percent increase over this time last season. This season, eligible families can expect to receive between \$200 and \$1,000 in energy assistance, depending on the type of heating fuel, income and other determining factors. Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2024.

"Many Coloradans continue to experience a tremendous need for energy assistance," said Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. "No one should have to live in a cold home or choose between heating their home and paying for essentials like food and rent. If you think you may be eligible for LEAP, we encourage you to take a few minutes to apply."

In addition to applying for LEAP, there are other steps that can be taken to help lower heating bills. Coloradans can ensure their home's furnace is ready for winter by having it inspected by a professional and changing the furnace filter every three months during the winter. Sealing gaps around doors and windows can also help keep in the heat on cold days.

In addition to home heating bill assistance, LEAP recipients may be eligible to receive furnace repair and replacement in heat-related emergencies and weatherization services pending the results of a home energy audit.

To qualify for LEAP, Coloradans may have an income up to 60 percent of the state median income, equating to a household income of less than \$71,112 a year for a family of four. Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. living in the household.

To access the LEAP application, visit cdhs.colorado.com/leap. Online applications are processed through the Colorado PEAK system. You can also call the HEAT HELP line at (866) HEAT-HELP [(866) 432-8435] to receive an application via mail, or email or visit your local county department of human services office to pick up or drop off an application.

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Saturday

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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.

preview

ARTS & LIFE

Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration

Saturday, Dec. 16 • 5 to 7 p.m. • downtown Pagosa Springs



Photo courtesy Visit Pagosa Springs

December 14, 2023

Third-annual Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration set for Saturday

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

Join us Dec. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. for the third-annual Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration downtown.

Enjoy more than 25 Christmas-themed displays and activities, Victorian-era carolers, a hot air balloon glow, live music, free hot chocolate and cider, a photo booth, games, toys and other goodies. And, of course, Santa Claus.

Santa will arrive by horse-drawn sleigh at his workshop at the Visitor Center shortly after 5 p.m., with opportunities to view his arrival along San Juan Street and Hot Springs Boulevard bridge.

The route extends along the Riverwalk from Centennial Park to Town Park, crossing Veterans Bridge and down San Juan Street to the Visitor Center.

Entry points for the walking route include Town Park, the Visitor Center and Centennial Park. Look for decorated white tents at the key entry points to receive decorative lights, scavenger hunt cards and free ornaments. Attendees are encouraged to bring flashlights. The event will be held regardless of weather conditions.

Segments have been adopted by the following groups, organizations and businesses:

- Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership.
- Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park.
- San Juan Salt Cave.

- The Springs Resort.
- Upper San Juan Search and Rescue.
- Posirado.
- Main Street Advisory Board.
- Pagosa Fire Protection District.
- Pagosa Adventure.
- Chimney Rock Interpretive Association.
- San Juan Outdoor Club.
- Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs.
- Knights of Columbus.
- Cornerstone Project Nonprofit.
- Seventh Day Adventist Church.
- The Restorative Solutions.
- Right Molecule IV Hydration Lounge.
- Archuleta County Democrats.
- Rugby's Rescue House.
- Buckaroo's Horse-Drawn Rides.
- Humane Society of Pagosa Springs.
- Pagosa Spring Medical Center.
- Jackson Mountain Ramblers.
- Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association.
- Natural Grocers.
- Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

This event is a collaboration of the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County and The Pagosa Springs SUN. Please join us for a fun and festive evening in downtown Pagosa Springs to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

■ See Celebration on next page

Live Performers

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

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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.

Third-annual Wreaths Across America Wreath Day planned for Saturday

By Linda Hobbs
Wreaths Across America

Once again, community members, neighbors and veterans will gather at Hilltop Cemetery at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, for our third-annual Wreath Remembrance Day.

The public is invited to attend the third year of Hilltop Cemetery's participation in the Wreaths Across

■ See Wreaths on page 5

Celebration

■ continued from previous page

Road closure alert

The Town of Pagosa Springs would like to alert the community that there will be road closures in downtown Pagosa Springs during the Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration on Dec. 16. Between 4:15 and 7 p.m., Hot Springs Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic from Hermosa Street to south of San Juan Street. Additionally, Hermosa Street will be closed from Town Park to Hot Springs Boulevard.

Traffic will not be permitted from U.S. 160 onto Hot Springs Boulevard during the event. Any traffic needing to access the businesses south on Hot Springs will need to take an alternative route from Apache street or Light Plant Road.

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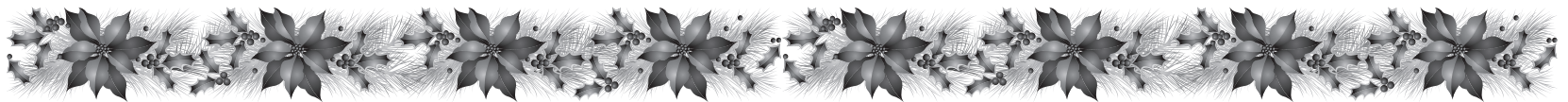
Christmas MOVIE PARTY

Join Pagosa Springs High School Student Council at Pagosa Springs High School for craft & ornament making & movie watching!

Dec. 19, 2023

Crafts start: 5:30 pm
Movie starts: 6 pm
Pagosa Springs High School Commons

Movie: Polar Express
Hot chocolate & popcorn for sale.
Donations appreciated! All donations & profits are donated to Book Fair for kids who can't afford books.





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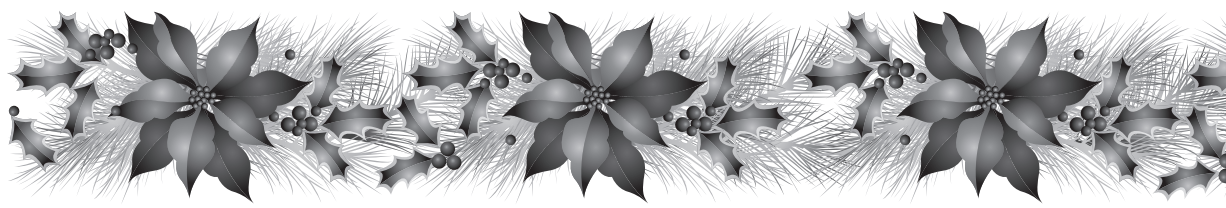
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Season's Greetings



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

Winners of Christmas in Arboles Holiday Treat Contest announced

By Susan Halkin
TARA Community Center

Christmas in Arboles was held on Dec. 3.

It was well attended by many. There were 21 entries in the Holiday Treat Contest. The following is the list of winners:

First place: Brielle and Brooke Hinger for their pinwheels.

Second place: Charmaine Curtis for her apple pie cookies

Third place: Paula Gojciegew for her coffee toffee bars.

There were also vendors there, including four entrepreneurial children from our area, and the silent auction and the TARA cookie plate sales were well-supported.

This event helped the community get into the holiday spirit.

Wreaths

■ continued from page 3

America program to remember our fallen, honor our active duty military, and teach our children about the sacrifices others have made for our nation.

The ceremonies will include a flyover, remembrance of our military and veterans.

We look forward to the community assembling on this special day. Please join us.

Dress for the weather. Warm refreshments are planned. Arrive early for the best parking. Bring seating, if necessary.

The public is welcome and are needed to stay after the ceremony for individual wreath laying on the marked graves of the known veterans at Hilltop Cemetery.

For more information, or to volunteer, kindly contact Linda Hobbs at LindaHobbs713@gmail.com or (713) 304-2028.

Santa Claus is coming!



to Goodman's Department Store

Join us for cider and cookies!



December 22nd
from 3-5 pm

Sale Prices Effective December 15th-24th,
unless otherwise stated

<p>\$14.95 Leggings Buy 2 pair, get 3rd FREE!</p>	<p>European Soaps Buy 2, get 3rd FREE!</p>	<p>Grab-N-Go Gift Baskets</p>
--	--	--------------------------------------

<p>10% OFF All Knives</p>	<p>25% OFF All Flashlights</p>	<p><i>Come in to see our Daily Flash Sales</i></p>
---	--	--

10% OFF All Montana Silversmith Jewelry
(Dec. 22nd-24th)

GOODMAN'S DEPT. STORE SUPER COUPON

Dec. 22nd -24th, 2023 ONLY

YES! We will be open Christmas Eve 9-4.

Your choice any ONE item

25% OFF

limited to stock on hand only, excludes Pendleton blankets, furniture & Brighton, may not be used with any other discount. One coupon per customer. Physical coupon must be presented upon purchase.



FINALLY BACK IN STOCK!
Pagosa Springs Pendleton Blankets
10% off

ARIAT Holiday Rebate
THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

EARN CASH BACK	SPEND \$150, GET \$15	SPEND \$250, GET \$35	SPEND \$400, GET \$70
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On any single in-store purchase of Ariat footwear, apparel, or accessories from 11/19/2023 - 12/24/2023 at a participating retailer. Online purchases do not qualify. Limit one rebate per name, home or email address and household. Full terms and conditions, online entry, downloadable rebate form, and a list of participating retailers can be found at www.ariat.com/holidayrebate. OFFER VALID IN THE 50 US STATES AND DC FOR LEGAL RESIDENTS, AGE 18 AND OLDER, VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

We offer FREE GIFT WRAPPING!



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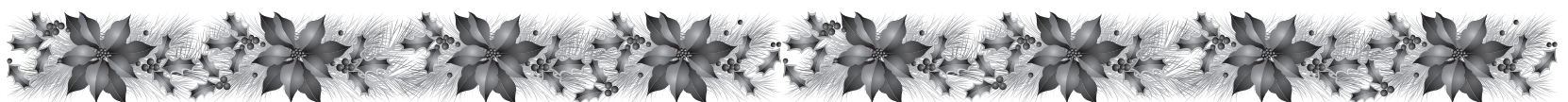
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Located in Downtown Pagosa Springs

Gift Cards & Layaway available!

**Holiday hours: Mon-Thur 9-5
Fri-Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4, Christmas Eve 9-4**

Enhance your style, it's worth your while!
Shop: bewitchingjewelry.com
your one-stop for easy jewelry shopping.





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.

Pizza & Pours

Enjoy delicious oven-fresh pizza and your favorite brews on tap.

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs & our Veterans always receive 20% off!

175 PAGOSA STREET • 11 AM TO 9 PM DAILY
Order On Line: MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

Celebrate in Style!

Buy 1 Tribal Sportswear Sweater — get 2nd one **50% Off**

Wishing you a joyous holiday season!

Must bring this ad to qualify
Offer expires December 16
Sale items excluded

970-264-4260 | 454 Pagosa St., Historic Downtown Pagosa Springs | Open Mon-Sat: 10:30am-5pm

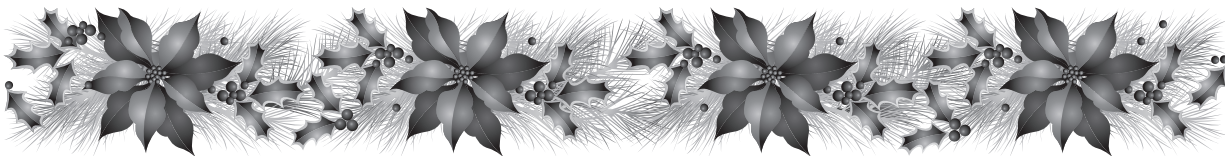


The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store

Shop a wide variety of gently used and new donated items.

SENIORS & VETERANS 25% OFF * Every Tuesday	THURSDAY SALES Change weekly! Follow us on Facebook for sales.
---	---

279 Pagosa Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



'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 3ABN Television Networks.

Your hearts will be uplifted as you enjoy award-winning gospel and Christmas music. If you enjoy close harmonies, and good, old-fashioned friendship and fellowship, then don't miss this special community event. Bring a friend and be doubly blessed. Admission is free.



All Thrift Store profits are used to help operate our Animal Shelter!

STORE HOURS:
Monday-Saturday
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**some exclusions apply*

DONATION DAYS:
Tuesdays, Thursdays
and Saturdays

www.humanesociety.biz
970-264-6424





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.

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.

Christmas
at Pagosa Baking Company

Pies
Pumpkin, Bourbon Pecan,
Apple, Apple Cranberry,
and more

Stollen + Traditional Yule Log
Beautiful Decorated Christmas Cookies
Locally Sourced Gifts for Food Lovers
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY
7 AM TO NOON

Call by Thursday 12/21
to place your order
264-9348

PAGOSA BAKING Co. BAKERY & CAFÉ
970-264-9348

238 Pagosa Street
www.pagosabakingcompany.com/menu/holiday

Warm Peppermint or Ginger-Spice Foot Therapy!

Revitalizing treatment aids in removing dry skin & increased circulation.

Feet are massaged with choice of Peppermint or Ginger-Spice salt scrub then wrapped in warm towels. A sensational treat for the feet!

Can be added to any 60, or 90-minute massage for add-on fee of only - \$20.

Massage services start at \$105 for 60-minute therapeutic.

Limited-Time Christmas Special
Only Available thru January 3, 2024. Book today!

Healing Waters
Resort & Spa

970-264-5910 | 140 Hot Springs Blvd | www.pshotsprings.com
Office 8am-10pm daily | Pools open to general public 11am-10pm daily



Thank you!

We would like to thank our community for their support of the Festival of Trees, at the public viewing and voting and at the auction. Due to your generosity, \$46,121.50 was raised for 20 nonprofits!

We would like to thank our buyers:

Bank of Colorado * Cabe's Collision & Customs * San Juan Vet Hospital
United Rentals * Forge Martial Arts * Sherpa Real Estate * Amy Wilson
Jann Pitcher * Stacey Scapes * Katherine Solbert * Lisa O * Lush
Colorado Rock and Dirt * Fran and Ronnie Lohr * Roy Tinguely
Greg Baldwin * Hesselbach * Evelyn Tennyson * Rio Blanco Backflow

We also would like to thank Steve Blechschmidt, Gustoso Italian Restaurant, Michelle Clark, Tucker Jacobson and all our volunteers.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Bank of the San Juans, Healing Waters Resort and Spa, Pagosa Mountain Sports, Pagosa Ski Rentals, Silver Dollar Liquor, The Springs Resort, and The Town of Pagosa Springs.

Holiday Church Events

All events listed in the holiday church events calendar are free of charge. Submit events to editor@pagosasan.com.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Blue Christmas Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church.

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 Service. 10:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church.

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 Candlelight Service. 7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church.

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.

Sunday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Day Service. 10:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Monday, Jan. 1

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



GET YOUR 2024 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR TODAY!

A Great Gift Idea!



Only one thousand calendars to be sold, chance to win one gun per week (52 guns in 2024)

Support your local San Juan Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Purchase your calendar at Square Top Bar-B-Que.

Watch for our annual banquet in Spring 2024!

SQUARE TOP BAR-B-QUE

Authentic Texas Bar-B-Que
Located at the Golf Club

New Winter Hours:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday noon - 6 pm
Sunday - 11 am - 6 pm

1 Pines Club Place
(970) 398-5267
SquareTopBBQ.com

Holiday Packs

Make your holiday hosting easy!

1. Brisket, Turkey, Sausage Pack*
2. Spiral-Cut Ham Pack*
3. Smoked Turkey Breast Pack*
4. Prime Rib Pack*

*includes four 1 quart sides, see website for complete package.

Host your holiday events & parties at our restaurant

Catering available

Weekly Specials

Smoked Burger Thursdays
Pork Rib Rack Fridays, after 2pm
Beef Rib Sundays - sells out quickly
Draft Beers & House Made Cocktails

25% OFF

\$29.99 EACH

ANCIENT NUTRITION
Multi Collagen Protein Unflavored Or Vanilla - 16-16.7 OZ.
ALWAYS AFFORDABLE™ \$39.99

DECEMBER 9-21, 2023

NATURAL GROCERS

Holly Deals

SAVE ON OVER 100 ITEMS STOREWIDE!

NATURALGROCERS.COM | @naturalgrocers

Terms and conditions apply. See store for details.

32% OFF

\$4.49

APPLEGATE®
Sunday Pork Bacon - 8 OZ.
ALWAYS AFFORDABLE™ \$6.65

Registration open for Sledz on Rez

By Grace Slavin
Build Pagosa

Build Pagosa's Sledz on Rez event will be back during Winter-Fest, with all its boisterous fun, crazy antics and delicious food.

The event will return to Reservoir Hill on Jan. 20, 2024, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with fun and prizes for the whole family.

Community members are invited to build or modify sleds using cardboard, plastic sleds, inflatables, duct tape and other decorations.

Prize categories for sleds include Best Team, Most Creative, Best in Show and many more.

The more creative and unique your sled is, the better, so get started on building early. Sleds cannot have sharp edges, nails, screws or any metal parts. Sleds will be inspected before the race and if determined to be unsafe, the sled may be disqualified. Helmets are required.

As always, the crowd can help decide the winners, so bring along your friends and family to cheer you on as you ride Reservoir Hill. We will be serving delicious pork green chili and hot drinks to the crowd as participants of all ages showcase their sleds.

Sign up online at <http://bit.ly/41jxjSI> or use the QR code in our

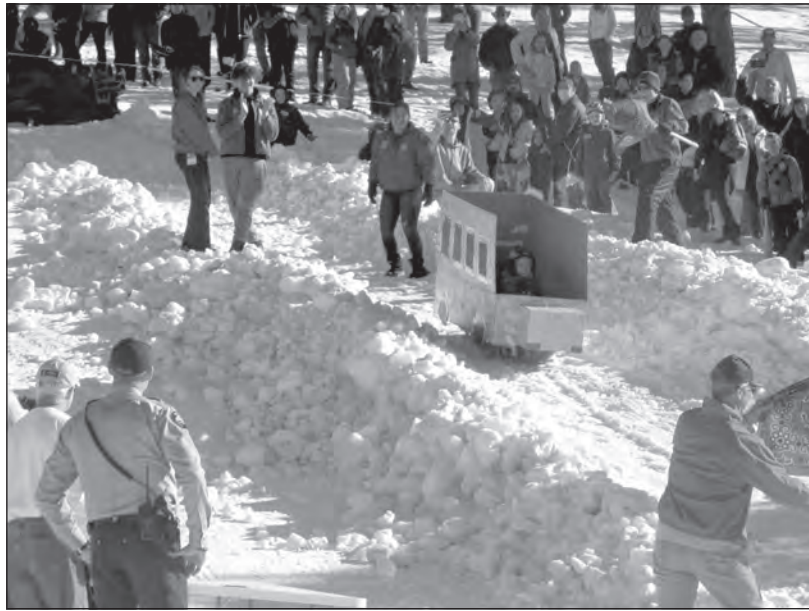


Photo courtesy Build Pagosa

Sledz on Rez will return to Reservoir Hill on Jan. 20, 2024, and registration for the event, which features home-made sleds, is now open.

display ad in this week's newspaper. Build Pagosa is a 501(c)(3) supporting local and regional career and technical education, and skilled workforce development through public-private partnerships.

Our Sledz on Rez event benefits the Pagosa Springs High School SkillsUSA students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical

and skilled service occupations, and who participate in national SkillsUSA competitions.

See you and your sleds at Sledz on Rez.

Happy holidays from Build Pagosa.

— AGED USDA CHOICE —

PRIME RIB

Holiday Sale

<p>Boneless Rib Roast Cut to Size</p> <p>\$24⁹⁹ PER LB.</p>	<p>Whole Rib Roast <i>Boneless or Bone-In</i></p> <p>\$22⁹⁹ PER LB.</p>
<p>Bone-In Rib Roast Cut to Size</p> <p>\$23⁵⁰ PER LB.</p>	<p>Spiral Ham</p> <p>\$8⁹⁹ PER LB.</p>

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Fresh Market & Eatery
Call (970) 731-MEAT (6328) for pick-up
19 Navajo Trail Dr.
(At the corner of North Pagosa Blvd. and Navajo Trail Dr.)

TARA Community Center to host 'A Night with the Grinch'

By Susan Halkin
TARA Community Center

The TARA Community Center will be holding "A Night with the Grinch" — a parents' night out for last-minute Christmas preparations — on Saturday, Dec. 23.

Drop-off will be at 5 p.m., with pickup at 8 p.m. From 8 to 8:30 p.m., you can take pictures with the Grinch.

Actives will include watching "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (bring your blanket and pillow), cookies, cocoa and snacks.

The cost is \$10 per child. Some scholarships are available.

RSVP by calling or texting Kymberley Pierce at (970) 946-7211.

The TARA Community Center is located at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

A1 Taxi

970-585-4903

Reliability Matters!

Fully licensed and insured!
Smoke-free vehicles!
Local discount system- just ask!

Courtesy Counts!

8am-8pm daily or by appointment!

PUC 16400, MCT 0021, DOT 2842985



Christmas Eve

"Unto you is born a Savior"



You are invited to join us in our NEW FACILITY this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

4:00 PM or 5:30 PM

1044 PARK AVENUE

(Next to the PLPOA Rec Center)

Grace

IN PAGOSA

(970) 731-6200

GRACEINPAGOSA.ORG

Voting for statewide theater competition ending soon

By Carole Howard
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Time is fast running out for you to vote for Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers who received a record 28 nominations for awards in the prestigious 2023 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver.

Voting goes on only until Dec. 31, providing you a short window to help the talented artists who make our live professional theater so remarkable to receive the recognition they deserve.

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

Thingamajig nominees

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

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

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

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

Best direction of a musical: Dennis Elkins, "Jersey Boys."

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

Best ensemble: "Godspell."

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

Best music direction: Boni McIntyre.

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

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

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



Photo courtesy Carole Howard

"Jersey Boys" received many of the record 28 nominations Thingamajig Theatre Company was awarded in the prestigious 2023 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver, including for Trevor Brown and Samantha Luck, pictured here. The hit musical's other nominations included best musical, director, choreography, costumes and sound. Voting goes on only until Dec. 31.

Brown, "Godspell."

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

Best play: "Last Call at the Riptide."

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

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

■ See Theater on next page

Jazz Standards of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin & more!

Springs Resort, Sat., Dec. 16, 5-7 p.m.;
Mon. Dec. 25, 5-7 p.m.
& Sat. Dec. 30, 5-7 p.m.

Holiday Spectacular
at Coyote Moon,
Sun., Dec. 17, 5-8 p.m.

Enjoy the sounds of Maxwell Miller!



Christmas Services Schedule

Blue Christmas Service, Thursday, Dec. 21, 6 PM

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sunday, Dec. 24, 7 PM

New Year's Eve Day Service, Dec. 31, 10:30 AM

Community United Methodist Church • 434 Lewis St.



ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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

We look forward
to serving you in
2024.

Guy, Linda,
Dicki, Sandy
& Steve



The Tile & Carpet Store

M-F 8-4:30 • (970) 731-5282
204 Bastille Dr.
(N. Pagosa Blvd, Left at Bastille Dr.)

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PSMC and the PSMC Foundation
Thank Our Business Sponsors for their support.



*Evelyn
Tennyson*



PAGOSA SPRINGS
Medical Center

PSMC
Foundation

Theater

continued from previous page

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

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

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

Favorite local theater: Thingamajig Theatre.

How to vote

To vote in this important awards contest, go to <https://www.broadwayworld.com/denver/article/BroadwayWorld-Denver-Awards-December-5th-Standings-HEDWIG-AND-THE-ANGRY-INCH-Leads-Best-Musical-20231205> and click on the blue "Vote Now" icon. You also will see the current voting results.

Online voting is happening only until Dec. 31, and winners will be announced in January.

Here are three crucial tips to make your vote count:

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

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

- If you do not see that email in your new mail, check your

spam folder to ensure your vote is counted.

High-caliber competition

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

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

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

Reaction from Thingamajig

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

Thingamajig Theatre Company was co-founded in 2011.

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



Trinity Anglican Church
 Holy Communion
 December 17, 10:00 AM
 Third Sunday in Advent:
 "Joy"
 246 Harman Park Dr.
trinityanglicanchurch.org



Build Your Sleds!

Sledz on Rez January 20, 2024

Build your homemade sleds over winter break from cardboard, plastic sleds, inflatables, duct tape and other decorations
Please register and see other rules via the QR code below



Join us for
Family Fun
on
Reservoir Hill
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
 Stay warm with pork green chili & hot drinks

BUILD IPAGOSA

Lots of prizes for sleds & spectators

FreeImages.com

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



Friday, December 15
San Juan Mountain Boys

Tuesday, December 19
Jackson Mountain Ramblers

Friday, December 22
San Juan Mountain Boys

Saturday, December 23
Jackson Mountain Ramblers

Charcuterie Board \$45
available for purchase during live music

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



UUs to celebrate the season of light

By Joan Ward
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Please join the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m., in person, for the message “Shining Bright in this Season of Light” by the Revs. Janess and David Sheets.

Light is central to the meaning of the world’s great spiritual traditions, and around the time of the winter solstice there are many festivals that celebrate the victory of light over darkness.

In Sunday’s service we will explore the meaning of light symbolism in several spiritual traditions and discover how we can uncover the light within, illuminating our lives and the lives of others. Come and shine with us in this joyous celebration of light.

Janess and David Sheets are ordained ministers of the Sufi Universal Worship, spiritual retreat guides and senior teachers in the Inayatiyya, a Sufi path of spiritual liberty. They studied with renowned Sufi master Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan for more than 30 years and continue to serve in many local, national and international roles in the Inayatiyya.

Now retired from careers in Texas child protective services, they live in Pagosa Springs, where they guide meditation retreats and enjoy being in the mountains, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

COVID protocol

Masking continues to be optional and social distancing is encouraged; however, please be aware that CDC tracking of COVID-19 hospital admission levels in Archuleta County has increased. The maximum capacity of the building stands at 25, a very good reason for arriving a few minutes early.

Winter weather alerts

If either the service or the medi-

tation is canceled due to winter weather, a notification will appear on pagosauu.org by 8:30 a.m.

More about the fellowship

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

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the mountains.

Services are on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about the Fellowship, our services and other activities, please see www.pagosauu.org or email info@pagosauu.org.

Cultivating a generous spirit

This past Sunday Dan Dempster discussed some simple but effective practices for cultivating a generous spirit: “Birdbath dharma: You will do far more good for the world filling the birdbath with kindness than spending your day fuming with resentment. Don’t have a birdbath? Light a stick of incense for world peace and let it carry your blessings on the breeze to all beings, everywhere. Not an incense type? Dedicate a cup of clean water to all those who don’t have any, and pour it over a plant while wishing that all could share the benefit. You get the idea. Make generosity and kindness something you do every day. Then at least you’ve done that. It will help you feel better.”

Dempster, CA, is a certified meditation instructor and authorized Dharma teacher, and has been, for more than 17 years, a student of Khenpo Migmar Tseten, Buddhist chaplain at Harvard University.

New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. will feature a Gifting Circle group discussion on “The Spiritual Gifts You Have to Give and the Spiritual Gifts You Have Received from the New Thought Center Community - A Time to Recognize the Joy of Community.”

“Each of us has something to give. Let each see that he gives of his best. If we are bringing out gifts to the altar of love, nothing less than the best will be acceptable,

nothing less than all is enough.” — Dr. Ernest Holmes.

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

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

EXCAVATION WORK THAT MAKES THE GRADE

Schedule your project today!

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FILL DIRT & GRAVEL HAULING • SEPTIC SYSTEMS • UTILITY WORK

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here’s How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Tips for reducing stress during the holidays

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnists

The holidays are quickly approaching. For many, the holiday season and feelings of cheerfulness do not go together. The constant pressures from selecting the perfect gifts, work and family celebrations, travel, and disruptions in normal routines can lead to holiday burnout.

Three helpful tips can help you spread holiday cheer clear into the new year.

Regardless of which holiday your family will be celebrating, these tips can help reduce stress and bring back the joy.

1. Say “no” more.

- Give yourself permission to say no and set healthy boundaries. It seems everyone is pulling for more of your time during the holidays: holiday work party, family commitments, and school parties and events.

- Make a list of your top priorities to help you stay focused on what is important and say “no” to things that are time- and money-drainers.

2. Plan ahead.

- What are your traditions? Do they still have meaning for you?

- When it comes to family commitments and traditions, keep what fits and let go of the rest.

- Communicate with your family to ensure that you are all on the same page.

- Try making a holiday calendar ahead of time so everyone knows the commitments to decrease stress and prevent overbooking.

3. Set a budget.

- Set a budget to avoid falling into the trap of buy, buy, buy.

- Remember the importance of the gift of time.

Spending quality time is often more appreciated and valued by family and friends than any material gift. It might seem too simple,

Extension Viewpoints

but the gift of time is often overlooked in the busy season.

Stop by Grandma’s house for a long conversation.

- Leave your cellphone in the car and just be present.

- Notice the smile on your loved one’s face as you intentionally make time to focus on them.

As you head into the holiday season take a deep breath, try these steps and enjoy.

We are wishing you a cheerful holiday season and a happy new year.

Refrigerator needed for Extension office

The Extension office is looking for a commercial refrigerator to replace the one in the Exhibit Hall that finally went kaput after many years. If you have a working commercial refrigerator that you are looking to get rid of, please let us know. We will come remove it for you.

Save the dates

Save the dates for Tuesday evenings in April.

Do you own property in Archuleta County? Would you like to know more about your land?

The CSU Extension office and the San Juan Conservation District are hosting an in-depth landowner series on stewardship practices on your land.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month by the CSU Extension office, generally on the second Monday and Wednesday of each

month from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

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

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Ways to support sexual assault survivors through the holiday season

By Amanda Briggs
Rise Above Violence

It's the season of gratitude and joy. Unfortunately, this traditionally happy time of the year can make the suffering of sexual assault survivors more pronounced as they watch the world move on in festivities and happiness while they are still experiencing grief, pain, and emotional numbness from the assault.

Here are five ways you can support sexual assault survivors through the holiday season and beyond.

1. Protect the survivor from the perpetrator.

Studies show that eight out of 10 rapes involve someone the survivor knows. They also reveal that 93 percent of juvenile victims know the perpetrator and that 59 percent of perpetrators are acquaintances, while 34 percent are family members.

Sadly, this means that if you know a survivor, there's a high likelihood you also know the perpetrator. If you choose to stay in contact with the perpetrator, prioritize the survivor's safety. Don't invite the survivor and perpetrator to the same holiday celebration. Sexual assault is complex, and it is OK to struggle. Get help for yourself and stand firmly between the survivor and the perpetrator.

2. Let go of the ideal. Sexual assault is far from ideal, so let go of unrealistic expectations. Meet the survivor where they are. Don't analyze how they handled the assault or expect them to revert to their pre-assault self just because it's the holiday season.

Instead, step into reality with the survivor and support them in

whatever phase of healing they are in. Invite them to holiday gatherings (without the perpetrator). Show them love and empathy. Allow them to sit quietly if that is what they need to do. Small acts of love and support toward survivors who are struggling post-assault go a long way during this time of the year.

3. Don't minimize the survivor's pain.

It is normal to want the survivor to be happy post-assault, but healing takes time. Every survivor will go on the healing journey at their own pace. The festivities of the holiday season might make you want to push the survivor to jump ahead in their healing process, but remember that there is no timeframe for healing and it's not right to expect the survivor to push through their pain to make others comfortable.

4. Talk about it.

Avoiding the topic of sexual assault increases awkwardness around it. It is healthy and OK to directly ask the survivor how they are doing regarding the assault. Find a way to do so without others overhearing, but ask the question in a calm, kind, straightforward manner. Make sure you let them know you don't expect them to provide an answer unless they feel up to it or feel it will be helpful for them to share. Survivors of sexual assault are accustomed to people being squeamish about sex crimes, so your willingness to address it openly will demonstrate to the survivor that you care about them and are a safe space for support.

If the survivor does open up to you and gives you an update on how they are doing, follow up. Take a moment the next day to text or

call them and let them know you appreciate their trust and that you will keep the conversation between the two of you. (The only exception is if this is new information to you, and the victim is a minor — in that case, you should report the crime to law enforcement immediately.)

5. Believe the survivor.

Give the survivor the gift of belief. They are the expert on their experience, so allow their truth to stand and stand in it with them. Credible studies show only 2 to 8 percent of sexual crime reports are false, a statistic that is identical to false reports of other felonies. Believing survivors empowers them and saves their precious energy. Stand in their truth with them, especially if a legal case is pending. If the survivor is an adult and has not yet reported, your belief and support lend validity to their feelings and could empower them to report the crime to law enforcement at some point.

The struggle faced by many friends and family members of sexual assault survivors is that they cannot give up the truth they want for the truth that is real. Be willing to reshape your worldview with the truth that is real, even if it is painful, even if it means coming to terms with the fact that someone you know or love committed a crime.

■ See Support on next page

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■ See Support on next page

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Free hot chocolate with seasonal crafts today

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We'll have free hot chocolate to help you celebrate winter while you join in the Hot Chocolate Hulabaloo fun with multiple seasonal crafts today, Thursday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is for all ages.

Paws to Read tomorrow

Friday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 3 p.m., youngsters are invited to share their favorite books with Muppet or Maple, therapy dogs who love stories, at a free Paws to Read session.

Board game central tomorrow

Learn to play a new board game or bring your own to share with others Friday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Tween/teen handout tomorrow

We are setting aside the large meeting room for tweens and teens to use and spend time with friends on Friday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Pokemon Club Saturday

If you love Pokemon, this club is for you. Bring your cards to a fun, free, all-ages event on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., when you can play games with others who feel the same way.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, Dec. 18, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.

Music fun Monday

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

Adult DIY next Tuesday

At the free in-person adult DIY next Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 1 to 2:30

Library News

p.m., we invite you to make a tabletop candleholder or door wreath for the holidays. As always, we'll supply the materials — for this event, greens, wreath forms, ribbons and pine cones. Bring gloves and wear clothing that you can get sap on.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Writers' guild

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

ESL class times

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there is a change in the way the time is divided: 4 to 5 p.m. is reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us spread the word about these classes to others in our community who would be interested, and contact us by phone or email if you have any questions.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources. No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is impor-

tant that you bring both your device's charger and also your device passwords with you.

Note there will be no Tech Time on Dec. 21.

PALS/GED adult education

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS

■ See Library on next page



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Happy Holidays!

New Listing



155 Pike Drive
\$650,000

MLS 809504

Three bedroom, 2 bath, 1684 square feet, 1.24 acres. Located between uptown and downtown with a wrap around driveway.



1304 & 1402 Hersch Avenue
\$1,060,537

MLS 797954

This home with amazing valley views was built in 1976 — located on 10± acres. 2,518 sq. ft. with 4 beds/3baths. Upgrades include an attached garage and a formal dining room. The adjacent land of 6± acres has a 2,000 sq. ft. barn built in 2006.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1304Hersch>



Under Contract



3440 Running Horse Place
\$840,000

MLS 803367

3 bed, 2 bath, 1,566 sq feet on 35+ acres. Also has a 1,500 sq ft shop/garage and Borders 70 acres of BLM.

To tour this home go to:
<https://vimeo.com/827436529?share=copy>



2453 Running Horse Place
\$2,400,000

MLS 806520

35.2 Acres with guest house, set up for horses. Property comes with workshop/garage, growing dome, round pen, 3 stall + barn and numerous outbuildings.

To see this property go to:
<https://vimeo.com/850327930>



Cloman Industrial Park
\$395,000

MLS 807337

.68 acre, 1,440 sq. ft. building. Room for additional building. 3,000 BTU gas heater, sink, stove, half bath, 8'x10' overhead door.

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17736 County Road 500 — MLS 804532, \$90,000.

.82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.

X Montezuma Circle —MLS 804535. \$90,000.

.82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.

153 Greenway Drive — MLS 805178, \$25,000.

147 Cat Creek Overlook MLS 806842 \$25,000

Support

■ continued from previous page

6. Never underestimate the power of your response.

Your healthy, helpful response to sexual assault or rape is more powerful than you know. Many survivors of sex crimes wrongly blame themselves for what was done to them. Or, they experience severe numbness and shutdown; they struggle to have healthy feelings in the aftermath of assault. Many sur-

vivors learn how to have a healthy emotional reaction to the assault by watching healthy people in their lives model it for them. Never underestimate the power of your healthy response to sexual trauma.

Rise Above Violence wishes you a happy and safe holiday season. Our free and confidential 24-hour hotline can be reached every day of the year by dialing (970) 264-9075. Please reach out if you need support.



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR®, BROKER

C: 970.759.8109

O: 970.264.6673

ShellieCHogue@gmail.com

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Library

■ continued from previous page

sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Activities calendars

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

Downloadable books

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

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"Bright Young Women" by Jessica Knoll is inspired by the true story of sorority murders by a serial killer. "Death By a Thousand Sips" by Gretchen Rue is a murder mystery in the Witches' Brew series. "The Traitor Among Us" by Anne Perry begins with the murder of a MI6 agent. "Distant Sons" by Tim Johnston is set in a town haunted by the disappearance of three young boys decades earlier. "The Apollo Murders" by astronaut Chris Hadfield involves NASA and Russian astronauts on the lunar surface. "Starling House" by Alix E. Harrow unleashes buried secrets from long ago. "Obsession" by Stuart Woods and Brett Battles is a Teddy Fay mystery featuring Stone Barrington.

Other novels

"Alone With You In the Ether" by Olivie Blake features two people with serious mental medical issues who meet by chance. "The Furrows" by Namwali Serpell opens with the disappearance of a young boy. "The Bodyguard" by Katherine Center tells of a female agent protecting a superstar actor. "Wellness" by Nathan Hill follows the marriage of two college students who met in the '90s. "Under the Java Moon" by Heather B. Moore is set in a prison camp in World War II Indonesia.

Short stories

"The Hive and the Honey" by Paul Yoon is a collection of short stories about identity, belonging and the collision of cultures.

Nonfiction

"My Name is Barbra" by Barbra Streisand is the memoir by this superstar of stage, screen, recordings and television. "Walking Toward Freedom" by Ginny Dye is volume 20 of the Bregdan Chronicles historical saga.

Large print

Christmas-themed books

"'Twas the Bite Before Christmas" by David Rosenfelt is an Andy Carpenter mystery. "Christmas in Painted Pony Creek" by Linda Lael Miller is book four in the Painted Pony Creek series. "Let It Crow! Let It Crow! Let It Crow!" by Donna Andrews is a Meg Landslow mystery. "A Christmas Vanishing" by Anne Perry is a mystery.

Other large print

"Valiant Women" by Lena Andrews documents the contributions of the U.S. servicewomen who helped win World War II. "Being Henry" by Henry Winkler is a memoir by "The Fonz" in Happy Days. "The Last Outlaws" by Tom Clavin tells of the final days of the Dalton Gang. "Blood Lines" by Nelson and Alex DeMille is a mystery about a murder of a CID special agent. "Dead on Target" by M.C. Beaton with R.W. Green is an Agatha Raisin mystery. "The Fragile Threads of Power" by V.E. Schwab is the first book of a new Shades of Magic fantasy trilogy. "Dirty Thirty" by Janet Evanovich is a Stephanie Plum mystery.

DVDs

"Oppenheimer" is the blockbuster summer movie hit about the creator of the atomic bomb which the Chicago Sun-Times called "one of the best movies of the century." "Spy in the Wild" and "Spy in the Wild 2" are intimate looks at animals, thanks to a robotic camera. "Joe Pickett" is season two.

Donor guidelines

We are grateful to Jean and Richard Leavenworth for their generous donation in memory of their son, Jeff, and to Joanne Ferko for her materials donation.

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

The Friends recently announced 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

"Read 500 pages every day. That's how knowledge works. It builds up, like compound interest." —Warren Buffet, investor, philanthropist, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, and one of the most successful and best known

investors in the world.

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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- Hot Apple Cider and healthy homemade cookies
- Christmas Trivia Quiz (How well do you know Christmas?)
- Free "10 Secrets to Living 10 Times Better" book \$10 value, First 200 visitors
- Free Hard bound book on the Life of Christ, "The Desire of Ages" *This book was acclaimed by the United States Library of Congress in the 1950s as the most sought-after book on the life of Christ. \$20 value, First 50 visitors*



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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.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. receives Rocky Mountain Health Foundation grant

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

The Rocky Mountain Health Foundation board has approved \$10,000 for year two of Archuleta Seniors Inc.'s (ASI's) Basic Needs Fund grant.

Basic needs funds help to ensure that individuals and families are housed, have access to transportation, feel safe and do not go hungry.

ASI funds are used for general operating expenses for facilitating our meals (congregate, Meals on Wheels and caregiver), and social and isolation prevention services at low rates or at no cost.

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation also understands that staff are the most precious resource for any organization. Therefore, they made an additional restricted grant of \$1,000 to help support the emotional and physical well-being of ASI staff. In past years, staff have been awarded these funds and have enjoyed a day trip on the train from Durango to Silverton and have been allowed personal discretion to purchase items that support self-care.

The ASI staff and board of directors thanks the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation for their generous support of older adults in Archuleta County.

ASI Christmas Party set for Dec. 20

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 reser-



vation before that day or by 9 a.m. that Monday morning by calling or texting (970) 264-2167.

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.

Register by Jan. 24, 2024, for Mather art kits

Mather is introducing the Do-It-Together Art Community in a Box, where you can get creative without leaving home.

We're continuing our unique free program for those 55 and better. Explore the simple elegance of printmaking and with weekly online conversations with a community of peers.

Every participant receives a complimentary art kit in the mail with the materials and step-by-step instructions for creating six unique printmaking projects, including relief printing, collagraph, eco

■ See Senior on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Bundle of hay
- 5 Post Office purchase
- 10 Surfer's concern
- 14 Multi-user OS
- 15 Video's counterpart
- 16 Valuable deposits
- 17 Reason for a repossession
- 19 Sandwich alternative
- 20 Sound a bell
- 21 Compensate
- 23 Go one better
- 25 Raven's haven
- 26 Smugly ingratiating
- 29 Teensy bit
- 31 Trajectory
- 34 Die down
- 35 Pirate captain of legend
- 37 Informal farewell
- 39 Contest submissions
- 41 Notwithstanding
- 43 Godly belief
- 44 Not as much
- 46 Dermal opening
- 47 PA time zone
- 48 Culminating point
- 50 Embalming ingredient
- 52 Whopping
- 54 Discussion group
- 56 Kind of agreement
- 59 Andean animal
- 63 Predicament
- 64 Profitable venture
- 66 Qatar's continent
- 67 Throw for a loop
- 68 Steering wheel option
- 69 Like some cheeks

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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63						64				65				
66						67					68			
69						70						71		

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- 70 Facial features
- 71 Breaks off

DOWN

- 1 Barracks bed
- 2 Soon, to a bard
- 3 Place to wait
- 4 Erikson and Vespucci, e.g.
- 5 Put into words
- 6 Swollen
- 7 Tonsil neighbor
- 8 "Do you ____?"
- 9 Packing a punch
- 10 Dots on a map
- 11 Annoyance
- 12 Like many signers
- 13 Get a look at
- 18 Mineral salt
- 22 Diner offerings
- 24 Preschooler
- 26 Stockholm native
- 27 Flowing tresses
- 28 Direct opposite
- 30 Racetrack ratio
- 32 Nostalgic style
- 33 Fishing basket

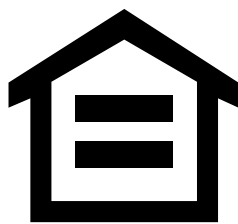
- 36 Emerald ____
- 38 Higher court
- 40 Likeness
- 42 "NFL Live" carrier
- 45 Uses, as energy
- 49 Scribe
- 51 Control spot
- 53 Retract, as words

- 55 "Skyfall" singer
- 56 Actor Epps
- 57 Cancún coin
- 58 Bygone bird
- 60 Like, with "to"
- 61 Pinochle play
- 62 Star anagram
- 65 Cry of triumph

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Subscribe to The SUN

pagosasun.com

Senior

■ continued from previous page

printing and three more.

You'll get instructions for each project in free virtual learning sessions. And if you want to ask questions, build lasting connections, or share your work, Mather has a dedicated Facebook community page for participants to ensure the creativity doesn't stop once a project is finished.

This program is open to (but not limited to) those who have already participated in the Fiber Arts D.I.T. Kit.

Sign up to try this completely new kit at <https://www.mather.com/programs/dit-art-kits>. Space is limited and registration closes Jan. 24, 2024. The kits will ship in late January, and online sessions will start on Feb. 13, 2024.

Senior conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of "Senior Conversations" with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added

to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com.

Share lunch Monday through Thursday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$10, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

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

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

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, 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.

Monday, Dec. 18 — Greek spanakopita pie with filo, cauliflower rice, garden salad, fruit, milk and carrot cake.

Tuesday, Dec. 19 — Cod and shrimp Veracruz, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit and cottage cheese, and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 20 — Beef fajitas with peppers, onions, tomatoes, flour tortillas, sour cream and guacamole; garden salad; fruit; and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 21 — Turkey breast with stuffing, gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, garden salad, raspberry delight and milk.

Friday, Dec. 22 — Sliced ham with apricot glaze, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

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

■ See Senior on next page

Merry Christmas!

I want to thank Pagosa and beyond for decades of patronage. Wishing you love, health, joy and peace for this season and throughout 2024.

Cathy Justus W.F.C.P.
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Looking ahead to our 48th year in business here in Pagosa Springs, we would like to thank the community for your continued support. As Pagosa's oldest flooring store, we have seen this community grow since our parents started the business in 1976. We look forward to the opportunities that 2024 holds for our community.

We invite you to stop in to see our brand new showroom. Take a picture of your room and use the interactive display to see what new flooring would look like in that room.

Thank you, Stephanie, Tony, Jared and Dan

Community Foundation announces more than \$675,000 in donations for Southwest Colorado nonprofits on Colorado Gives Day

By Rachel Rosenthal

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado spearheads regional participation in Colorado Gives Day — an easy, online initiative for donors to contribute to nonprofits across Colorado.

Colorado donors turned out for this year's event on Tuesday, Dec. 5, with more than \$54.2 million donated to nonprofits statewide and more than \$662,000 donated to regional organizations — a new

record.

Overall Gives Day totals will increase throughout the month of December as each nonprofit receives its share of the statewide Incentive Fund; final totals for the southwest region will be approximately \$675,000.

For Southwest Colorado Gives Day, local donors can choose from a list of over 150 nonprofit organizations found on the website swcogives.org, which provides a safe, easy way for individuals to fund their favorite causes. These online donations will go directly to local nonprofits serving Southwest

Colorado, encompassing Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

This year's collaborative marketing efforts prompted 3,546 individual donations in our region alone.

"Colorado Gives Day is a wonderful opportunity for individuals to sustain the causes that matter most to them," said Tracy Pope, deputy director of the Community Foundation. "It is an honor getting to be part of a movement that brings the community together in support of our amazing, local nonprofits. Southwest Colorado continues to show up, and we feel so much gratitude for everyone who donated this year."

The Community Foundation strives to power philanthropy and encourage people to give where they live. Online donations may still be made at swcogives.org, as this is a year-round electronic giving platform to benefit local nonprofits.



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

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

Text reservations

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

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

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.

Supporting ASI

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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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANGEL
- BELLS
- BOUGH
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- DECORATE
- DISPLAY
- FIREPLACE
- GARLAND
- HOLLY
- INFLATABLE
- MANTEL
- MENORAH
- MISTLETOE
- NUTCRACKER
- ORNAMENTS
- POINSETTIA
- SANTA
- SLEIGH
- SNOWMAN
- STAND
- STOCKINGS
- STRINGED LIGHTS
- WINDOW
- WREATH

*If you or someone you know
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 at 1-800-273-8255, text a crisis counselor at 741741
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Preview Calendar

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

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. 8-11:30 a.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).

Saturday, Dec. 16

Wreaths Across America Wreath Day Remembrance Ceremony. 10 a.m., Hilltop Cemetery. The public is encouraged to join for the ceremony and wreath laying.

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

Pokemon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon, too. No experience is required.

Third Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas. 5-7 p.m., downtown. Take a walking tour along the Riverwalk for a fun and festive evening. Celebrate the holiday season with live music, hot chocolate, treats, holiday displays, Santa Claus and more.

'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).

Sunday, Dec. 17

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Melashenko Family Concert. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. Enjoy award-winning gospel and Christmas music.

Monday, Dec. 18

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.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. Come learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. Supplies are provided.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

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

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

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experi-

■ See Calendar on next page



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—Kanaka Perea



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

ences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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

Adult DIY. 1-2:30, Sisson Library. Make a tabletop candle holder or door wreath for the holidays. The greens, wreath forms, ribbon and pine cones will be provided. Bring gloves and wear clothing you can get sap on.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 8-11 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available. Reservations are required and can be made at pagosapickleball.org under the "Play" tab.

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

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.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. Christmas Party. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center. Come for lunch and stay for a joyful time. Make a lunch reservation before 9 a.m. on Dec. 10 by texting or calling (970) 264-2167.

'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).

Thursday, Dec. 21

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.

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 equiva-

lency, 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.

'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).

Friday, Dec. 22

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Messy Art: Slime. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Get messy and make art. This time is getting slimy. All supplies will be provided.

'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).

Saturday, Dec. 23

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

A Night with the Grinch. 5-8 p.m., TARA Community Center, 333 Milton Way, Arboles. Parents can drop off their children for a parents' night out for last-minute Christmas preparations. Children will watch a movie and enjoy cookies, cocoa and snacks. The cost is \$10 with some scholarships available. The Grinch will be available for pictures from 8-8:30 p.m. Call or text Kimberley Pierce at (970) 946-7211 to RSVP.

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

'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).

Sunday, Dec. 24

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Tuesday, Dec. 26

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

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

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta

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

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

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

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

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language

classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 8-11 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available. Reservations are required and can be made at pagosapickleball.org under the "Play" tab.

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Kids Kare is a program for

■ 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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Emergency alerts and turning off the motor

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Readers ask me, “How’s Whiskey, Sweet Al’s hunting dog? Is she still alive?”

And I say, “Only by my good graces.”

One morning recently I walked around like a zombie, red eyes, bad hair, bad mood. No sleep because of Whiskey. The thunderstorm drove her to our bed. She climbed up over my head and laid down on my pillow.

I called out to my Sweet Al. “Help me; Whiskey’s on my pillow.” Not a word. Not a movement. Totally in another world of sleep, I couldn’t jar him. I got out of bed, pulled at his heavy black dog. Shivering and shaking, Whiskey wouldn’t budge.

I called to Al again, “You’ve got to do something with Whiskey.”

In a deep sleep, Al couldn’t



think. He got up and tried to pull her from his side.

I said, “Al, go back to sleep. I’ll sleep in the recliner.”

The window cleaner came to wash our windows. He brought his little dog with him. I said to Al, “Put up Whiskey.” He talked babytalk to his dog and pulled at her. She planted her back feet into the carpet and wouldn’t move.

Whiskey looked at the window cleaner’s dog like her next meal. I said to the man, “Our dog is a hunting dog. She goes after little creatures. You need to put your dog in the car.” He didn’t hear. I alerted

his helper, “I’m telling you, put the dog in the car.” The helper heard.

Al tells me all the time, “Write something funny.”

I tell him, “Not everything is funny. Do you know what it takes to turn a sleepless night or a little dog about to be eaten into funny? Angst into humor? Mad into glad?”

It’s all Al’s fault. He has turned this big vicious hunting dog into a wimp with a loud husky bark. She won’t go outside unless Al goes outside with her. I have to send Al outdoors in order for Whiskey to do her business. She has separation issues.

The trouble is now she won’t leave my side. Not Al’s side, but my side. What’s that all about? Al says, “She likes you.”

When I gripe about Whiskey licking my hand, my friend says, “Maybe she’s trying to make friends

■ See Lane on page 27

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

‘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).

Thursday, Dec. 28

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.

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.

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee Meeting. 5:30-7 p.m., Grace in Pagosa.

‘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).

Friday, Dec. 29

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

‘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).

Saturday, Dec. 30

‘Lion King Kids.’ 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

‘Lion King Kids.’ 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Dec. 29

‘Lion King Kids.’ 2 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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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

CHRISTMAS IN ARBOLES

Photos courtesy Susan Halkin

Scene ... celebrating Christmas in Arboles on Dec. 3. The festive, well-attended event featured shopping, a Holiday Treat Contest, a silent auction and more.



Lane

■ continued from page 25
with you.” She is a sweet dog, but really?

I have to look at things differently. I always thought my Sweet Al was my muse, my inspiration. I’ve come to understand he is my angst, my trope. In writing, a muse inspires, but writers need angst, conflict and page-turners. I live with a page-turner and his dog. I should have plenty to write about.

As I drove to town one day, Al thought he was turning off an overhead light. He turned on the StarLink rescue button. There was a constant buzzing and a call for help, “Emergency. Need help?”

I looked for someone to help me. I saw Ken on Lewis Street. I called out to him.

“Ken, can you help me turn off the emergency alert?” He did. He turned off the motor. We had a good laugh. I told him, “Al brings noise. One day this will surely make for a good article. But not today.”

I’ve been in a deep fog of heavy material in my column lately, doing a lot of inspirational thinking. It’s

time to turn off the motor to all my deep thinking and write something humorous and shallow. I didn’t know it would be sleeping on my pillow. Only by my good graces, Al and Whiskey are still with us and insists on sleeping in my bed.

Conflict is what writers need for a great story. It turns pages for the readers. If you live on the Lower Blanco where nothing happens but an occasional car passing by, you need a Sweet Al to put angst in your life.

Angst is defined as a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, a feeling of persistent worry about something trivial like having a bad hair day. Al fits the bill. That’s what humor is born from.

Final brushstroke: Yes, many times Al has put me in an emergency alert situation. What would I write about if I didn’t have him? I need my Sweet Al and all the angsts he causes me in order to write my next article and story.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

As I drove to town one day, Al thought he was turning off an overhead light. He turned on the StarLink rescue button. There was a constant buzzing and a call for help, “Emergency. Need help?”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 10a.m.. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS AREA TOURISM BOARD currently has four (4) vacant seats. We are currently seeking a lodging representative, a short term rental representative, a hospitality / recreation representative and one at-large member. The application can be downloaded from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWUWSwHnaEaloyhryS-9h8S_n7Lq6B0c/view?usp=sharing. Applications should be received no later than Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 at 5pm. Please contact Jennie Green at (970)903-9728 with any questions.

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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BANK OF COLORADO is seeking to hire a Teller/New Accounts. Performs regular teller duties, answering phones to assist customers with balances and transfers, and various account maintenance. Bank of Colorado offers PTO, health vision and dental insurance, and a 401K plan. Must be willing to work rotating Saturdays and have a flexible schedule to either open or close. To apply visit www.bankofcolorado.com/careers.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus. The Pagosa Springs SUN is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile customer service representative. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Hours 8:00am to 4:30pm. Job Responsibilities: • Account Management: Support the Advertising Dept with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in the SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms. • Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions. • Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office. • Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members. • Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as needed. Requirements: • 3-5 years of experience working in an office. • Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry. • Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines. • Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels. • High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applications. • Compensation Range/Benefits • \$17-\$20/hour depending on experience level. • Eligible for medical, dental and vision benefits on the 1st of the month after 30 days of employment. • Eligible to enroll in the company's 401 (k) retirement savings on the 1st of the month after 90 days. The company matches 50% of your contribution up to 2.5% of total compensation. • 16 days of PTO plus 4-5 paid holidays. • Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company. About the Company: O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset. Send along your email or letter of interest directly to CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@ourourkemediagroup.com

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED - Asst. duties. Please send job history or resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com, phone (970)264-5000.

HIRING EXPERIENCED EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. Flexible work schedule. Pay DOE. Call (970)946-3966.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

\$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

The Pagosa Springs SUN is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile customer service representative. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Hours 8:00am to 4:30pm.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Account Management: Support the Advertising Department with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in the SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms.

Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions.

Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office.

Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members.

Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as needed.

REQUIREMENTS

3-5 years of experience working in an office.

Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry.

Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines.

Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels.

High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applications.

COMPENSATION RANGE/BENEFITS

\$17-\$20/hour depending on experience level.

Eligible for medical, dental and vision benefits on the 1st of the month after 30 days of employment.

Eligible to enroll in the company's 401 (k) retirement savings on the 1st of the month after 90 days. The company matches 50% of your contribution up to 2.5% of total compensation.

16 days of PTO plus 4-5 paid holidays.

Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come.

O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites.

Send your email or letter of interest directly to
CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@ourourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**
an O'Rourke Media Group company

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for a caring massage therapist ready to share your healing gifts! Fun, relaxed work environment where you are honored and appreciated. TOP PAY: \$50/hour plus tips. Email: racheldevloo@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer \$16 p/h to start, accrued vacation/personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

WINTER WORK!

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April

Lift Department
Base Operations/Parking
Ski School
Food & Beverage * Baker
Retail * Ticket Office
Snow Removal * Grooming
Custodial & Building Maintenance
Ski Patrol
Onsite Call Center/
Customer Service

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience

Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment
Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800 Pagosa Springs, CO
81147



CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber

2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

LEE RILEY is looking for a part time real estate assistant with strong text skills, social media and contracts. Call (970)946-3856, or email leeriley@isellpagosa.com.

LOOKING FOR CARPENTERS and laborers. Call Rick, (970)946-1737.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

NOW HIRING — "SALES ASSOCIATE." LanternDancer.com, Apply online or in person. (970)264-6446.

HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPING. Full-time position. MUST be able to work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays along with holiday shifts. We are looking to add one more team member to our current housekeeping staff. If you have a friendly attitude, an eye for detail, and a strong work ethic, we'd love to hear from you! Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Email: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Housekeeping, or stop by to fill out an application. Puesto de limpieza a tiempo completo. Debe poder trabajar los Viernes, Sábados, y Domingos. Junto con los turnos de vacaciones. Estamos buscando un miembro mas del equipo a nuestro personal de limpieza actual. Si tienes una actitud amigable, un ojo para los detalles y una fuerte ética de trabajo. Nos encantaría saber de ti en Healing Waters Resort and Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd, Email: sales@pshotsprings.com. Atención al Servicio De Limpieza. O pástate por aquí para rellenar una aplicación.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

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.

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.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16-18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT, 35 Mary Fisher Circle or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com

PINE VALLEY RENTAL SEEKING Shop/Yard person to service equipment, assist customers in loading/unloading goods, maintain gas/ diesel engines. Welding and electrical skills a plus. MUST BE RELIABLE. Available to work full time Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. Pick up application in person at 305 Bastille Drive or email resume to ppine000@centurytel.net. Cone join our rental crew!

HELP WANTED

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.

SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping/ snow removal. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MULTI USE 6,800 SQUARE BUILDING with business in prime location with high producing business .60 acre. lot \$2,350,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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.

FOR SALE

CRAFTSMAN PROFESSIONAL 30-INCH SNOWBLOWER for sale, good condition for \$400. Call (480)254-8092.

DRY FIREWOOD-PINE. Pick up \$240 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

DRY, SEASONED DOUGLAS FIR for sale, \$300 per cord delivered. Ryan Whitlow (970)585-4578.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$300 split and delivered, per cord. \$250 picked up, per cord. (970)507-0369. Hattie.

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 JD horsepower compact tractor with implements. Power tools. Electric pole saw. Stihl chainsaw, T-post pounder. Miscellaneous tools. Call Gary (970)903-1482.

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.

MASON-HAMLIN UPRIGHT PIANO. Free to good home. Moving, unable to take. Beautiful tones, holds tuning. Cherry wood with mahogany finish. New owner responsible for transport. Text (505)695-9643.

FOR SALE

NEED FIREWOOD? Pine/Aspen mix \$350 a cord, or get a HUGE dump truck load for \$600! GUARANTEED full cords. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

QUALITY HORSE HAY Grass and grass alfalfa mix. Barn stored. \$10 a bale. Call (970)884-2635.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

GARAGE SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

AKC REGISTERED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY. Male. Parents genetic and OFA cleared. Ready week before Christmas. \$1,000. (970)519-8830.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N. Find me on Rover.com using zip code 81147. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews online at Rover.com.

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.

WANTED

QUEEN-SIZE MATTRESS. Good condition, reasonably priced, (970)585-4100.

VINTAGE LICENSE PLATES WANTED, cash paid, higher price for older/rarer plates. Call/text Colin: (970)367-7594.

CARS FOR SALE

2011 HONDA ELEMENT. 191,877 miles, \$1,300, OBO, as is, body good. Contact Eddie, 141 S. 10th St, (970)264-5760.

CARS FOR SALE

BUCKSKIN TOWING AND REPAIR LLC has a 1971 Chevrolet Nova, Vin#161794 and a 1969 Ford Fairlane, Vin #184435 for sale. Please stop by Buckskin Towing and Repair at 1435 East Highway 160 to place a bid on these vehicles. Buckskin Towing and Repair LLC, 1435 E. Highway 160, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

TWO VEHICLES FOR SALE. 1st is a 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. 2nd is a 2001 Buick LeSabre, 123,000 miles. Runs well. Could use some work. \$2200 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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@pagosasetselfstorage.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.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering Lewis St. Office Suites available from 238 SF to 755 SF, and priced from \$400 - \$700/ mo. Excellent for a studio or professional office space. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

HOMES FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH apartment, centrally located. Ground floor entry. Water, sewer, gas, fiber optic Internet included. (970)946-8687.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba



www.RMREALTYANDRENTALS.COM

Rocky Mountain
REALTY & RENTALS
970.731.5515

Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com

117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado
Property Owners Served
19+ Years. Mortgage &
Real Estate Exp
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



HOMES FOR RENT

HOMES FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

HOMES FOR SALE

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1 LOFT BEDROOM 2 BATH condo for rent. \$1450 plus utilities, long term. No garage partially furnished on Davis Cup. Must provide copy of credit report and GOOD credit. Call (970)946-0930.

2 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH condo on Lake Pagosa \$1800/month. TP-1 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

3 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH, 2-car garage, 3,348 sq. ft. beautiful home on remote 35 acres. \$4,500/ month. TP-2 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

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.

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.

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
SRS, ABR, ePRO
Serving Sellers & Buyers
970-946-6856
christie@jimsmithrealty.com

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.



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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.

Email classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.

PagosaSUN.com

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Herb Grover

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

Brrrrrr: Resting on the ice or swimming in frigid water, some mallards will stay the winter as long as we have open water. They are found in almost any wetland habitat including marshes, lakes, rivers and ponds. Where snowmelt fills ephemeral streams and ground depressions in spring, mallards can be found paddling along and skimming the surface for food.

The mallard is the world's most recognizable duck species and the most abundant duck in North America. In part, their widespread range has resulted from the release of captive-raised birds in places where they were not historically found.

Mallards are so common that often their beauty is overlooked. The male (drake) in breeding plumage has an iridescent green head which appears blue in some light and is separated from his dark chest and grey body by a white collar. He has an olive-yellow bill and curved black tail feathers. Both sexes have orange legs and feet, and iridescent blue wing patches visible in flight.

Females, or hens, are streaked brown and have orange bills with black splotches. It is the female who makes the quacking call we associate with ducks. When one starts up, others in the flock often join in. Male calls are shorter and softer. Unhatched birds produce a variety of sounds and learn the mother's call while still in the egg.

An additional factor in this bird's success is its omnivorous and flexible feeding style. In water it is often seen tipped up, grazing on aquatic plants or rooting along the bottom for tubers or insect larvae. But, it also feeds on land for insects, worms, snails, bird seed and grain crops. They have adapted well to living in close proximity to people and in cities have even been found nesting in planters, backyard brush piles and rooftops.

This weekend community members will join the Weminuche Audubon chapter in conducting the Christmas Bird Count in Pagosa Springs. Historically, mallards are among the most numerous of waterfowl that we count.

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

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

A Christmas Gift of Love to the People of Pagosa Springs

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
2313 Eagle Dr. • Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Sell it in the classifieds

Cars • Bikes • Houses • Land • Saddles • Hay • Goats
Horses • Boats • Tools • Furniture • You name it!

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

To place your classified ad, call
(970) 264-2100

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for supporting our
advertisers!