



The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com

VOLUME 116 — NO. 12, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023



Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

The Christmas spirit took over downtown Pagosa Springs Saturday evening for the third annual Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration. The event featured treats, hot chocolate, activities, giveaways, holiday lights, a balloon glow and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.



Assessor provides update on property tax changes

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 12 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard an update from Archuleta County Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott on recent Colorado state property tax legislation, and its impact on local governments and residents.

Tully-Elliott explained that the tax changes include a \$15,000 downward value adjustment applied to all residential property and a \$30,000 downward adjustment applied to commercial property from Colorado Senate Bill (SB) 22-238, which includes stipulations for backfill funding to make up the decrease in tax revenues for local taxing authorities.

A portion of the backfill funding from SB 22-238 will come from the refunds the state is required to give by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), according to the Colorado General Assembly website.

In addition, according to the Colorado General Assembly website, the Colorado Legislature passed SB

■ See Tax A8

Boards of health hold first, last meetings

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Seventy-five years of the San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) Board of Health (BoH) came to an end at the board's final Dec. 14 meeting, and the Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) BoH took its first steps at its initial meeting on Dec. 12.

Among the items on the agenda at the SJBPH BoH meeting were the adoption of the updated Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP) and the supplemental budget for 2023.

Interim Director of Epidemiology and Data Surveillance Samie Stephens presented the PHIP, noting that

■ See Meetings A8

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual In County - \$35
Annual Out of County - \$45
Monthly - \$10

Digital subscriptions available at PagosaSun.com/eedition

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Periodical newspaper postage paid at
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Postmaster, Address Service Requested

OUR VIEW

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday

The days are flying by as Christmas nears and the year draws to a close.

Our presents are wrapped and under the tree, cookies have been made and shared, Christmas movies are taking over our watch list and, once again, we have failed to send out Christmas cards like we'd hoped to do.

While we're still dreaming of and waiting for a white Christmas and despite the fact we failed to send out cards, we feel the holiday spirit more and more each day.

People are sharing food and gifts with one another at office potlucks and parties with friends. People are sporting their most festive clothing and accessories while running errands, and people (for the most part) seem a little nicer.

We thank those who have shared with us at The SUN in the form of Christmas cards, treats, wishes for a wonderful holiday season and more. We also thank the youngsters, parents and teachers who shared letters to Santa with us.

Letters to Santa received by The SUN can be found in this week's PREVIEW. We hope you'll enjoy seeing that the hopes and questions of children this time of year have not changed in decades, and it apparently hasn't gotten easier to be nice to siblings. (And, if you, like some in our office, don't know what a Squishmallow

is — it's a soft, very squishy plush that comes in more than 1,000 varieties.)

The Christmas spirit could also be felt at Saturday's Old Fashioned Christmas.

This event began in 2021 with a simple purpose — to bring the community together to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season despite COVID-19 limiting indoor gatherings.

And that's exactly what we continue to see each year. Businesses, organizations and individuals gather and give of their time not to sell you something or raise funds, but to just be a community.

It brought tears to our eyes to see children run up and hug Santa as he got out of the wagon that delivered him to the Visitor Center, and we enjoyed seeing families and friends taking photos together and spending time together as they made their way around the event.

It was evident that youngsters were having fun decorating cookies and running around with glow sticks and lighted rings, and the scavenger hunt was once again popular, as were the Pagosa Springs ornaments that were being given out.

We offer a sincere thank you to everyone who helped put on the event, those who adopted segments and everyone who bundled up to take part and enjoy an evening amid the lights downtown.

The end of an era

We're also moving into the holiday stretch mindful of the fact that how public health services will be provided is changing within Archuleta County for the first time in 75 years.

As of Dec. 31, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) will close its doors. On Jan. 1, 2024, the Archuleta County Department of Public Health will take over providing important services within our county.

Archuleta County has worked hard to put the right people into place to launch its public health services following the dissolution of SJBPH, and we're grateful for those who stuck with SJBPH until the end for the sake of those who need the department's services.

We appreciate and commend the hard work of all those involved in helping the transition of services to be as seamless as possible.

As Commissioner Warren Brown stated at the final meeting of the SJBPH Board of Health, "Thank you for partnering with us for 75 years, thank you for leading us for 75 years and thank you for making our communities better for 75 years."

We wish you all a merry Christmas (or what holiday you may observe).

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 21, 1923

A new sewage drain trench is being dug from the Triangle park corner west on San Juan street to McCabe creek under the supervision of Street Commissioner Fred Arnold. Twenty-four inch galvanized pipe will be laid therein and the sewage, which is now running south on Fifth street to the San Juan river, will be diverted to the other stream in order to prevent the present frequent stoppage. The route is on the state highway and the pipe is being donated by the state and county, while the labor is being furnished by the town.

Ollie Minium has leased the J.B. Moore sawmill from the estate, and last week moved the outfit from Kearns to Pagosa Springs, where it was unloaded from the cars Saturday. It is now being moved to the Jake Bramwell ranch south of town, where it will be set up and operated until the Bramwell timber is cut and sawed.

There is no change in the diphtheria situation in the lower part of the county since our last issue, other than that the Arboles school re-opened Monday as scheduled.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 24, 1948

The La Plata Electric Assn., familiarly known as the REA, this week completed the construction of a new high voltage transmission line from The Colorado Power Co. plant in Durango to Pagosa Springs. The line was hooked in on Tuesday of this week and the local plant is now acting as a voltage corrector for the system.

The line came from Durango via Ignacio and Bayfield, energizing the rural service hookups along the way. The electricity is transmitted at high voltage to the Pagosa Springs sub-station, located at the power plant, and is transformed there for use in this area.

Construction was started on the line this past spring and the work has been under the supervision of D.W. Montgomery and Earl McCoy. It is anticipated that this new line will give the rural users and the people of this community power that is not subject to as large a variation as it has been in the past.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 20, 1973

A large star will be lighted on Reservoir Hill this Friday night and will be on at night during the Christmas season. The star is sponsored by the Beta Sigma Phi sororities.

It was a construction project of the welding classes in the local school under the direction of Worthe Crouse. It stands as high as the water tank on Reservoir Hill and should be visible for many miles.

The star was not only constructed by the students, but was also wired and erected by the classes. Several weeks of work upon the part of the students and Mr. Crouse have gone into the decoration. It will be the only major decoration visible from town and town residents should be able to see it clearly.

That big pile of snow up on Wolf Creek Pass isn't adding up as fast this winter as it does most years. Through Tuesday morning of this week the grand total snowfall to date was 102 inches.

This is much more than any other highway pass or ski area in Colorado has received this year, but is quite a bit below average.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 24, 1998

Pagosa Springs trustees made a move Tuesday designed to provide the town of Pagosa Springs with current or near-current levels of sales tax revenues in the event that a long-standing legal action seeking to restructure the distribution of a 4 percent sales tax now equally shared by town and county is successful.

The trustees passed Ordinance 516 Tuesday to counter one of the possible outcomes of a legal action begun in 1995 by a group known as the "County Road Users Association." That group attempted to initiate a ballot measure in Archuleta County that called for the redistribution of county sales tax proceeds.

The net effect of the redistribution called for in the proposed ballot initiative would have been to give the county three of the 4 percent of sales tax revenues collected and distributed in Archuleta County, with the stipulation that the county direct specified amounts of the revenues to road improvement and maintenance operations.

LOOKING BACK



From the Dec. 21, 1972 Pagosa SUN — HERE HE COMES! — Head Start students watch the approach of Santa Claus with various expressions. Santa Claus visited the Head Start students this Monday night and distributed gifts and visited the children. His visit followed a program of songs by the students. A large crowd of parents was present for the program.

Archuleta County Commissioners Ron Maez, Chair rmaez@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8303 Warren Brown warren.brown@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8300 Veronica Medina veronica.medina@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8305		
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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
12/13	38	28	-	-	-
12/14	38	29	.41	NA	NA
12/15	41	19	-	-	-
12/16	46	14	-	-	-
12/17	49	16	-	-	-
12/18	50	20	-	-	-
12/19	51	20	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs
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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.

Dear Santa

Dear Editor:
Dear Santa,
I hope I am writing in the Nick of time to reach you.
I know you are busy, so I will get to the point- We need to chill out!
Our climate is warming- 2023 is the warmest year in recorded history."
Our friend Frosty needs help in gaining girth and maintaining his cool form.
A snow-laughing matter. We need to put a freeze on greenhouse gasses.
Colorado is a popular destination for outdoor activity.
Low snowpack in Colorado means less tourist dollars in our economy.
And less melt in the spring to fill reservoirs for our farmers and ranchers.
Reindeers need winter feed from good hay crop yields.
Please spruce up our mountains with long-term colder temperatures to kill pine-beetles.
We love our state's outdoor scenic beauty, and dead trees don't cut it.
Increased years of drought and heat means drier vegetation.

And more frequent wildfires.
And a whole domino effect of health & economic costs to taxpayers.
Please sleigh emissions so we can reach a sustainable and stable climate.
Nix the coal this year. Even for us not-so-good folks. We have cleaner energy sources.
Please thank the House of Representatives for their bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus! And their Conservative Climate Caucus!

Please tap Rep Lauren Boebert to join colleagues for conservative solution climate legislation in 2024.
Ones that are free market based, industry friendly, create jobs, and with limited government.
Brrr-lliant climate policy solutions exist!
Flaking out is not an option.
Cold shoulder treatment is fine for temperatures, just not for addressing the issue.
Hoping you deliver presents that a provide chilly reception to our warming concerns.

Susan Atkinson Durango

Does anyone want a king?

Dear Editor:
Anybody else totally blown away by how many Americans are willing to dump their voting and Constitutional rights for the prospect of a Trump dictatorship? So, who's in this group, well, they say they're 'conservatives.' Gosh, the dictionary says that word means 'preserving' not throwing rights away.
Everyone knows Trump was a multiple draft dodger, now we know that he kept copies of Hitler's speeches by his bed and is currently using them in his rants and yet many of his supporters are veterans???

So far this same group of 'conservatives' is around 90%+ white. First, their conundrum...what to do w/ roughly 30% of the U.S. who aren't white! Seriously what to do about a Black/Hispanic who votes for him are they American tooooo? No matter how you twist it, MAGA is a losing racial, political & national cause. And anyone thinking they can snug-up in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, or the Dakota's forget it...the Billionaires have already moved in...you can't afford it.
Yes, these 'wannabe' conservatives are also mostly Republican. A party that in the past had national value as a true force for defense & fiscal Conservatism? And what's with the number of lawyers involved in Donald's schemes...didn't they take an oath to uphold the law...is it the money...must be a lawyer joke.
I've read many efforts trying to explain the 'why-and-wherefore,' but got no answer just a question...why would any group think of themselves as the true patriots while knowingly destroy their nation. They're not all drinking the "Kool-aid," so what does Donald say to motivate these 'conservatives?' Well, we have heard him clearly & repeatedly say he's going to be a dictator, 'destroy' his opponents and get rid of the vermin (Hitler said

that) what next Brownshirt-type thugs to keep his order. "Everybody needs to believe what he says," Cassidy Hutchinson, Trump's White House Chief-of-Staff's main assistant."

News Flash...Donald's dad always told him he'd be a King; he believes it! Does anyone, besides Donald, actually want a King?

Dave Blake

Right-to-die case

Dear Editor:
The "Right-to-Die" Revisited
On December 4, 2023, MSNBC Films aired Nick Capote's documentary "Between Life & Death: Terri Schiavo's Story." As a lawyer seeking to remove Terri's feeding tube in the year 2000, my memory is sorely prompted. Internationally acclaimed, fostering Culture Wars, this "right-to-die" case provoked substantial American political involvement. Florida Courts including the Supreme Court; Federal Courts; Governor Jeb Bush; Florida State Legislature; and the President of the United States, George W. Bush, were all engaged.

Personally, this case changed my life! Currently, the documentary is triggering a phenomenon of notable self-reflection. As a mature, woman lawyer who works with financial matters, real property, and estate planning for clients, my direct participation in the "Schiavo" case, and now as the matter is revisited through the contemporary documentary, my self-discovery is enhanced through fundamental and imperishable insight.

The following is a memo I wrote immediately after the first trial.

Walking out of the courtroom in February 2000, I was attacked by both bitter and sweet emotions. My law partner husband and I had presented an excellent case and since the other side had not, I expected to win. The judge would render his decision within a week. The sweetness of winning subsided as a bitter taste told me that something wasn't right. This case should never have come here. It should never be in court. I thought.
Excusing myself, I entered the safety of the women's restroom down the hall from the courtroom where I had spent the previous week. Two couches filled the lobby area. I sat on the sofa in front of a Ficus tree. Most onlookers had left the courthouse. The trial was held in the historic

courthouse due to lack of space in the new Clearwater, Florida court facilities.

What have I done? I believe in allowing Terri to die. She's suffered in a Persistent Vegetative State for 10 years! But, fighting in court is all wrong.

The dispute between Terri Schiavo's husband/guardian, and her family is mounting. Winning in Court disregarded, and dishonored the parents. Resentment carries the family to war.

I felt tortured. Courts are established to resolve conflict, not generate it. As an Officer of the Court, obliged to follow the rules, I feel that I helped generate the conflict.

Thoughts plagued me. There must be another way.

"You need some time. You need to think," I said to the weary face in the mirror.

Now, more than twenty years later, at this time of overt national and world-wide conflict, the sparking of more cultural incitement at home troubles my sense of peace. I became a Certified Mediator, wrote a book, formed The Institute for Peaceful Solutions, and presently support End of Life Options. What now?

Could our community work together?

We are experiencing the longest night, the Solstice. We welcome the light. HOPE lives in the light.

Respectfully submitted,
Constance d'Angelis

Gas prices

Dear Editor:
Been reading the rumblings in the newspaper, Commissioner Brown stating a few months ago about his personal concern over the high gas prices here and that he was going to go to Denver to see what could be done about it. O Brother!

This week reading in the paper about the new mob group that is forming or has formed to inveigh (protest and complain forcefully) about the gas prices and what, make gas retailers lower their prices?

A social organization in which goods are held in common is called communism.

We're American here! If you don't like the gas prices listed in one place, go somewhere else! use your City

See Letters A4



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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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All letters must:
be submitted electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted, must not be in all capitals include the author's actual name, phone number and address be 500 words or less be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday) Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer. If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition up to three weeks prior to the election. Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution. There is no guarantee letters will be published. The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.



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Letters

■ Continued from A3
Mkt. card. It's called choice shopping wisely and American freedom!

We that have without unrest happily lived here the longest know of the long known and acceptable and healthy tourist town dynamic that has always and still offers various prices at various locations for various reasons and that in my opinion are economically beneficially keeping to tourist town prices as is their right and privilege as it is for every single business that operates here.

But to form a mob to go and try to go force private business to your idea of fair pricing, good grief Charlie Brown!

First of all, you freely moved to a tourist town with tourist prices that you in part helped raise higher and increase with your freedom of choice lifestyle, and while gas hikes are counted in dimes those other now-higher in comparison rates caused by inflationary population growth are counted in thousands. And it's okay for you to buy and pay millions for your house but now you think it's not okay for those businesses to choose to stay to the elevated-rates that you helped drive up? Now cry babying about paying more pennies for your gas?

Now this new anarchy pitchfork and axes mob group instead of stating this mob ideal as their own now drags the poor populace of Pagosa into it. (I read it in the newspaper) all presumably so hapless now having to pay more pennies for their gas that they won't be able to do anything; buy gas work or get anywhere.

Whatever! Painting us so poorly... Have the courage you few complainers to own this fractious fracas as your own personal agenda and without dragging "the (hapless) resident's living below the poverty line here" into it by attributing this woe to them to make it look like humanitarian work on your part.

We don't care a whit for your kind of charity idealism nor do we go along fighting every pennies hike when we are accustomed to rate hikes of leisure industry visiting the attractions seeing the sights life. And still, here you are milking the rising expense system and trying to subject the masses to Communalism to make local gas more affordable to you.

Carmen Ferguson

Pagosa Community Initiative

Dear Editor:
Dear Pagosa Community,
I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the Pagosa Community Initiative, a vital agency in our community that has been making a significant impact on the lives of Pagosa families.

Pagosa Community Initiative, a one-stop shop, and our local Family Resource Center, is committed to providing essential family resource connections and case management services throughout Archuleta County. Our range of programs extends from aiding families in need during the Holiday Season with Food Box giveaways and Toys for Tots to running year-round youth and family development programs.

Last year alone, our family-focused initiatives touched the lives of over 180 families, ensuring that those facing challenges had the support they needed. Our after-school and summer programs, accommodating the school district calendar, played a crucial role in providing childcare for parents, with 80% of the participants receiving scholarships. In 2022, we served 185 students in our youth programming, awarding \$60,000 in scholarships to at-risk and underserved youth.

Additionally, our community makers space downtown serves as a hub for learning and community-building opportunities, benefiting all residents of Archuleta County.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Pagosa Community Initiative relies on the support of generous partners from the community and grants to cover various costs, including scholarships for underserved youth in our programs. Your support will contribute to covering expenses such as program development/implementation, maintaining quality staff in all programs, providing materials and snacks for the youth programs, and facilitating transportation for these essential initiatives.

A thriving community begins with its members; your support will undoubtedly make a lasting impact. By joining us, you can play a pivotal role in fostering a stronger, more supportive community for all.

We kindly request your support in our mission to continue making a positive difference in the lives of Pagosa families. If you require any additional information or wish to discuss this further, please contact us at director@pagosacommunityinitiative.org or make a donation today at <https://www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org/donate>.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to helping our local community for years to come.

Sincerely,
Jenna Gannon
executive director
Pagosa Community Initiative

Opinions

Dear Editor:
In response to Charles Newtons letter-
Letters to the editor are inherently

based on...opinion. Even the very large heading of this section in the Pagosa Sun is...OPINION. Opinions are biased based on whose opinions they are. We are not journalists, simply people with a point of view and gratitude for the ability to express those in a public forum. And often, another writer's biases can lead us to investigate things that our own biases would never anticipate. Hurrah for a free press!

Cathlynn Groh
Santa Fe, N.M.

Essential services

Dear Editor:
After several trips to our local Post Office recently, it appeared to me that the postal workers are overwhelmed with holiday packages and mail during the holiday period. Most patrons were patient and respectful of the wait, some were not. Our community has grown exponentially over the last couple years and unfortunately our service industry has not caught up. We are Blessed beyond measure to live in this beautiful community as we are Blessed to have such dedicated people in our post office, fire, police, EMS, hospital, clinics, gas, electric, phone, internet, water and waste water departments. They keep this town and county running no matter what the weather throws at them. As you drive thru town some evening and are awed by the beautiful Christmas lights give thanks to the dedicated Pagosa Town Parks personnel for the awesome job. This Christmas be kind and respectful to each other and thankful you are spending it God's Kingdom.

G. Margiotta

Sheltering the homeless

Dear Editor:
Did you know that 10,397 people were homeless in Colorado in 2022. That is 17.8 in 10,000 people in the general population. Did you know that the average temperature in Pagosa Springs during the months of December, January and February is about 17 degrees. That is too cold for anyone without a home. Currently there is no system in place in our county that offers the homeless person or family a warm place to stay for the night. I am encouraging the creation of a new mindset that is both fearless and compassionate. Let's open our hearts during the cold winter nights and find solutions to the lack of shelter for the homeless. Churches, county buildings and businesses, if you have vestibules, separate rooms that can be locked after hours and heated during the night, this could serve as a nighttime shelter. Residents, if you have empty trailers, sheds, spare rooms, rooms over a garage or garage space with spare bedding or any other manner

of shelter, please consider making it available. In addition to shelter, you may also give a person in need food, warm clothes, socks, gloves, blankets, money for a hotel, a ride to a shelter, a bus pass, a hot shower, etc. Contact Kristen Roth @ 970-903-3900 or kristenroth0@gmail.com to collaborate on more ideas and actions.

Kristen Roth

The power of love versus hatred

Dear Editor:
I hear God crying, so much hatred in our world today, fueled by greed, jealousy, and those who are "power hungry". I know God is trying to bring goodness to the front of our lives, but he truly needs us to search our souls for the truth. I do not answer any "polls" ever, but rather think for myself, search for the truth in all things, which must include the ingredient of love with hatred locked out.

So, I say to our young folks. What do you honor? I begin with our "politicians". Are you attracted to arrogance of speech or to those who speak with knowledge and experience iced with humility and love? We need to be serious about who we elect to any office. Ask ourselves, do they project honesty and love or greed and hatred? Do they have a record of service to others or is their history mostly chuck full of things for their own benefit?

Folks, all ages, let's get serious. Study the issues and let love be the secret ingredient of your votes. Love is more powerful than hatred if we promote it and God will cry no more! Let's make this a truly Merry Christmas, living our lives with God's love as the major ingredient of our thoughts.

Let's wipe away God's tears, OK?
Patty Tillerson

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Obituaries

Lenore Bright

Lenore Bright passed away at age 92. She served as director of the Ruby Sisson Library for 22 years. She was instrumental in funding and building the library. Lenore also started the Archuleta Adults Reading Center. Bright served on state and national library boards. Previously, she taught second grade and college art classes. Lenore is survived by two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Gilbert Hill Bright.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Sisson Library or the charity of your choice.

Allen Stella Quick-Carter

Allen Stella Quick-Carter, 88 years of age, passed away (gained her wings and went to live with Jesus), on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at her daughter's home in Rio Rancho, N.M. Stella was

born in Wagon Mound, N.M., in 1935. Her family moved to San Jon, N.M., in 1949.



She and Dad, Otis Quick, raised their children knowing of the love of Christ and the sacrifice given freely so we can have eternal life. For that, we are so very grateful knowing and accepting the peace and joy of eternal life. Stella is best known for her love of God, family, life and nature; a sense of humor that never stopped; marathon shopping sprees; and the strongest work ethic of all time. Her integrity was impeccable. She retired from Purolator Courier while living in San Jon, N.M., and from Archuleta County Center in Pagosa Springs, Colo. She and her late husband, Frank Carter, lived in Pagosa Springs, Colo., for the last 26 years.

Stella was preceded in death by her

parents, Juan Tobias, and Serafina Garcia; her siblings, Louise Hill, Flaminia Angel and Jose Tobias Garcia; her spouses, Otis Quick and Frank Carter; her daughter, Catherine Paralee I, and son Perry; daughter-in-law Cindy Quick; son-in-law Keith Williams; grandchildren Haily Box and Sharmir Rodriguez; and great-grandchildren Kris Byer and Melanie Hayden.

Stella is survived by her children and their spouses: John and Bonna Quick, Otis and Delores Quick, Connie Williams, Lee and Dedra Quick, David and Amy Quick, Catherine Quick II; 31 grandchildren; 73 great-grandchildren; and 42 great-great-grandchildren. We will see you again, Mom.

Her family invites you to a graveside service on Dec. 29 at 11 a.m. at Sandia Memory Garden (9500 San Pedro Drive NE), Albuquerque, N.M. There will be a memorial service in Pagosa Springs, Colo., in the late spring or summer for those unable to attend at this time. Details to be determined.

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Business

Adventure Raffle winners announced

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Christmas presents came early to five participants of the Chamber's Adventure Package Raffle.

This year, the raffle consisted of five prizes in partnership with local and regional businesses.

The lucky winners announced were Shaunna Duvett, winner of the Kona Mt. E-Bike; William Flannagan, winner of the Alpacka Raft and guided fishing trips; Mimi Kupec, winner of the \$1,000 shopping spree to Ski and Bow Rack; and Richard Chang and Terri Montoya, each winners of the Wolf Creek Ski Area passes and

year pass to The Springs Resort package. The winners are also announced on the home page of the Chamber's website.

The drawing was held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Old Fashioned Christmas event. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who participated and wanted to win one of these fabulous prizes. This raffle would not have been possible without the participation of our business community.

2024 Chamber board nominees announced

The slate of candidates for the Chamber Board of Directors for 2024 has been announced.

Six candidates have agreed to run for the position of Chamber Board of Directors and will complete a three-year term. Of the six candidates, three will be elected by the Chamber membership.

The candidates are Billy Cotts, business owner; Kirsten Derr, doctor of optometry; Ricardo Martinez, clinic manager; Annie Sewell, business owner; Loren Talley, business owner; and Davilyn Valdez, co-owner of a business.

The voting has opened up to the Chamber membership businesses and will be open to voting until Jan. 19, 2024. Each Chamber member business will be allowed one ballot. That ballot consists of voting for up

to three of the six candidates. Should more candidates be selected on the ballot than allowed, the ballot will be invalidated. Should a business cast more than one ballot, the second ballot will be invalidated.

The range of experience and business type associated with this year's slate of candidates is varied. The Chamber organization feels it is important to have a range of businesses represented on the board of directors, which is made up of nine directors.

Each year, three board members rotate off the board and three members join the board and then serve for a three-year term. While not all business sectors are represented each year, the various industries are well-represented and include lodging, service, nonprofit, retail, financial and food service.

It is important that when voting for a candidate that it is not only that you know the person, but what they represent in their experience or business sector.

Many candidates have a variety of business experiences, making their business contribution to the Chamber board very important. These members help represent the voice of the business community and are a liaison to the Chamber staff.

To vote for in this year's Chamber board election, visit the Chamber's website at www.pagosachamber.com. Click on the voting graphic on the home page. That link will take you to the voting form and informational description on the candidates. Please take time to read the interesting bios on all the candidates.

Complete the voting form and remember, only one ballot per business and vote for up to three individuals. If you have several businesses that are registered Chamber members, each business has one ballot. It is important that, as a Chamber member, you participate in this voting process. These people help represent the business community.

Should you have any questions about the process, please contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.



Photo courtesy Greg Dykstra

The winners of the Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association's Red Ryder BB gun giveaway were announced at last weekend's Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration. From left are recipient John Linzalone, association president JoAnn Pogreba-Dykstra and recipient Jon Easling.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation approved as Enterprise Zone contribution project

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) was approved in November for a new Enterprise Zone contribution project by the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC).

The new five-year projects is to support affordable housing and workforce development projects in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. This designation allows donors of \$250 or more to claim a 25 percent state tax credit and a 12.5 percent state tax credit on in-kind donations. This credit is in addition to the federal tax deduction for contributing to any 501(c)(3) organization.

"The shortage of workforce and housing is heavily impacting Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County businesses. Some of our key employers cannot recruit staff due to the lack of housing inventory. This in turn compounds the other side of the equation — shortage in the workforce. The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation will be increasing affordable housing over the next four years with a plan to build 35 new homes in the market. The CDC is working with local education organizations to

grow our own talent while we build new housing. We are encouraged by the ongoing development and utilization of this EZ project. The CDC will be able to increase the affordable homes and create new opportunities for upskilling our workforce. This will impact our businesses and grow our community in a healthy direction. PSCDC is the economic development agency for Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs. Our role is to create a sustainable community with housing, workforce and broadband that withstand any obstacle. To assist in a vibrant economy and help businesses to thrive," commented Emily Lashbrooke, executive director of the PSCDC.

There are currently 32 Enterprise Zone projects designated in Southwest Colorado, including a current Enterprise Zone project to support the PSCDC organization. The current project expires Dec. 31, 2023.

A list of eligible Enterprise Zone projects and program information is available at www.region9edd.org/contribution-tax-credits.

For more information about the PSCDC or to donate to either project, please contact Lashbrooke at emily@pagosapringscdc.org.

Mountain Express Transit receives state recognition for accommodating senior ridership

Archuleta County

The Archuleta County Mountain Express Transit (MET) received recognition from the State Unit on Aging (SUA) for exceptional work due to its increase in services to the county, particularly for local seniors.

The evaluation states a "strength" by the MET for adding five new stops this year and "meeting the needs of older adults getting around the community."

The evaluation results are from an annual on-site assessment completed in October of this year by the SUA's Division of Aging and Adult Services. Areas of the evaluation are governed

by the Older Americans Act and State Funding for Senior Services programs operated by or under contract with the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

Region 9 AAA Director Christine Knoell monitors state funding and its distribution, requests for reimbursement, and service contracts throughout the region.

Knoell explained the evaluation tackles many objectives such as checking records, insurance, compliance and background checks, and anti-discrimination, ensuring proper policies and/or procedures are in place.

"The MET was found to be one of

the region's top strengths," stated Knoell.

In 2023, Transportation Coordinator Kevin Bruce worked side by side with both drivers and ridership for new ways to best benefit the community. The new stops include the Cloud Cap Avenue and Sundown Circle intersection, Cloud Cap/Park Avenue intersection, Park and Eagle's Loft Circle intersection, the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Rec Center, and Nick's Hangar on County Road 600/Piedra Road.

Just last week, the MET received another new stop located at Aspen Village Center and Cornerstone ■ See Recognition A6



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El Pomar Foundation's Colorado Assistance Fund distributes \$1.75 million in 2023

El Pomar Foundation

Through an allocation of its Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF), El Pomar Foundation and its trustees have approved \$1,750,000 in grants to be distributed to nonprofits around Colorado before the end of 2023.

This activation of CAF is in response to nonprofit organizations across Colorado facing a multitude of growing challenges, including workforce shortages, declines in donations, high inflation, economic uncertainty, and continued impacts of COVID-19 causing high leadership/staff turnover and burnout.

The funds are intended to support nonprofits for things such as staff well-being and development, organizational strategic planning, program assessments, and other operational needs to bolster nonprofit staff and leadership across Colorado.

This is the 10th time El Pomar Foundation has activated its CAF. In the past, the CAF was activated in five phases between 2008 and 2012 during and in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, and again in four phases in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its first activation, the CAF has now distributed more than \$10 million in grants to nonprofits.

"With the higher cost of operations and domino effect of inflation impacting charitable giving, along with a variety of workforce challenges, we know that nonprofits are experiencing more of an uphill climb right now," said Kyle H. Hybl, El Pomar president and CEO. "Many organizations are asking critical operational questions and re-strategizing to adjust to the current landscape, so we wanted to proactively support these efforts."

During this most recent activation of the CAF, recommendations came from El Pomar's trustees, staff and regional council members around the

state. In total, 182 grants were distributed in 45 counties across Colorado.

CAF grants distributed to nonprofits in the Southwest region encompassing Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties include:

- Conservation Legacy (Durango) — \$5,000 (Southwest Conservation Corps).
- Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (Cortez) — \$5,000.
- Healthy Archuleta Inc. (Pagosa Springs) — \$10,000.
- Hive DGO (Durango) — \$10,000.
- La Plata Youth Services Inc. (Durango) — \$20,000.
- Mancos Valley Resources — \$5,000 (Montezuma Youth Alliance).
- Montezuma School to Farm Project (Cortez) — \$20,000.
- Onward! A Legacy Foundation (Cortez) — \$20,000 (Good Food Collective).
- Pagosa Community Initiative — \$10,000.
- United Way of Southwest Colorado (Durango) — \$10,000 (TeamUp program).

To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant making areas, please visit <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/>.

El Pomar is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado, contributing approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations.

Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.



Photo courtesy RG BANK

RG BANK, Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and library representatives pose with a check for \$25,000 donated by the bank for the capital campaign to renovate and expand the library. From left to right are Shon Davis, bank president; Tiffany Martin, Pagosa Springs branch manager and loan officer; Cindi Galabota, foundation executive director; Jason Cox, bank board of directors member; and Meg Wempe, library director.

Colorado releases five wolves transplanted from Oregon

By Derek Draplin
The Center Square

Colorado officials released five gray wolves in Grand County on Monday, more than three years after voters in the state narrowly passed a ballot measure requiring a plan to restore the species.

The wolves were transplanted from Oregon, which agreed to allow Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to capture 10 wolves total.

In 2020, voters approved Proposition 114 with almost 51 percent support even though wolves were already confirmed in Moffat County in February of that year. Most voter support came from the densely populated areas along the Front Range. In rural Grand County, where the five wolves were released Monday, 64 percent voted against the measure.

"What followed were three years of comprehensive listening and work by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to draft a plan to restore and manage wolves that included public meetings in every corner of the state and was inclusive of all points of view and weighed the needs of a wide range of communities with a deep interest in the thoughtful outcome of this effort," Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement.

The state's plan didn't come without recent hurdles, last week facing a last-ditch lawsuit by groups representing Colorado ranchers seeking to delay reintroduction. A federal judge declined to grant the groups' request on Friday.

CPW also had to wait on the federal government to approve a special designation to treat Colorado's planned wolf population as experimental prior to reintroduc-

tion. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) last month approved the designation, called the 10(j) rule under the Endangered Species Act, which went into effect on Dec. 8.

The designation allows CPW to have "increased management flexibility," which includes the "authority to lethally remove wolves for management purposes."

CPW Director Jeff Davis thanked the USFWS for approving the designation in a statement Monday.

"Having the rule in place in early December helped CPW to stay on track to reintroduce wolves in 2023 with the ability to use the appropriate management tools," he said. "We'll continue releasing animals based on our plan to have wolves not just survive but thrive in Colorado as they did a century ago."

The wolves released Monday include a 68-pound juvenile female, a 76-pound juvenile male, a 76-pound juvenile female, a 93-pound juvenile male and a 108-pound adult male.

CPW's plan projects transferring 30 to 50 wolves to Colorado within five years for reintroduction. The agency will pay out up to \$15,000 per animal killed by wolves.

spring of 2024.

A reminder

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive exclusive assistance such as discounts, trips to the food pantry, complimentary bus rides, and home pick-up to attend senior lunches at the Pagosa Senior Center.

Seniors always ride free within town limits. Ride donations are also accepted and appreciated.

For more information about the MET including schedules and/or to inquire about rides to and from both Arboles and Durango, visit archuletacounty.org/MET or call (970) 264-2250.

Recognition

Continued from A5

Drive. "We're always looking for ways to expand routes and better serve our community," Bruce commented. "Seniors are a big part of what we do, and we work to tailor what we can to meet their needs."

In addition to five new stops, Archuleta County was awarded both federal and state grants to design and build a new transit facility. The facility will house the MET's administrative offices and a main bus terminal, complete with a lobby. The facility will be located near the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office at Harman Park, with a groundbreaking scheduled for the

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Charter school students present annual 'Snow Show'



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School
Pagosa Peak Open School students sing "Let it Snow" with the audience during the final act of the school's "Snow Show" Dec. 11 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

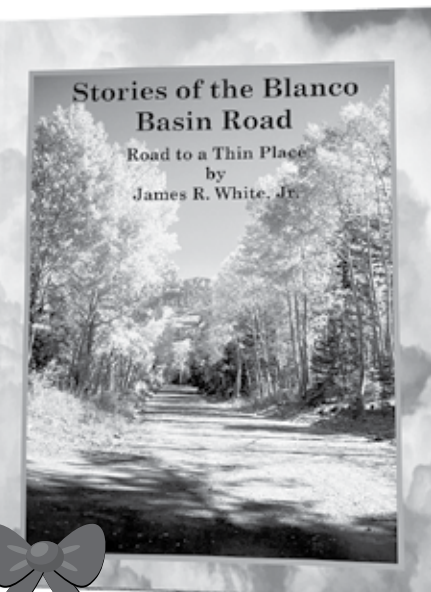
Charter school students present annual 'Snow Show'

By Emily Murphy
 Pagosa Peak Open School

The Pagosa Center for the Arts was flooded with more than 200 people, ready to be entertained by Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) students who worked all semester on creating a seasonal variety show for the community. PPOS Creatives Advisor Rain March organized, facilitated, planned and prepared the show. It was the school's third year of presenting the "Snow Show." This was the first year the school presented at the Pagosa Center for the Arts after the community feedback from the previous year included a need for a bigger space. PPOS was grateful to have the Moore family agree to letting the school use the theater space, which elevated the performance and provided the

students with a professional, authentic setting for their celebration of learning. Every student was represented in the "Snow Show," and presented their learning around the Colorado music and drama standards that align with each grade level. Students acted in musicals and plays, sang songs, and played instruments like recorders, ocerenas, guitars, drums and xylophones. Bits of humor were sprinkled throughout the 45-minute show while the audience ate homemade gingerbread men cookies and drank hot chocolate. A rendition of "Cinderella" included the evil stepmother demanding organic vegetables from the store used to cook her meal, and the prince offering Cinderella a job with a 401k. The first-grade chickens and turkeys in the "Gingerbread Man" pecked at each other and bobbed around while the

animals chased their cookie prey. The Grinch dramatically snuck around the middle-schoolers, stealing their props and running off. The show ended with a whole-school sing-a-long of "Let it Snow" that included audience participation. "It was magical," said kindergarten advisor Maggie Saunders. Students shared the sentiment. "I loved it in that theater and so did my mom," said first-grader Zaiden, who played a turtle in the "Gingerbread Man" musical. "She was so proud of me, and I was proud of me, too." PPOS is a K-8 district charter school focused on implementing a project-based learning curriculum in a restorative practices environment. Authentic audiences and settings where students share their learning are foundational to project-based learning.



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Colorado represented at Colorado River Conference

Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado's full-time commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission, recently addressed the more than a thousand Colorado River Water Users Association conference attendees at the 2023 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev. There, Mitchell stood up for Colorado water users who live on the front lines of climate change and regularly take significant cuts to their water supply. "When we say there's little water to conserve in Colorado, we're not being uncooperative. It's because we don't have large reservoirs above our diversions," said Mitchell. "We divert directly from creeks, streams, tributaries and the river itself. We use less water when there's less available. When we have a bad snowpack, we can't drain a massive reservoir to bail us out. Instead, our water users go without and aren't compensated for it. Colorado communities are doing their part, and they

feel the pain." This year's sold-out conference's theme was "Constructing a Resilient Future: Rebuilding From the Ground Up." The meetings, panels and hallway conversations helped set the stage for ongoing negotiations on improving the management of the river's largest reservoirs — Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Both reservoirs hit record lows in recent years as unprecedented drought and overreliance on the river continue to threaten a water supply for millions of people. The 30 Colorado River Basin tribes, seven states and Mexico are confronted with the extraordinary challenge of creating new operating rules for Lake Powell and Lake Mead to sustain and share this dwindling resource. "My water users have let me know very clearly that they are not going to accept a deal that maintains the status quo and continues to allow the Lower Basin to drain the system at all of our expense, but especially at the expense of the Upper Basin," Mitchell said during a panel with the seven Colorado

River Basin states. "Colorado water users are not interested in striking a deal that continues to allow Lower Basin overuse to deplete storage, drive the system to crisis and then look upstream to us for help." Less water flows into Lake Mead than what Nevada, Arizona and California take from it. This has resulted in a "structural deficit," contributing to the reservoirs hitting critically low levels. During the seven-state panel, representatives from these Lower Basin states agreed that the deficit is their problem to solve in a Post-2026 Operations agreement. "Colorado has asked for the Lower Basin states to recognize this overuse, and I appreciate that they have publicly accepted responsibility for fixing the structural deficit," Mitchell said. "I look forward to working alongside Arizona, California and Nevada, along with upper-division partners, to achieve this important goal of making sure we protect water users across the basin from another series of crises on the river well into the future."

Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas from Our Family to Yours



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Tax

Continued from front
23B-001 in November, which reduces the residential property tax rate from 6.765 percent to 6.7 percent for the 2023 tax year in addition to increasing the downward adjustments to residential property values to \$55,000.

She explained that backfill for SB 23B-001 will be funded with \$54 million in state funds and refunds, similar to SB 22-238.

Tully-Elliott added that she is “not positive” how this funding would be dispersed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Warren Brown, Tully-Elliott stated that the county will qualify to receive the backfill funding from SB 22-238, although she recommended that the county not plan on any funding since the amount of backfill is unknown.

County Attorney Todd Weaver stated that he expects the backfill funding will be received by the county as unanticipated revenue, which will potentially require a budget amendment.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked if the state has a deadline for distributing the backfill funds.

Tully-Elliott explained that she must submit all her reporting to the state by March 1, 2024, including valuations incorporating the downward adjustments from SB 22-238 — which will be used to calculate backfill funding — and valuations including the changes of SB 23B-001.

She stated that the assessor’s office is currently working on calculating these adjusted values, with the aim of completing certifications of mill levies for local governments “before Christmas,” although she noted that the deadline is in January.

Brown asked if the county would qualify for backfill under SB23B-001.

Tully-Elliott responded that the county will likely not qualify, adding that the bill provides backfill to local governments whose districts saw a property tax value increase of

more than 10 percent and less than 15 percent.

She added that fire districts, ambulance districts and health districts will receive backfill funding no matter what property value increases they experience.

Brown added that since the county is not “de-Bruiced” (exempt from the limitations of TABOR by permission of the voters), he understood that the county would also be disqualified for backfill.

Tully-Elliott commented that the value increases in the county are likely too large for the county to qualify for backfill.

Maez asked if the county would have benefited from not being under TABOR restrictions.

The assessor responded that she was unsure and that there are a large number of potential changes coming that could impact property tax rates and rules, meaning that the current efforts are a “Band-Aid on a big, open wound.”

Maez commented that the situation is “as clear as mud.”

Tully-Elliott expressed agreement, adding that the taxing entities in the county rely on the numbers her office provides to be accurate.

Brown commented that restricting property tax increases to 3 percent per year for the next two years, as proposed by Republicans in the Colorado Legislature, would have been “easier.”

Maez asked how these changes would impact those who appealed their property tax valuations.

Tully-Elliott explained that she calculated that the changes would result in a \$250 decrease in taxes per person for residential property, while the commercial property value reductions from SB 22-238 would result in an average \$420 per-person tax decrease.

She added that the tax rate reduction will reduce property values by

approximately \$4 dollar per \$100,000 of value.

Tully-Elliott added that these measures will only be in effect for this year and commented that “most people” will likely be unsure why their tax bill decreased, since it will not be itemized.

Maez commented that the situation is a “huge mess” and Tully-Elliott indicated agreement, adding that the process has involved a “lot of scrambling” due to the fast pace of the changes and the need for the county’s property tax calculation software vendor to create new code for the altered calculations.

She explained that the software is now updated and that staff have to process each step of the recalculations with breaks in between due to the needs of the software.

Brown asked if Tully-Elliott plans to post an explanation of the changes on the county website, noting that many people are confused about the alterations and that she is the best informed on the changes.

Brown added that he had referred some constituents to Tully-Elliott.

She commented that frustrations with the changes are increased by the fact that, due to having to run recalculations, the assessor’s office staff cannot look up changes to the taxes for specific property owners.

She added that there was “a lot of relief” when Proposition HH did not pass in the November election, but that the changes in SB 23B-001, which she suggested are similar to Proposition HH, have led to “people wondering, ‘Well, we voted this down and you’re going through with it anyway. What does our vote matter?’”

“Because, [Gov. Jared Polis] went ahead and did what he wanted to anyway even though it was voted down ... 60-40. ... I think people are gettin’ even more skittish about government ... right now.”

“Another reason not to trust gov-

ernment,” Maez said.

Tully-Elliott continued that the changes led to uncertainty among assessors, although advocates for assessors were able to have the deadlines extended and Archuleta County’s assessor software company was able to quickly update its calculations.

“I think this legislative knee-jerk reaction, a quick fix to everything, the people I think, at the end of the day, in another year or so, are gonna pay the bigger price for it, like they always do,” Maez said, with Tully-Elliott expressing agreement.

The meeting concluded with Commissioner Veronica Medina thanking Tully-Elliott for the update and for her work.

In an email to The SUN, Tully-Elliott adds that another concern from the public that her office faces is that property tax bills will be mailed out later, but that the deadline for payment is still the same.

County Treasurer Elsa White explains in an email that the deadline for payment of the first half of 2023 property taxes is unchanged and is Feb. 29, 2024, although SB 23B-001 waives the accrual of delinquent property taxes if a payment is made within 10 days of the mailing of the property owner’s tax statement by the county treasurer or electronic notification of the tax statement being sent.

She states that, according to the new timeline, her office will receive the new tax roll by Jan. 24, 2024, and will complete balancing and submit the file to the printer by Jan. 29, 2024.

She indicates that the printer believes it will take two weeks for the notices to be printed and mailed, likely leading to notices arriving around Feb. 12, 2024.

She notes that this should give the property owner time to pay the first half of the tax payment without interest, although she adds, “It will all depend on how quickly the certifications are turned in by the taxing authorities to the BoCC and when the BoCC certifies the levies.”

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Meetings

Continued from front
the BoH heard multiple presentations on the plan and the accompanying community health assessment, and that the board had indicated a desire for the PHIP to be updated, despite this not being required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Both Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown and La Plata County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton commented that the PHIP will be a useful tool for the county public health agencies following the dissolution of SJBPH at the end of the year.

BoH President Shere Byrd also commended staff for their work on the PHIP before the board unanimously approved the updated plan.

Interim Executive Director Brian Devine presented the 2023 supplemental budget, explaining that it incorporates changes to revenues and expenses for the district throughout the year.

He highlighted that SJBPH had significant unanticipated revenues in its final year, primarily in environmental health, access and linkage to care and communicable disease, as well as savings due to unfilled positions.

Despite the vacancies, Devine noted that the district was able to continue providing services through the year, primarily through staff collaboration and subcontractors, and that the retention bonus program put in place by the receiver for the district was largely successful in keeping key staff through the dissolution.

Devine also indicated that SJBPH’s funds at the point of dissolution are expected to be higher than initially estimated by the receiver, boosting the amount of funding that the counties will receive.

SJBPH Attorney Michael Goldman and BoH members expressed appreciation for the work put into the supplemental budget by staff prior to its approval.

The BoH also heard an update from SJBPH receiver Bellann Raile of Cordes and Company, with Raile and the board discussing funding for continuing insurance and legal representation for the district.

Devine also gave an executive director report, congratulating staff on maintaining services for the community during the dissolution and noting that most public-facing services would be ending on Dec. 15, with staff spending the remaining time performing wind-up activities and fulfilling requests from the county health agencies.

He also thanked the receivers for their assistance in the dissolution and emphasized his commitment to the success of the county health departments.

Near the end of the meeting, both Porter-Norton and Brown commented on the dissolution and provided updates on the county health departments.

Porter-Norton expressed appreciation for the SJBPH staff and BoH and their contributions to the community and stated her belief that La Plata County is positioned to succeed with its new health department.

She also highlighted that the county recently hosted an orientation event for the new public health staff and is making efforts to make the transition as smooth and welcoming as possible.

Brown stated that serving on the SJBPH BoH provided him with critical preparation for serving on the ACPHD BoH.

He commented that he believes that the relationship between La Plata County and Archuleta County improved through the dissolution, which he partially credited to the dedication and perseverance of SJBPH staff and their willingness to present solutions.

He stated that the ACPHD is the first department that Archuleta County has added in a “long time.”
“There was a feeling of being over-

whelmed and very much doubt that we could do this, and we’ve done it very well because of our community and because of this group,” Brown said. “Thank you for partnering with us for 75 years, thank you for leading us for 75 years and thank you for making our communities better for 75 years.”

The BoH then considered and approved a proclamation on the dissolution of the SJBPH BoH that outlines the history of the organization, the circumstances of its dissolution, and provides clarifications for the receiver and auditors to ensure the dissolution can be successfully completed.

The Dec. 12 ACPHD BoH meeting focused on training and reviewing materials that will be presented at the BoH’s meetings in January 2024, when the board will have authority for public health in the county and be able to take formal action.

Among the items on the agenda at the well-attended meeting were trainings for the board on Colorado Open Meetings Law and the Colorado Open Records Act given by County Attorney Todd Weaver, as well as an overview of the Colorado Public Health Act and the responsibilities of the department and BoH given by ACPHD Interim Director Ashley Wilson.

Wilson also explained that the BoH would need to select board officers, adopt bylaws and appoint a public health director at its meeting in January.

Brown volunteered to serve as the vice president for the BoH at the meeting, although no other members of the board expressed interest in the positions of president or treasurer at the meeting.

Wilson also presented draft bylaws for review by the board, which she explained dictate the structure and operational procedures of the board, such as how votes occur or what constitutes a quorum.

As part of the review, the board
■ See Meetings A9

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Fire district board approves purchase of two water tenders

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors approved the purchase of two Spartan tactical water tenders to replace aging equipment at the price of \$1,094,492 at its Dec. 12 board meeting.

PFPD Fire Chief Robert Bertram explained that the apparatus committee presented its recommendations to the board in November and that modifications to shorten the vehicles were agreed on at that meeting.

He stated that, since then, the district obtained an updated quote, with a price increase of approximately \$89,000 dollars and a build time increase of about 200 days from the previous quote in July.

He indicated that, with these changes, the build time would be 622 days and that the increase was driven by the market, not by the requested modifications.

Bertram commented that the price is a "hard number to swallow," but that it will not decrease and the build time will not get shorter.

He added that the committee spent "a lot of time" on selecting the

vehicles and that he recommended the board move forward with the purchase.

In response to board member questions, Bertram explained that the build time is typical for fire equipment currently and that the price was raised due to including water pumps, lights and other electronics on the vehicles.

The board and Bertram also discussed that the long build times will impact the district's overall apparatus replacement schedule.

Following this, the board unanimously approved moving forward with the tender purchase.

In an interview with The SUN, Bertram explained that the tenders to be replaced are both from 1998 and are becoming unreliable and unsafe to drive.

He indicated that the apparatus committee worked on the replacements for much of the year, generating a list of specifications for the tenders and soliciting bids, most of which arrived in July.

Following this, Bertram explained that the committee analyzed the bids for their adherence to the desired specifications, with the Spartan bid

coming the closest to matching.

He stated that the tenders are critical due to much of the area not having fire hydrants and that they include four-wheel-drive capabilities to expand the range of locations they can access.

Schedule change

Additionally, at the Dec. 12 meeting, the PFPD firemen's pension fund board voted to change its meeting to the first Tuesday of the month beginning in January to allow legal council to be present, matching a schedule change the PFPD board approved in November.

Additionally, the pension board voted to realign its schedule to have quarterly meetings at 5:30 p.m. before the PFPD Board of Directors meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in January, April, July and October instead of the current schedule of meetings in January, May, August, October and December.

The PFPD Board of Directors also approved a motion setting its schedule to hold monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in 2024.

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Meetings

Continued from A8

the discussed the mechanics and purpose of consent agendas, which Weaver explained are intended to allow quick approval of noncontroversial items, and the mechanics of how agendas would be set and how early agendas for meetings would be posted.

The board then moved on to discuss the days and times for ACPHD BoH meetings, agreeing that holding meetings monthly would be ideal in the beginning of the agency.

Following further discussion, the board agreed to potentially hold regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. and hold a special meeting on the first Thursday — Jan. 4, 2024 — at 1 p.m. to handle items related to setting up the board and appointing the director.

The board also discussed regular items to be added to meeting agendas, with board members expressing an interest in having regular updates from staff on both their current activities and future planning.

Wilson asked the board what level of involvement it wishes to have with the creation of a five-year plan for ACPHD operations, noting that she intends to seek grant funding to help support strategic planning efforts.

She added that the board could determine at a later date if it wants to hold work sessions to discuss the data gathered by SJBPH as part of the community health assessment and potential priorities for the five-year plan.

Wilson also briefed the board on the structure of the budget and the ways in which funding comes to the department from the CDPHE.

She explained that the depart-

ment has a master task order with the CDPHE and that all CDPHE program funding comes as separate task orders through this master task order.

She pointed out that the CDPHE provides funding based on a variety of formulas and that this funding is not necessarily sufficient to fully run the programs, requiring the BoH to decide if it wishes to spend more money on a program or operate it at a limited level with the funding provided.

Wilson explained that the BoH has the capability to choose to not provide a variety of services that are not statutorily required if capacity or funds to operate them do not exist.

Brown added that spending by the BoH is ultimately controlled by the Board of County Commissioners, since the funds being used are county funds.

ACPHD BoH member Jon Bruss suggested that programs will need to be supported by data showing that the issue is important to health in the community.

Wilson commented that data from the SJBPH health assessment and PHIP, as well as data collected from local medical providers, will be critical in shaping ACPHD priorities.

The group then discussed data sources for public health, with Wilson noting the importance of developing local data sources for data that does not otherwise exist at the county level.

Wilson also briefed the board on the 2024 budget, which she stated changed extensively over the budgeting process due to changes in CDPHE funding and other factors.

She outlined the variety of funds the department will receive and the

services they will support, although she noted that some of the details of funding and how it is used may shift.

Wilson added that the BoH will also need to ratify at its first meetings a range of documents that the interim BoH, composed of the Archuleta County commissioners, approved prior to the creation of the BoH, particularly water quality regulations.

Wilson and Archuleta County Commissioner and BoH member Veronica Medina noted that BoH members need to complete state-mandated training, although County Manager Derek Woodman noted that the training content will change after the beginning of the year.

The meeting concluded with Medina noting that the next meeting may be longer because the board members will have more time to review the material being considered prior to the meeting.

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Colorado Avalanche Information Center launches The Snow Pool, invites participation

Colorado Avalanche Information Center

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) is teaming up with the Avalanche Research Program of Simon Fraser University in Canada (SFU) to launch The Snow Pool.

The purpose of The Snow Pool is to have a broad group of people answer questions about how they understand and use avalanche safety information.

Snow Pool participants will be invited to share feedback to help improve communication in Colorado, which could help save lives.

"How we share avalanche safety information has evolved dramatically over the years, but that change has been based primarily on expert opinion," said CAIC Director Ethan Greene. "Feedback from Snow Pool participants will allow us to understand how different kinds of people currently use our information so that we can improve our risk communication methods."

The CAIC is recruiting all types of

users — hikers, snowmobilers, skiers, etc. — with all levels of experience.

Those interested can learn more and sign up at <https://caicsignup.avalancheresearch.ca/en/index.php>.

The initial sign-up takes about 10 minutes and is best done from a computer.


Individuals who sign up will receive emails from the CAIC and SFU to participate in short online user surveys and provide feedback on CAIC forecasts and information.

"We are especially interested in hearing from individuals who are just starting their backcountry adventures or only occasionally go into the backcountry," said Greene. "This is an opportunity to be part of a community that contributes to the development of improved avalanche communications. Participants will be entered into prize drawings provided by the Friends of CAIC."

This project is a collaboration between the CAIC, Friends of CAIC, SFU and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.


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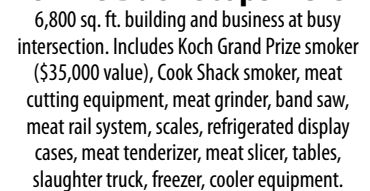
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Sports

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates improve to 4-3 with two wins

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates notched two victories last week, improving their record to 4-3.

After the Salida game was moved to Saturday, Dec. 2, the Lady Pirates posted a win over the Buena Vista Demons on Friday, Dec. 1, winning by their largest margin of the year 50-25.

After losing to Buena Vista last year, coach Sarah Osborn indicated she expected this year to be different.

"I told the girls we should have this game and it should be an opportunity for everyone to get some playing time if we go out and do what we're supposed to do, if we play the way that we know how," she said. "One of our goals for this game was to have seven people in the books, so scoring over five points, and we had eight people in the books, which is a good testament that we're developing depth to our team, and what was really cool to see at this game is we had eight people in the books."

Pagosa opened with two consecutive steals, and a 3-pointer by Daveyann Snarr in the first quarter helped lead the team to an 11-6 lead at the end of the first period of play.

The Lady Pirates played a dominant second quarter, not allowing the Demons to score until two minutes were left in the half. Pagosa outscored Buena Vista by 10 in the quarter and posted a 26-11 halftime lead.

The Pirates continued to dominate in the second half, scoring 12 points in each of the third and fourth quarters while limiting the Demons to single digits. The final score was 50-25.

Osborn indicated she is pleased with the team putting together four consistent quarters, stating, "I think that's just part of us getting more mature... We haven't done it every game yet, but I think this was one where we had positive things in every quarter rather than one really good quarter... We maintained composure and... we also just played a solid four quarters, even with our subs in."

The Lady Pirates' scoring was led by Annie O'Donnell with 12 points and Karsyn Shahan with 10. Liz Currier scored eight points. Kylie Ketchum added six. Lexi Campbell, Daveyann Snarr and Kaila Limebrook scored four each. Adelyn Hittle had two.

In addition to leading the team in scoring, O'Donnell led the team rebounding effort with eight. Snarr had six boards, Shahan five, Hittle and Ketchum three each, and Campbell two. Amber Snarr, Limebrook and Currier added one rebound each. The team racked up 15 offensive rebounds and 16 defensive rebounds for the game.

Pagosa had nine assists, eight steals and four blocks while committing eight turnovers for the game.

The team shot 53 percent from the free-throw line, making nine of 17 attempts.

The win evened the Pirates' record at 3-3, while Buena Vista dropped its record to 3-2.

On Saturday, Dec. 16 the Lady Pirates squared off against the Salida Spartans and chalked up a 42-37 victory.

Pagosa opened the game with an 8-0 run and continued to dominate the Spartans throughout the first quarter, finishing with an 18-3 lead.

The Spartans opened the second quarter with four quick points and a trapping defense that gave the Lady Pirates some issues. Two 3-pointers by Shahan helped the team to even the scoring in the quarter at eight points for each team. The Pirates led 26-11 at halftime.

Salida opened the third quarter with six straight points to bring the game to 26-20, and the Lady Pirates were also plagued by foul trouble. The Spartans outscored the Lady Pirates 11-7 in the quarter, but a 3-pointer by



Liz Currier goes up for two of her 15 points in the Lady Pirates' Dec. 16 win against the Salida Spartans. SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Ketchum extended the Pagosa lead to 33-22 at the end of the third period.

Salida continued to battle back in the fourth quarter. Pagosa managed to close out the victory with the final score 42-37 in favor of the Lady Pirates.

"I thought the girls played really well with the situation they were put in," Osborn said. "I think it could have been a 15-point game... and there's a good lesson of playing with foul trouble, maintaining composure and not letting that team crawl back in when they had the momentum."

She also recognized the contributions from her players against both Salida and Buena Vista, saying, "I do want to highlight that I thought Annie had a really good game of cleaning up offensive boards and making her bunnies... she had 12 points, nine rebounds... [In the Salida game] we had an even contribution from Annie, Carson, Kylie and Liz as my starting five, and then extra points from those who came in, which is really nice."

Currier led the Pirates in scoring with 15 points against Salida. Shahan added nine, O'Donnell had eight, Ketchum scored six, and Daveyann Snarr and Hittle had two points each.

Shahan had eight rebounds and two steals. Hittle had four rebounds and one assist. Amber Snarr had three rebounds, as did O'Donnell to

go with her three steals, two blocks and one assist.

Ketchum had two rebounds, two assists and two steals. Daveyann Snarr had two rebounds, two assists, two steals and one block. Currier added two rebounds and two assists.

Pagosa had 24 rebounds, eight assists, nine steals and three blocks while committing 12 turnovers in the game.

The team shot 58 percent from the free-throw line, making seven of 12 attempts.

The win improved the Pirates' record to 4-3, while Salida dropped to 2-4 for the season.

With a game upcoming with Durango, Osborn said, "What we're

going to focus on this week is eliminating those early fouls in the game... If we play the way we've been playing and for all four quarters, again, I think our girls can pull it out. It'll be a close game."

The Lady Pirates are now ranked ninth in the 4A CHSAA Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seeding.

Pagosa will continue play this week with one away game at 5A Durango.

The Lady Pirates will play the 4-3 Demons at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Durango is No. 15 in the 5A RPI standings. robert@pagosasun.com



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The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
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for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
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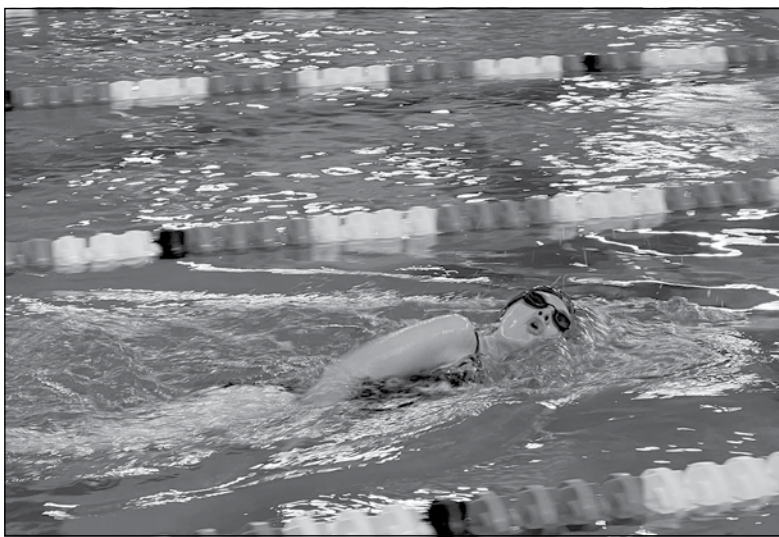
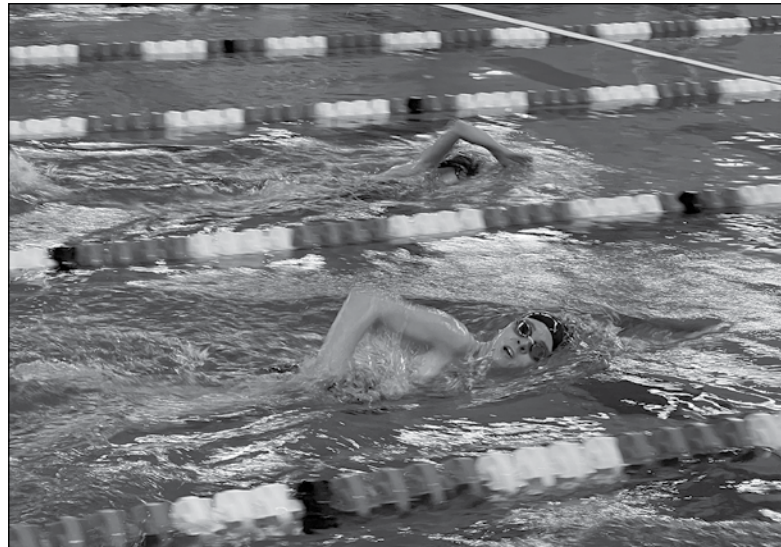
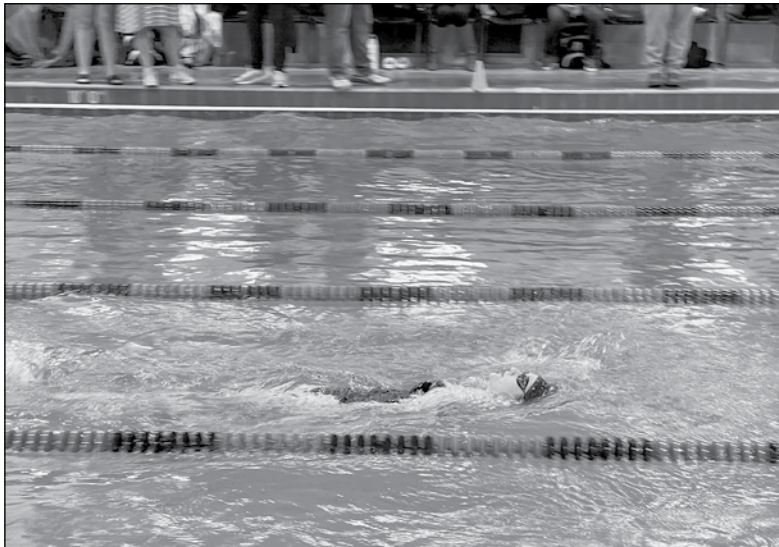
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SWIM



Lady Pirate swimmers compete at a pair of meets in Montrose and Alamosa over the last week. Several Lady Pirates posted standout performances, according to coach Heather Miller.

Photos courtesy Heather Miller

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Lady Pirates step outside comfort zone, overcome challenges at meets

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team closed out the 2023 portion of its schedule with a pair of meets over the last week. "In these last two meets all of our swimmers swam events that were outside of their comfort zones and many of them overcame those challenges," coach Heather Miller wrote in an email to The SUN.

The Lady Pirates took part in an eight-team meet in Montrose on

Friday, Dec. 15, with the Lady Pirates coming in seventh with 24 points.

The 200-meter medley relay team of Chloe Gantt, Karis Blackman, Marlowe Hedgecock and Asia Gorman finished 11th and earned six points with a time of two minutes, 30.66 seconds.

Gantt took 12th in the 200-meter freestyle, earning three points with her time of 2:43.97. Rebecca Stewart followed in 16th with a time of 3:14.25, Hedgecock finished 17th in 3:20.69, Elissa Mars took 18th with a time of 3:32.24 and Natalia Monterroso finished

19th with a time of 3:32.70.

Leah Blackman took 11th in the 200-meter individual medley with a time of 3:33.00, earning two points for the Lady Pirates.

Seven Lady Pirates took part in the 50-meter freestyle, with Karis Blackman leading the team with a 15th-place finish and a time of 32.63 seconds. Grace Cram finished 17th with a time of 33.51 seconds. With a time of 37.24 seconds, Gemma Slingerland finished 27th. Bella Gutierrez followed in 30th with a time of 40.55

■ See Swim A13

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BASKETBALL

Pirates continue hot start with two more victories

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirates continued their hot start to the season, racking up two more victories last week and improving their overall record to 6-1.

The Pirates notched a win over Buena Vista on Friday, Dec. 15, toppling the previously undefeated Demons by a score of 55-40.

Nathaniel Kinsley gave Pagosa a 4-0 lead to open the game with an offensive rebound and score, followed by a fast-break bucket.

Blake Laner scored six points in the period on strong inside play, and the Pirates led 10-5 at the end of the first quarter.

Pagosa continued to play well in the second quarter. A 3-pointer by Colt Lewis and a steal by Laner put the Pirates up 21-7 and forced Buena Vista to call a timeout with four minutes left in the half. The second quarter ended with a 3-pointer by Kinsley, and the Pirates led the Demons by a score of 26-16 at halftime.

In the third quarter, 3-pointers by Kinsley and Chase Harper along with a putback by Ridge Wilson stretched Pagosa's lead to 34-16. After a timeout, the Demons went on a 7-0 run to pull within 11. A fast-break basket by Creede Dozier ended the Salida run, and two 3-pointers by Lewis gave the Pirates to a 42-28 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Pagosa maintained its lead throughout the fourth quarter and defeated Buena Vista by a final score of 55-40.

Kinsley led the Pirates in scoring with 14 points, and Laner chipped in 13. Ridge Wilson had eight points, Harper seven, Lewis six, Seth Ziegler five, and Creede Dozier rounded out the Pirate scoring with two.

Laner led the team in rebounding with seven and also had three assists, one steal and one block.

Kinsley added five rebounds and one assist, and Ziegler had four rebounds. Lewis contributed three rebounds, six assists and three steals.

Harper had two rebounds, five assists, two steals and one block. Wilson contributed two rebounds, two assists, two steals and one block. Jaxten Schiel had two rebounds and Trey Garcia added an assist.

The Pirates missed nine of 13 attempts from the free-throw line to shoot 31 percent.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, the Pirates played Salida and gathered their sixth win of the season by defeating the Spartans 56-40.

Salida began the game with a trapping defense and quickly took a 2-0 lead with a steal. The Pirates responded with a bucket by Kinsley and a 3-pointer by Wilson. Pagosa led at the end of the first quarter by the score of 13-6.

The Spartans continued to trap in the second quarter, but the Pirates managed to carry the same seven-point lead into halftime, 25-18.

The Pirates opened the third quarter



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Blake Laner soars to score two points in the Pirates' victory over the Salida Spartans on Dec. 16.

with six unanswered points to extend their lead to 31-18. Salida countered with a run of their own to close within seven, but Pagosa pushed the lead back to eight at the end of the third period, 37-28.

In the fourth quarter, the Pirates extended the lead to 43-30 on buckets by Laner and Wilson. Salida fought back to move within five, but Laner scored six straight points to make it 51-

40. A breakaway foul and technical by Salida and free-throw shooting by the Pirates sealed the victory for Pagosa with the final score 56-40.

Coach Wes Lewis was unavailable for comment and additional stats were not available by press time Wednesday.

With the two wins, the Pirates improved their record to 6-1. Salida has a record of 4-2.

The Pirates are now ranked No. 3 in the 4A CHSAA Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seeding.

Pagosa's next game will be this week with an away game at 5A Durango.

The Pirates will play the 6-3 Demons at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21.

The Demons are No. 15 in the 5A RPI standings.

robert@pagosasun.com



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Morning Prayer with Lessons & Carols

December 24, 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve:
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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

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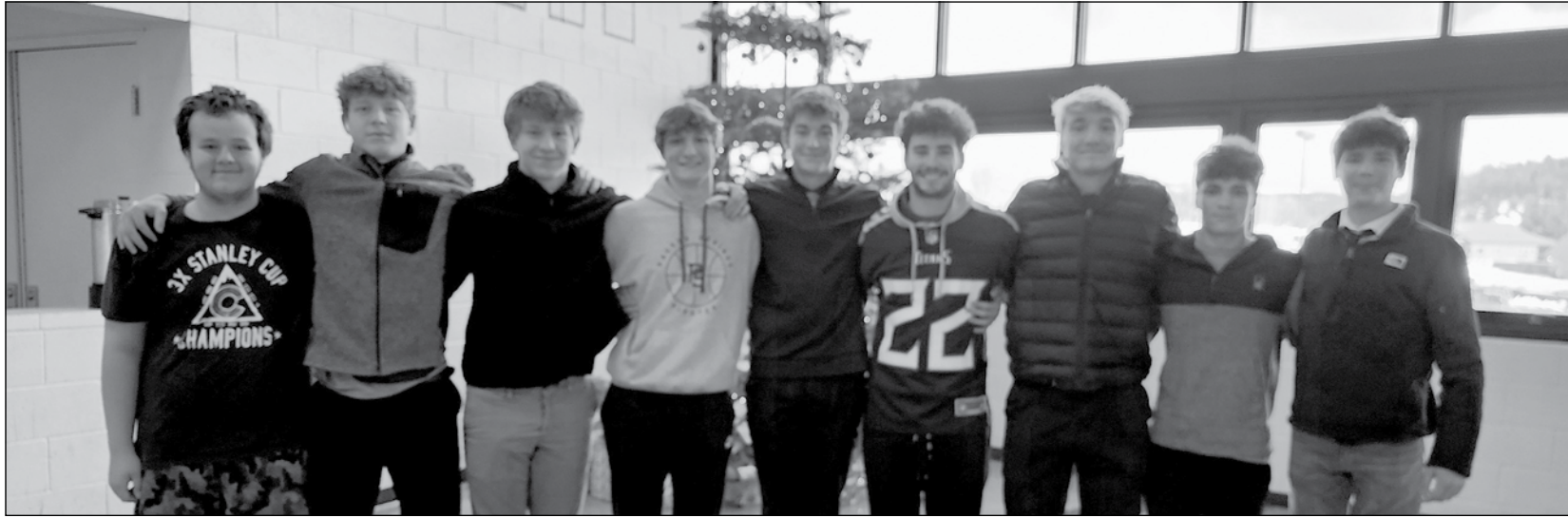


Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Several members of the Pirate football team recently earned postseason honors for their work during the fall season. From left to right are Davian Coss (all-conference honorable mention), Jaxten Schiel (all-conference honorable mention), Harley Armijo (all-conference first team and all-state honorable mention), Seth Aucoin (all-conference first team), Blake Laner (all-conference first team and all-state honorable mention), Gavin Lindahl (all-conference first team and all-state first team), Seth Zeigler (all-conference honorable mention), Colton Lucero (all-conference honorable mention) and Creede Dozier (all-conference first team). Not pictured are Conner Kelly (all-conference first team and all-state second team), Freddy Barnas (all-conference honorable mention), Jayden Martin (all-conference honorable mention) and coach Nathan Morales (conference coach of the year).

WRESTLING

Pirates secure two third-place finishes at Warrior Classic

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team competed at the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction on Dec. 15 and 16, taking 14th place overall and securing two third-place finishes.

Coach Dan Janowsky commented that the tournament was a "really good test," with the team's top performers being tested, as well as achieving victories over difficult competition and wrestling well.

The coach stated that many of these matches were hard fought and close, with team members remaining active and scoring points even in matches they ultimately lost.

He stated, for the team's top wrestlers, the tournament was a "very positive sign of where they're at and where they can go."

He added that the tournament was also a good experience for the team's less-skilled wrestlers, who gained high-level tournament experience and an opportunity to "see what they need to do."

Janowsky commented that there was "a little disappointment" among members of the team on Dec. 15 about their level of success, adding, "When you put a lot into it and you don't get what you want, you're a little

disappointed, and we gotta do better and that goes with the territory."

The coach added that many of the challenges the team's less-successful wrestlers faced were difficulties in psychologically adapting to the intensity of competition at the tournament instead of technical or physical difficulties.

He stated that less-experienced wrestlers "wrestle in spurts" with gaps in between and that, although many of these wrestlers did "good things, we just have to figure out how to string those things together."

He explained that the team will work on enhancing wrestlers' understanding of their mental challenges and then working at practicing under high intensity.

"I really think that's the biggest change that has to take place," Janowsky said. "I think these guys, and most young teenagers, their bodies are young and strong and capable, but the mind tells them otherwise."

In the 126-pound weight class, Stephen Pair went 0-2, receiving a bye in the first championship round and being pinned in the second consolation round.

Hudson Mazur, in the 132-pound weight class, went 1-2 and scored three points for the team.

He was pinned in the first cham-

pionship round, pinned his opponent in the second championship round and was pinned in the second consolation round.

In the 138-pound weight class, Luke Tressler in the went 5-1, taking third place and scoring 24 points.

He pinned both his opponents in the first and second championship rounds, and defeated his opponent by decision in the quarterfinals before being pinned in the semifinals.

He then pinned his opponents in the consolation semifinals and the third-place match to take third.

In the semifinals, Tressler faced an opponent currently seeking his fourth state title, the coach explained, adding that the team had not wrestled him before and "didn't have a very good feel for him" in the initial encounter, although they would like a rematch to attempt to improve.

In the 144-pound weight class, Colton Lucero took third place, going 5-1 and scoring 22 points.

He pinned his opponent in the first championship round, won by decision in the second championship round and pinned his opponent in the quarterfinals before being pinned in semifinals.

Lucero then defeated his opponent in the consolation semifinals with a pin before winning the third-place match by decision.

Janowsky explained that Lucero's bracket included several highly ranked state wrestlers, including the wrestler who defeated him in the semifinals, where the coach explained that Lucero was leading until his opponent manipulated him into a position he was less familiar with and pinned him.

In the 150-pound weight class, Wyatt Hoover went 0-2, being pinned in the first championship round and losing by decision in the first consolation round.

Seth Aucoin, wrestling in the 165-pound weight class, scored three points and went 1-2.

He was pinned in the first championship round, pinned his opponent in the first consolation round and was pinned again in the second consolation round.

Derek Carter, wrestling in the 175-pound weight class, went 0-2 and was pinned in the first championship round and the first consolation round.

■ See Wrestling A14

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Swim

■ Continued from A11

seconds. Natalie Talley finished 32nd with a time of 46.14 seconds, and was followed by Lucia Rivera in 33rd with a time of 46.40 seconds and Ruby Snell in 34th with a time of 47.22 seconds.

Karis Blackman led the Lady Pirates in the 100-meter freestyle, logging a time of 1:15.97 to finish 21st. Leah Blackman finished 27th with a time of 1:24.69. Monterroso followed in 28th with a time of 1:28.65. Gutierrez logged a time of 1:35.14 to finish 30th. Mars followed in 31st with a time of 1:37.46, and Talley finished 32nd with a time of 1:40.83.

Cram finished 13th and earned two points for the team in the 500-meter freestyle with a time of 7:48.31, while Slingerland earned one point with a 15th-place finish with a time of 8:34.02.

Three Pagosa teams took part in the 200-meter freestyle relay.

The team of Gorman, Gantt, Karis Blackman and Hedgecock finished 10th and earned eight points with a time of 2:10.77.

The team of Leah Blackman, Monterroso, Cram and Slingerland finished 15th with a time of 2:29.97, earning two points.

The team of Stewart, Gutierrez, Mars and Talley finished 16th with a time of 2:49.89.

In the 100-meter backstroke, Gantt finished 14th with a time of 1:27.01 and Rivera finished 21st with a time of 2:13.38.

In the 100-meter breaststroke, Hedgecock finished 16th with a time of 1:40.30. Snell finished 22nd with a time of 1:56.19, and Gorman followed in 23rd with a time of 1:56.90.

Then, on Monday, the team traveled to Adams State University to take on Sargent, with Sargent logging a 108-45 win.

Two Lady Pirate teams took part in the 200 medley relay, with the team of Karis Blackman, Leah Blackman, Gantt and Dharma Adams finishing second and earning four points with a time of 2:34.03.

The team of Mars, Slingerland, Monterroso and Gutierrez finished

fourth with a time of 3:06.43.

Gorman took third and earned three points in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:54.40. Stewart followed in fourth with a time of 3:05.69, earning two points. Talley finished sixth with a time of 4:23.48.

In the 200 individual medley, Gantt finished second with a time of 3:20.52, earning four points.

Three Lady Pirates picked up points in the 50 freestyle, with Adams winning the event with a time of 31.00 seconds to earn six points, Leah Blackman finishing third and earning three points with a time of 35.37 seconds, and Mars finishing fifth and earning one point with a time of 37.95 seconds.

Adams took third in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:12.84, earning three points. Mars earned one point with a fifth-place finish in 1:36.20.

Gorman also took third in the 500 freestyle with a time of 7:47.09, earning three points. Slingerland followed in fourth with a time of 8:46.41, earning two points.

Three Lady Pirate teams competed in the 200 freestyle relay.

The team of Leah Blackman, Karis Blackman, Slingerland and Gorman took second with a time of 2:23.47, earning four points.

The team of Stewart, Gutierrez, Monterroso and Mars finished fourth with a time of 2:34.88.

The team of Marie Smith, Snell, Rivera and Talley finished fifth in 3:08.76.

In the 100 backstroke, Stewart logged a fourth-place finish with a time of 1:38.28, earning two points.

Monterroso earned one point after finishing fifth with a time of 1:49.12.

Karis Blackman took third in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:29.73, earning three points. Leah Blackman took fifth in the event with a time of 1:35.11, earning one point. Rivera followed in sixth with a time of 1:57.26.

In the 400 freestyle relay, the team of Gorman, Gantt, Slingerland and Adams took third with a time of 5:09.32, earning two points.

In her email, Miller notes several swimmers stood out over the two events.

"As far as swimmers rising to the occasion, Grace Cram and Asia Gorman really were standout swimmers in Montrose," Miller wrote. "Grace completed her first 500 Freestyle and Asia [swam] 100 Butterfly: both very difficult swims in terms of pacing and technique. At both Montrose and Sargent, Chloe [Gantt] really stepped up as a swimmer, leading by example through her incredible perseverance at both meets. She PR'd in the 200 Freestyle in Montrose and although sick in Sargent, managed to garner second place in the 200 IM."

Now, the Lady Pirates will have a break from formal competition until they head to Durango for a pair of meets on Jan. 12 and 13, 2024.

"We hope to continue working on endurance during the time we can swim and that our athletes get and stay healthy over the break, rest up and are ready for more competition (five more meets) in the month of January," Miller wrote.

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Parks and rec board discusses projects

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

On Dec. 7, 2023, the Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board conducted its regular monthly meeting at the Town Hall.

The meeting began with the Tree Board meeting.

Darren Lewis, parks and recreation director for the Town of Pagosa Springs, provided an update that dead cottonwoods by the pickleball courts will be removed and ongoing tree maintenance will be continued.

Lewis indicated also that he had talked with Josh Braun of the Colorado State Forest Service in Durango regarding updates on possible grants and that he would be researching those to determine if they could be used for next year.

Lewis then reported he had submitted the annual application for the Tree City USA membership and that there should be no issues maintaining that status.

The Tree Board meeting was adjourned with the note that the next meeting would be in March.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was then called to order.

Lewis provided the board an update on the Festival of Trees, which

“We raised the most we’ve ever raised. What was dispersed for all 20 nonprofits was \$46,121.50. And so that was very impressive, and I couldn’t thank the crowd enough.”
Darren Lewis

occurred on Dec. 1 and included 20 nonprofits.

Lewis reported, “It was a very successful event. The generosity was overwhelming in regard to the bid-

ding process on these trees from the community. We raised the most we’ve ever raised. What was dispersed for all 20 nonprofits was \$46,121.50. And so that was very impressive, and I couldn’t thank the crowd enough.”

Lewis then shared the Parks Department report from Parks Supervisor Nick Printz, noting that the Christmas lighting had been installed and illuminated throughout the parks and that it was “a collaboration between the public works department and the parks department. They do a great job in regards to that and it’s a lot of work, but they look beautiful. I’m very pleased with it.”

Lewis reported that the snow removal was going well with the new staff who are currently learning their respective snow removal routes and equipment, and that the 6th Street connector trail project was completed.

“I’ve gotten some great feedback from it already from the community in regards to it, so they’re pleased with it,” Lewis shared.

He added additional work was completed on the pickleball courts,

including a new sidewalk, an asphalt parking lot and some new landscaping, and also the mulching of the 5th Street trail per direction from the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

Discussion ensued about the 5th Street easement, with it noted that some of the condo owners do not want it, and about possible other connections to the 6th Street trail and that the mulch would be washed out again by high waters in the spring.

Lewis then presented the Recreation Department report, highlighting the data provided by Recreation Supervisor Amanda Gadowski, Recreation Supervisor. Per her report, for the month of November, the Ross Aragon Community Center had 175 people participate in free community programs.

■ See Projects A16

Registration open for youth basketball, youth pickleball

By Matt Zaborowski
Town of Pagosa Springs

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

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

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

Practices and games will be Mondays through Thursdays at the Ross

Aragon Community Center.

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 available

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

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

WRESTLING

Lady Pirates compete in Bayfield scrimmage

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate girls’ wrestling division competed at the Bayfield tournament on Dec. 16, which was reworked into a scrimmage.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained that the reworking was driven by “a couple” teams withdrawing from the tournament.

He added that team scores are not kept for scrimmages, although the event included referees and match scores.

He stated that the event was a “really good simulation of competition” and that the division is “clearly getting better” and “got a lot out of it.”

The Lady Pirates will next compete in a Jan. 17, 2024, dual against Ignacio in Ignacio beginning at 5 p.m.
joshp@pagosahun.com

Wrestling

Continued from A13

In the 190-pound weight class, Connor Kelly scored eight points for the team and went 3-2.

He won with a pin in the first championship round and by decision in the second championship round before losing by decision in the quarterfinals.

Kelly then won the fourth consolation round with a major decision before being pinned in the fifth consolation round.

The coach noted that Kelly was defeated in the quarterfinal by an opponent who defeated him at the previous week’s Columbine Tournament, although Kelly’s performance improved between the matches.

He added that, in both of Kelly’s defeats, he was narrowing the scoring gap on his opponents but “ran out of time” and “had to take some chances.”

Harley Armijo, wrestling in the 215-pound weight class, went 2-2 and scored six points.

He received a bye in the first championship round before losing by decision in the second.

Armijo recovered, pinning his opponents in the second and third consolation rounds before losing the fourth consolation round by decision.

Janowsky explained that one of Armijo’s defeats came at the hands of a wrestler who placed third in the weight class overall.

He added both of Armijo’s losses were one-point defeats and that Armijo made some errors in them, wrestling more aggressively than Janowsky believed was optimal, leaving room for him to improve and potentially secure victories in the future.

He also noted that Armijo is “very undersized” in his weight class, being

closer to Kelly in size and weight.

The Pirates also competed in the Durango Quad in Durango on Dec. 20, with duals against Durango, Mancos and Farmington, N.M.

The results of this event will be reported in the Dec. 28 issue of The SUN.

Janowsky explained that the teams in the quad are similar to the Pirates in the sense that they contain strong wrestlers but do not have a consistently strong lineup.

“So, we hope that we can match our better guys against their better guys first,” Janowsky said.

He also emphasized the benefits of this competition to the team’s training, noting that the event provides a strong motivation to engrain lessons from the Warrior Classic and put them into action prior to winter break.
joshp@pagosahun.com



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 Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFFS GARY D. IMHOFF and S. DENISE IMHOFF
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
T. DUDLEY HOUSE and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
Lot 21 of Block 13 in AMENDEED ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 2, according to the plat thereof filed for record June 15, 1971 as Reception No. 74503. Respectfully Submitted this 27th day of November, 2023.
Published in *The Pagosa Sun*
First Publication: December 7, 2023
Last Publication: January 4, 2024
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston
Duke Eggleston, #24965

160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 403-1580
(222898)
DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Case Number: 2023CV30085
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: (970) 264-8160
Plaintiff: LAURA KIM NOVAK v. Defendants: JACK L. RICH; RICH ENTERPRISES and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.
Submitting Attorney: Duke Eggleston, #24965
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFFS LAURA KIM NOVAK
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
JACK L. RICH; RICH ENTERPRISES 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 575, as recorded in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Archuleta County, Colorado on April 1, 1991 in Book 326, Pages 10, 11 and 12 as Reception Number 0178458, situated in Aspen Springs Subdivision, Archuleta County, Colorado.
Respectfully Submitted this 8th day of December, 2023.

Published in *The Pagosa Sun*
First Publication: December 21, 2023
Last Publication: January 18, 2024
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston
Duke Eggleston, #24965
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 403-1580
(223898)
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
Office Phone Number: 970-403-8093
Cell Phone Number: 970-317-0341
FAX Number: 970-403-8091
E-mail: marla@underrell-law.com
SUMMONS (TO QUIET TITLE) BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF: BERNADETTE M. CANDELARIA GONZALES
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after the service of this summons upon you in the State of Colorado or within 35 days after service of this summons upon you outside the State of Colorado. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 21 or 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded

in the complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet title to: The NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 24, Township 34 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M., South of the Ute Line, TOGETHER WITH all water and water rights, wells, ditch and ditch rights, groundwater rights, and related easements and infrastructure appurtenant to, historically used on or associated therewith, and any and all water rights adjudicated to the Subject Property, including but not limited to 1 and 1/2 c.f.s. of water equivalent to 70 acre-feet of irrigation water, in the Riverview Ditch, a/k/a Ditch No. 182 off the Piedra River, pursuant to Priority No. 258, with an historic date of June 1, 1912, and a decreed date of June 1, 1921; ALSO TOGETHER WITH all surface and subsurface mineral interests, of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to oil, gas, CO2 and their constituents and all other minerals owned by Grantor that may be produced from the property.
Dated this 7th day of November, 2023. Published in the *Pagosa Sun* Newspaper.
First Publication: November 23, 2023.
Last Publication: December 21, 2023.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 7th day of November, 2023. THE LAW FIRM OF MARLA C. 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)
Lien Sale Auction Advertisement
Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the Colorado Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 38-21.5 103 et. seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and/or other misc. items. Auction to be held at 10:00 am On December 29, 2023 at www.self-storageauction.com. The property is stored at: Airport Self Storage, 201 County Road 600, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 NAME OF TENANT
Emily Hawkins
Gary Barrett
12/21, 12/28/23
CNS-3765188#
THE SUN (PAGOSA SPRINGS)
Published December 21 & 28, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224106)

Notice of 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 Archuleta County is seeking proposals for Professional Cleaning Services for all County Facilities. Proposals will be received by the Archuleta County Finance Department at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, until 2:00 p.m. on January 4, 2024. The Invitation for Bids can be found on the county website at www.archuletacounty.org.
Published December 21 & 28, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223950)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Jerrald Granok, Case Number 2023 PR 30048
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 21, 2024 (date)*, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 24, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224176)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Silvia Maria Doglia, Case Number 2023 PR 30046
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 21, 2024 (date)*, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 24, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224180)

Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors approved changes to the rates and capital investment fees for water & wastewater service customers. The changes will increase the minimum monthly service charge per equivalent unit and increase the volume rate charges by 3% annually through 2031 and will equate to a 27% cumulative increase over the 8 year period for water service customers.
The following changes will be implemented in 2024:
WATER CHARGES
Monthly Service Charge: (per equivalent unit) increase from \$31.44 to \$32.38
Volume Charge:
2,001-8,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons) increase from \$5.64 to \$5.81
8,001-20,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons) increase from \$11.29 to \$11.63
Over 20,001 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons) increase from \$14.17 to \$14.60
Water Fill Station Charge per 1,000 gallons: increase from \$12.18 to \$12.55
Water Availability of Service increase from \$14.30 to \$14.70
Wastewater Availability of Service increase from \$12.50 to \$16.25
WASTEWATER CHARGES
The changes to wastewater service charges include an initial 30% annual rate increase beginning in 2024 and ending in 2025, a 5% annual rate increase beginning in 2026 and ending in 2029 and ending in an 15% annual rate increase in years 2030 and 2031. These increases will equate to a 172% cumulative increase over the 8 year period.
Monthly Service Charge: (per equivalent unit) increase from \$32.90 to \$42.64
Short Term Rental Service Charge (1.4X Base Rate) \$59.70
CAPITAL INVESTMENT FEES
Capital Investment Fees for Water increase from \$5,352.37 to \$8,958.00
Capital Investment Fees for Wastewater increase from \$1,178.98 to \$15,697.00
The Water and Wastewater Rate Study can be found at <http://www.pawsd.org>
For assistance regarding how these proposed rate changes could affect your water bill, please call 970-731-2691 and a staff member will be able to do a comparison based upon your historical usage.
Published December 21, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224418)

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 Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFFS GARY D. IMHOFF and S. DENISE IMHOFF
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
T. DUDLEY HOUSE and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
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Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston
Duke Eggleston, #24965

160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 403-1580
(222898)
DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Case Number: 2023CV30085
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: (970) 264-8160
Plaintiff: LAURA KIM NOVAK v. Defendants: JACK L. RICH; RICH ENTERPRISES and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.
Submitting Attorney: Duke Eggleston, #24965
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFFS LAURA KIM NOVAK
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
JACK L. RICH; RICH ENTERPRISES 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.
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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 575, as recorded in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Archuleta County, Colorado on April 1, 1991 in Book 326, Pages 10, 11 and 12 as Reception Number 0178458, situated in Aspen Springs Subdivision, Archuleta County, Colorado.
Respectfully Submitted this 8th day of December, 2023.

Published in *The Pagosa Sun*
First Publication: December 21, 2023
Last Publication: January 18, 2024
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston
Duke Eggleston, #24965
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 403-1580
(223898)
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
Office Phone Number: 970-403-8093
Cell Phone Number: 970-317-0341
FAX Number: 970-403-8091
E-mail: marla@underrell-law.com
SUMMONS (TO QUIET TITLE) BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF: BERNADETTE M. CANDELARIA GONZALES
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after the service of this summons upon you in the State of Colorado or within 35 days after service of this summons upon you outside the State of Colorado. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
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in the complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet title to: The NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 24, Township 34 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M., South of the Ute Line, TOGETHER WITH all water and water rights, wells, ditch and ditch rights, groundwater rights, and related easements and infrastructure appurtenant to, historically used on or associated therewith, and any and all water rights adjudicated to the Subject Property, including but not limited to 1 and 1/2 c.f.s. of water equivalent to 70 acre-feet of irrigation water, in the Riverview Ditch, a/k/a Ditch No. 182 off the Piedra River, pursuant to Priority No. 258, with an historic date of June 1, 1912, and a decreed date of June 1, 1921; ALSO TOGETHER WITH all surface and subsurface mineral interests, of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to oil, gas, CO2 and their constituents and all other minerals owned by Grantor that may be produced from the property.
Dated this 7th day of November, 2023. Published in the *Pagosa Sun* Newspaper.
First Publication: November 23, 2023.
Last Publication: December 21, 2023.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 7th day of November, 2023. THE LAW FIRM OF MARLA C. 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)
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Emily Hawkins
Gary Barrett
12/21, 12/28/23
CNS-3765188#
THE SUN (PAGOSA SPRINGS)
Published December 21 & 28, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224106)

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Estate of Jerrald Granok, Case Number 2023 PR 30048
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Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 24, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224176)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Silvia Maria Doglia, Case Number 2023 PR 30046
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Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 24, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224180)

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT FEES
Capital Investment Fees for Water increase from \$5,352.37 to \$8,958.00
Capital Investment Fees for Wastewater increase from \$1,178.98 to \$15,6

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation discusses workforce housing project

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 6 work session, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Council (PSCDC) board provided updates regarding its request for qualifications (RFQ) and an introduction to Michael Yearman, its consultant for the PSCDC's workforce housing project.

Per the RFQ documentation, "The Workforce Housing project is part of the PSCDC efforts to bring workforce housing to the region. In this first phase, it plans to build 10 new single-family housing units on vacant lots in the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA). PSCDC also has acquired title to a total of 35 lots within the PLPOA and intends to continue the development of these lots in subsequent years in multiple phases."

Emily Lashbrooke, executive director of the PSCDC, opened the work session and began discussion on the area median income (AMI) chart provided in the meeting packet.

She stated that they worked with the consultant to develop the AMI ranges and highlighted where it showed what a single person could afford to pay at 80 percent AMI for a house, and then also a two bedroom with three people occupancy or 4.5 people occupancy.

"This is what they can afford to pay for a house," she said. "So, that is how we came up with the numbers that went into the RFQ."

She added they need to build between \$240,000 and \$320,000 to hit the range.

Lashbrooke then began a review of the RFQ, which was also included in the meeting packet.

She stated that there were two things that were very important to know.

The first was "that we had ... to be able to adhere to the grant language that has been delivered to us if we go after any grant funding," she said, adding the second was that this would be a two-phase process targeting producing houses by next November.

She next pointed out that local builders were asked to provide the PSCDC with a two-bedroom plan and a three-bedroom plan, and that the PSCDC explained to them the AMI that needs to be hit.

Lashbrooke said, "We are going to go after some grant funding and subsidies to try to offset the cost to get into that AMI. I know due to the research we did earlier this year that we really have to work hard to hit that AMI level, so we have to get grant funding, we have to get down payment assistance, we have to get, not down payment — it's something else that the Department of Housing offers. It's up to \$50,000 per house but it defers down the cost of the build."

She indicated the PSCDC is looking at all these grant opportunities and is starting to build a capital stack now for the project.

Lashbrooke noted that the RFQ went out to all the local builders, who provided quotes to the PSCDC early in the spring, and that it was also placed on Bidnet.

Bidnet is a website that provides companies access to bid opportunities from state departments, municipalities and the federal government.

She also pointed out that a page had been created on the PSCDC website where the RFQ document will live and where builders can check for updates regularly.

"If you log in to the Pagosa Springs Community Development page, you can see workforce housing as another piece in the menu bar to the left. If you click on that," Lashbrooke said, "you get a nice little overview of our workforce housing project and, also, the RFQ lives on that page."

She explained that this allows the builders to review the document and ask any questions they would like. She further stated that they need to submit those in writing only to her and that she would post the questions and the answers and notify those who are participating that there is a new topic.

She then clarified that the builders are referred to as developers in the RFQ.

Discussing the timeline for responses, Lashbrooke explained the developers would need to return their phase-one development plans to the PSCDC by 5 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2024, and that a committee would evaluate all the proposals and select and notify two finalists by Jan. 12, 2024.

When the two firms are selected, they will have until Jan. 25, 2024, to return their final proposal, which will be reviewed by the PSCDC board.

Lashbrooke requested that the entire board be available at 3 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2024, for the final presentation from the developers.

The developers will be required to have a guaranteed maximum price per house which the PSCDC will take to the banks to obtain funding.

In addition, per the recommendation of Yearman, the PSCDC will pay each developer a \$5,000 stipend to cover the costs of engineering and architectural plans, etc.

The two finalists will come to the board on Jan. 3, 2024, to give a 30-minute presentation and then take questions for 30 minutes. The final decision is to be made by Feb. 5, 2024.

Lashbrooke also pointed out the RFQ has an "economies of scale" option that allows the developer to be considered for phase two of the project.

A question was raised asking if the timeline allows enough time for the developers.

Lashbrooke replied, "I can tell you that all of the local builders are prepared for this ... RFQ. They're prepared. They know we're building these houses, they know what we're looking for. We now have to find the AMI range ... If we don't make a selection by mid-February or have a contract by mid-February, then it pushes all of our build time back and we likely will not have houses in the market next year. They will end up in 2025."

Lashbrooke then reviewed the maps showing the locations for the builds.

She stated that the PSCDC "already had the deeds, that water and sewer were in the road and electricity was very close and that all this would make the cost of these builds lower than any other year."

At this point, Yearman joined the meeting via Zoom and introduced himself.

"I am a one-man consultant firm" he said. "Prior to starting my firm, I was a local government planner for 15 years, ran a planning and building department in Crested Butte, Salida, worked in Buena Vista and the town of Vail. So, I've always sat on the — and my company currently always sits on the — side of local government and nonprofits. We do not, or I do not, ever take on developers as clients, and so I very much am just focused on working with local governments or nonprofits and doing affordable housing ... Then I also work on getting buyers into the houses, getting down payment assistance and making sure they're successful in their new home."

In response to a question raised earlier in the meeting, Yearman clarified that the acronyms RFQ and RFP (request for proposal) are interchangeable, stating, "I like to call it an RFQ especially for what we're doing because the first selection is really based on their ability to perform,

their company reputation, et cetera. And then the second phase of our finalist selection is going to be based on their design and their pricing."

Lashbrooke then led the discussion to the Fair Housing Act, explaining, "We cannot discriminate against race, color, natural origin, religion, sex, family status or disability."

Both Lashbrooke and Yearman outlined the difficulties presented by the buyer lottery process and the risk of selecting someone that is ultimately unable to afford the house.

They added the AMI cap would help control that risk.

Lashbrooke then outlined that two committees would be formed when the PSCDC went into a board meeting. These committees would be three people each, composed of two board members and a citizen.

Per Lashbrooke, the first committee would be on the builder side reviewing the proposals that come in on the first round and making the recommendation for the two finalists. The second committee would develop the deeded restrictions that are on the house and to develop the lottery system. Yearman would be tasked with working with both committees to ensure those are completed within the proposed timeline.

She next outlined the proposed buying process, explaining, "Kind of what we're proposing is that we release the short application for entering interest into the program in February to March. We're also going to do some marketing on this program at that point. Then we will close it at the end of March and we will take the qualified applicants that hit the AMI range or say they do. We're actually going to lean on the banks to give us financial verification of the AMI as they go through the process. When we compile the list of qualified buyers, then we will connect to all of the banking partners at one time. This way, the banking partners know that they're participating in our workforce housing. Some of the banks have created a special program for the potential home buyers here, and then they will start working through the mortgage preapproval process over the next several months."

The proposed plan, according to Lashbrooke, is to place all the pre-approved applicants into a lottery drawing to be held as a public event.

"We'll have maps on the wall where people can come up and select their property that will already be defined of what we are building this year," she said. "And then we will start to establish the purchase contract for all chosen applicants to get them teed up and ready to go so that they can close on their property as soon as the certificate of occupancy is there."

The next topic covered was the insurance considerations for the project.

Lashbrooke stated that all vacant land not under construction this year could be a single liability insurance policy that would cost between \$300 and \$500 per year, and that a general liability owner contract policy would also be needed for the constructed houses.

Additionally, she noted, a builder risk insurance policy will need to be obtained on all the houses being constructed.

She continued that the cost, which she estimated to be \$920 per year, is figured on the guaranteed maximum price of the replacement costs.

Discussing construction finance options, Lashbrooke stated that the

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) offered a loan, but that application fees and Fair Housing pay considerations would drive up the costs considerably and that they would fare better with traditional lenders and with layering additional options such as grants and a 2 percent loan from the Transformational Affordable Housing Act.

These options will be discussed at the January meeting after numbers have been firmed up, according to Lashbrooke.

The board discussed and agreed that the committees should make a recommendation to the board and the board would weigh in on the final decision.

Also discussed was that the RFQ allows the board to select additional finalists, but only two will be awarded the \$5,000 stipend for design.

The board next discussed volunteers for the committees and the need to add one citizen to both the builder and buyer committees, and also agreed that the RFQ should be reviewed by the PSCDC attorney.

The predevelopment costs for the project were discussed, and Lashbrooke agreed to go to the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District for possible waivers of costs.

Yearman added that he has some additional grant sources that could cover some of those costs, although the timing could be problematic.

The board then discussed several additional risks and it was pointed out that four of the 10 houses could be sold to businesses, reducing the PSCDC's liability and possible construction lending costs.

The board next discussed the budget with no major changes and that the housing project funding/costs would be included at a later meeting when the numbers are firmed up.

After ending the work session, the board opened a meeting, where the motions to create the buyer and builder committees were approved, and the budget approved, as well.

Other business included Lashbrooke providing the board with updates on grants and grant applications.

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Town council adopts 2024 budget, capital plan

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At a Dec. 5 public hearing, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the town's 2024 budget and capital improvement plan, which includes the total budgeted amount of \$12,572,688 in expenditures for the fiscal year 2024.

The budget reflects that the town will raise pay rates for town employees to above the market median (to 105 percent of the median), while also increasing its employees' cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) benefits to 4.7 percent.

This raise for town employees comes after the council set staffing, or attracting and retaining employees who provide critical town services, as its top priority for 2024.

Those who will receive pay hikes are those who were previously earning below the market median, including employees in the police, parks and recreation, public works and community development departments, as well as those employed in the town's administrative offices and municipal court who were making below median pay.

An original draft of the budget was first presented to the council at an early-October meeting where the council directed the budget team to

tweak the numbers to include the employee pay raises and the increase in COLA benefits.

Administration Services Manager Kathy Harker explained at that meeting that town departments are "experiencing a lot more turnover" because of lower-than-median pay rates, and that some departments are "scrambling for people" to keep critical town services up and running.

At the same meeting, Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte added that, currently, 83 percent of town staff (53 total employees) earn under the market median pay for those positions.

At the direction of the council, Schulte crunched the numbers and brought those findings back before the council.

Subsequently, the budget went through two rounds of work sessions and two public hearings.

On the issue of staffing, council member Leonard Martinez explained at an earlier meeting that he was "not uncomfortable" with the notion of spending into reserves to pay for the pay raises.

"This is the right thing to do in terms of what we're trying to do for our people," he said.

The culmination of the budget hearings came at the Dec. 5 public meeting.

When this final hearing was opened to public comment, resident Bill Hudson expressed dismay that the new budget reduced the town's expenditures for addressing workforce housing problems in the community.

Hudson pointed to several past budgets, where he noted more money was reserved for housing than in the current budget being considered.

Hudson was the only citizen to submit a public comment at the hearing.

After public comment passed, Schulte presented a resolution to approve the budget, explaining that the council would be doing three things if it approved the resolution.

If approved, Schulte said, "you would be adopting the budget, setting the mill levy and appropriating funds."

However, he noted that there was one circumstance that was "a little bit different this year," compared to past budget adoptions, explaining that the passage of the resolution would only set a "preliminary mill levy."

This is due to the Colorado Legislature meeting in an emergency session to "look at adjusting how [property tax] evaluations are done. And so what we have here is a situation where we have already established evaluation, in this case from town council," but "we expect that to change."

He added that any changes are expected to be "minuscule," in the amount of a "few thousand dollars," and that he recommended the council "go ahead and adopt the budget, set the mill levies and appropriate the sums of money based" on the evaluation as it stands now.

He suggested if any major changes come about due to state legislation, then the council could readjust or reset those mill levies in January.

Schulte added that the budget team consulted with the county assessor, as well as town attorney Bob Cole, and that it was recommended

that "the best course of action, at this juncture, is to go ahead and move forward ... to adopt the budget."

According to the resolution, "for the purpose of meeting all general operating expenses of the Town during the 2024 budget year, there is hereby levied a preliminary property tax of 1.561 mills for a total of 1.561 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the Town to raise \$134,959."

This amount would cover the town's operating costs to "keep the wheels of town government going," Schulte said.

Other than this issue, he explained that the budget was "unchanged" since the council last saw the budget in November.

"We are here to answer any further questions and we would ask you to move forward with the resolution," Schulte said.

On the issue of staffing, council member Gary Williams remarked that "when towns have good, professional staff, they manage growth well, and so I think it's very good that we have the budget that we have and we have the staff we have, and we appreciate you helping us move this forward."

Williams then made a motion to adopt the 2024 budget as presented and to adopt the five-year capital plan along with it. The resolution was carried unanimously by the council.

The resolution states that the estimated expenditures for each fund are as follows:

- General Fund: \$5,793,070.
 - Capital Improvement Fund: \$5,267,864.
 - Trust/Impact Fee Fund: \$177,524.
 - Lodgers' Tax Fund: \$1,192,092.
 - Geothermal Enterprise Fund: \$50,038.
 - Conservation Trust Fund: \$92,100, with total expenditures estimated to be \$12,572,688.
- derek@pagosasun.com

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 21

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

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

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

Projects

Continued from A14

"We're going to continue to strive to build our rec programs, but yet not in a sense have to have our paid staff running those," Lewis said.

During a budget update, Lewis informed the board that the budget was approved by the town council during its previous meeting.

Lewis noted the projects approved for Parks and Rec include a dog park at Yamaguchi South, new irrigation at Centennial Park, 36 concrete tee pads on Reservoir Hill for disc golf and the thinning of Reservoir Hill underbrush.

Lewis stated that the thinning project will cost \$20,000 but that he obtained a \$15,000 grant that reduced the out-of-pocket costs to \$5,000.

Other projects include obtaining a new vehicle and additional security cameras to build on what was previously installed, and the hiring of two additional staff so the department can be "taking care of things as opposed to constantly building," Lewis said.

In response to a question about

what sections of the Town-to-Lakes Trail are going to be completed next, Lewis indicated that the section stretching from 10th Street (from Pagosa Springs Elementary School) to Great West Avenue is "a section that's going to be designed in 2024 and hopefully constructed in 2025."

He also stated that a subdivision that is going in will be responsible for paying for a certain section of that trail.

Lewis next reported that the intersection at U.S. 160 and Piedra Road will be completed and managed by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

He noted that it is going out for bid at the end of January and the expected completion date will not be known until the bids come back, but that it could be 2024 or 2025.

He stated that approximately \$968,000 in grant funding will go toward that project.

The next item discussed was the Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion.

Lewis reported that the town council

decided "to give the multipurpose pavilion people the chance to raise money towards that project and they're giving them two years. So, in a sense, I'm not touching anything at Yamaguchi South in the area where it's proposed ... they're going to report back to the town council every eight months so we can see the progress that's going on. This is a project that's over \$3 million."

Lewis stated he will keep the board updated on the progress.

The next item for discussion was a request for a memorial plaque to be placed in Yamaguchi Park near the skatepark.

Lewis explained that it would be a small plaque, approximately 3 inches by 10 inches, to be placed in the center of one of the benches within Yamaguchi Park and paid for by the donor.

Member Mike Musgrove proposed the idea of having a larger area for similar plaques at the skatepark. Lewis agreed that could be a good

idea and could be similar to the "donation bricks."

The request was approved by the board.

The final item for discussion was review of short- and long-term goals and how often the board would want to review these.

After discussion, it was agreed that Lewis would report back in the March meeting and that the goals would be reviewed annually, with Lewis confirming that "it is probably not a bad idea to just check in with it annually to see if you guys would like to see any changes."

With that final business, the meeting was adjourned.

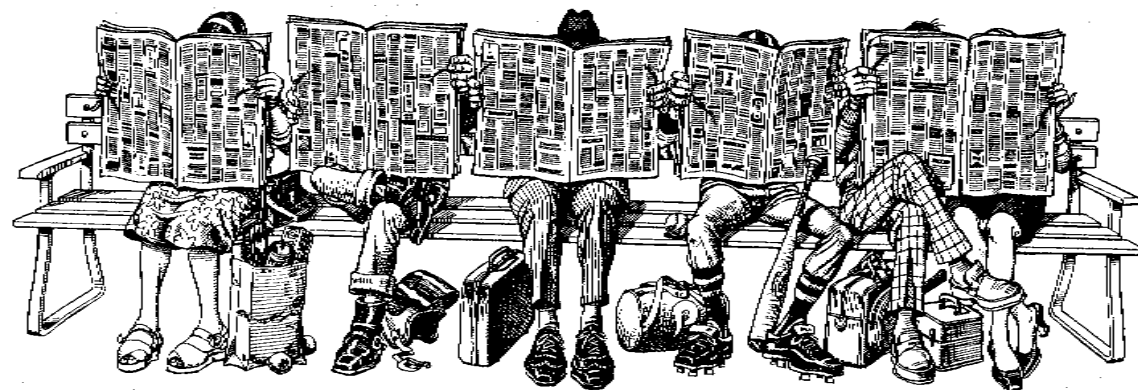
The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on March 7, 2024.

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service for three weeks: 609.

Nov. 8 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 16 — Information only, South 10th Street.

Nov. 26 — All other thefts, Bal-four Court.

Nov. 19 — Failure to register as sex offender, Dyke Boulevard.

Nov. 22 — All other thefts, U.S. 84.

Nov. 25 — Harassment by phone or computer, domestic violence, South 8th Street.

Nov. 28 — Warrant arrest, Hilltop Drive.

Nov. 28 — Criminal mischief, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 28 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Nov. 28 — Information only, all other thefts, County Road 600.

Nov. 29 — Unlawful distribution/manufacture/dispense/sale/possession-amphetamine sell, drove vehicle when license suspended, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, Eagle Drive/Majestic Drive.

Nov. 29 — Agency assist, information only, USFS 681/USFS 628.

Nov. 29 — Violation of restraining order, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 30 — Agency assist, information only, USFS 919/USFS 629.

Nov. 30 — Menacing-misdemeanor, bias motivated crimes intimidation, obstructing governmental operations, false reporting to authorities, Crooked Road.

Dec. 1 — Sexual assault on a child (consensual), Simmons Drive.

Dec. 3 — Trespass warning, Carino Place.

Dec. 3 — Drove vehicle when license suspended, expired license plates, West U.S. 160.

Dec. 3 — All other thefts, County Road 700.

Dec. 3 — Second-degree burglary, criminal mischief, Colo. 151.

Dec. 4 — Child abuse-continued repeated pattern, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 4 — Warrant arrest, Rec Center Road.

Dec. 4 — Aggravated motor vehicle theft, Hilltop Drive.

Dec. 6 — Violation of restraining order, Navajo Trail Drive.

Dec. 6 — Public indecency, Cloud Cap Avenue/Park Avenue.

Dec. 7 — Information only, all other thefts, U.S. 84.

Dec. 7 — Warrant arrest, Crooked Road.

Dec. 7 — Warrant arrest, Hilltop Drive.

Dec. 7 — Information only, Oakridge Drive/River Run Drive.

Dec. 7 — Information only, County Road 500/Colo. 151.

Dec. 8 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, failed to drive in single lane (weaving), Majestic Drive/West U.S. 160.

Dec. 9 — Second-degree assault-caused intended serious injury, domestic violence, intimidating a witness or victim, Hurt Drive.

Dec. 9 — Drove vehicle without insurance, failed to display valid registration, failed to observe or disregarded traffic control device, drove vehicle without valid driver's license on person, West U.S. 160/County Road 600.

Dec. 11 — Second-degree assault-aggravated assault-weapon, Sage Circle/Bristlecone Drive.

Dec. 12 — Information only, West U.S. 160.

Dec. 12 — Drove vehicle while

under the influence of alcohol, open container in a motor vehicle, Nutria Circle/Acorn Drive.

Dec. 13 — Violation of restraining order, Holiday Lane.

Dec. 13 — Warrant arrest, Holiday Lane.

Dec. 13 — Information only, domestic violence, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, South 8th Street.

Dec. 14 — Harassment due to race color religion ancestry origin, disorderly conduct-petty, third-degree criminal trespass, Carefree Place.

Dec. 14 — Information only, County Road 600/North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 14 — Agency assist, Talisman Drive.

Dec. 14 — Menacing-misdemeanor, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, illegal possession or consumption of alcohol by minor, Canyon Circle.

Dec. 15 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks a person, child abuse criminally negligent-nonserious bodily injury, Canyon Circle.

Dec. 15 — Information only, second-degree criminal trespass, West U.S. 160.

Dec. 15 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 16 — Third-degree assault-simple assault, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, obstructing governmental operations, Corral Court.

Dec. 16 — Failure to appear (bench warrants), unlawful possession of a controlled substance, reckless driving, speeding mph over limit not listed, West U.S. 160.

Dec. 17 — Death investigation, Doc Adams Road.

Dec. 17 — Warrant arrest, West U.S. 160/Boulder Drive.

Dec. 17 — Failed to display valid registration, drove vehicle without valid driver's license, Boulder Drive/West U.S. 160.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service for three weeks: 311.

Nov. 25 — Criminal trespass first degree, identity theft, Eagle Drive.

Nov. 25 — Careless driving, U.S. 160/Pinon Causeway.

Nov. 27 — Careless driving, Country Center Drive.

Nov. 27 — Criminal trespass second degree, possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of controlled substance, Ryder Court/Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 29 — Careless driving, left scene without providing required information after striking unattended vehicle, South 8th Street.

Dec. 2 — Criminal trespass first degree, 10th Street.

Dec. 3 — Criminal trespass, Country Center Drive.

Dec. 3 — Careless driving, U.S. 84.

Dec. 5 — Careless driving, failed to notify police of accident, San Juan Street.

Dec. 5 — Fraud by check, Talisman Drive.

Dec. 6 — Simple assault third degree, menacing felony aggravated with weapon, warrant arrest, 15th Street.

Dec. 6 — Theft, Eagle Drive.

Dec. 6 — Harassment by phone or computer, Juanita Street.

Dec. 6 — Harbored vicious animal, County Road 600.

Dec. 7 — Assault, San Juan Street.

Dec. 7 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, 7th Street.

Dec. 8 — Attempt to obtain alcohol by misrepresentation of age, possess/consume alcohol by person under 21, San Juan Street.

Dec. 10 — Criminal mischief, domestic violence, harassment

misdemeanor, 8th Street.

Dec. 10 — Simple assault, 8th Street.

Dec. 11 — Nuisance/animal running at large, Eagle Drive.

Dec. 12 — Assault on police/fireman, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 12 — Aggravated assault second degree, criminal mischief, domestic violence, menacing misdemeanor, 9th Street.

Dec. 13 — Criminal mischief, Bienvenido Circle.

Dec. 13 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.

Dec. 13 — Failed to give information/aid after damaging another vehicle, 8th Street.

Dec. 13 — harassment-follows in public place, Pagosa Street/3rd Street.

Dec. 14 — Assault misdemeanor, Talisman Drive.

Dec. 15 — Simple assault, domestic violence, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Dec. 15 — Violation of restraining order, 9th Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Dec. 4 — Devante Griffin, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and court costs — \$146.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Nov. 29 — Gregory Mullins, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Nov. 29 — Terry G. Knight, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Nov. 29 — Tony Kyle Hall, driving under the influence, jail 40 days, 30 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, fines and costs — \$720.50.

Nov. 29 — Erin Amber Trujillo, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Nov. 29 — Emmoline Stephenson, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Nov. 29 — Scott Clayton Odom, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$279.

Nov. 29 — Caleb Joshua Newmon, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Nov. 29 — Abradella Bernadine Montoya, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Nov. 29 — David Tanner Memory, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.

Nov. 29 — Faithlynn Ann Lopez, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$72.50.

Nov. 29 — Adrienne R. Julian, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Nov. 29 — Gage A. Jones, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$120.

Nov. 29 — Toni Ann Gallegos, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$120.

Nov. 29 — Christopher Dean Ford, disobey lane usage sign, headlamps-failure to display, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$240.50.

Nov. 29 — Isaiah Richard Scott, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Nov. 29 — Matthew R. Blahnjk, following too closely, fines and costs — \$137.50.

Nov. 29 — Robert Levi Montgomery, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Nov. 30 — Daniel James Roeder, driver's license-instruction permit violation, driving under the influence, driving under the influence per se, 375 days jail, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, two years probation, fines and costs — \$2,063.50.

Dec. 4 — Martin Rodriguez, driving under the influence, 10 days jail, two years probation, 48 hours community service, fines and costs

— \$740.50.

Dec. 6 — Kevin Shaffer, off-highway vehicle operated on street, fines and costs — \$83.50.

Dec. 6 — Ian W. Lewis, wildlife violation of rule/reg, fines and costs — \$221.50.

Dec. 6 — Chance J. McReynolds, wildlife-violation of rule/reg, fines and costs — \$221.50.

Dec. 6 — Ernest Ray Sparkman, driving under the influence, 425 days jail, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,965.50.

Dec. 6 — Kevin S. Pogue, wildlife-violation of rule/reg, fines and costs — \$221.50.

Dec. 6 — Ty Fancher Schofield, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Dec. 6 — Jose Luis Maaas, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$207.50.

Dec. 6 — Kyrstie Gordon, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Dec. 6 — Miguel A. Garcia-Gonzalez, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Dec. 6 — David Alan Cohn, license plate not automatically readable, fines and costs — \$199.50.

Dec. 6 — Daemon R. Cloud, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Dec. 6 — Elijah Guthrie, littering-first offense, fines and costs — \$94.50.

Dec. 13 — Bryan A. Benedict, red light-fail to stop, fines and costs — \$137.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 4 — Martin Rodriguez, controlled substance-possession with intent-fentanyl, driving under the influence with prior conviction, 76 days jail, 365 days jail suspended imposition, three years probation, 48 hours community service, 10 days jail, two years probation updated sentence, fines and costs — \$4,922.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

No report.

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Wilderness Journeys 7:30 am	Alpen Haus 7:40 am	Quality Inn 7:50 am	Summit Ski & Sports 8:00 am
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Return shuttle from Wolf Creek at 4:15pm

*CUSTOM rides may be scheduled based upon AVAILABILITY



Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc

970-731-4081 to reserve your ride!

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Your source for community news:
The Pagosa Springs SUN

Providing Quality Veterinary Care for Small Animal & Equine for 30 years



Drs. Kitzel Farrah and Cara Finstad welcome Dr. Morgan Lopez to San Juan Veterinary Hospital



Dr. Morgan Lopez
Small animal care only— areas of interest are preventative care, quality of life and end-of-life care, small animal dentistry. Dr. Lopez' hobbies include hiking, backpacking and reading.



Dr. Kitzel Farrah
Small animal and equine care — areas of interest are Surgery and Ultrasound. Dr. Farrah's hobby is showing Reining Horses.



Dr. Cara Finstad
Small animal and equine care — areas of interest are Equine emergency care and surgery. Dr. Finstad's hobbies are anything outdoors and skiing.

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Surface treatment complete on U.S. 160 west of Pagosa Springs

Colorado Department of Transportation

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) completed the U.S. 160 surface treatment project west of Pagosa Springs.

The project improved approximately 6 miles of U.S. 160 on the west side of the town from County Road 139 (Boyles School Road) to South 10th Street, mile points 135-141, as well as another section less than a mile long on the east side of town from the San Juan River Bridge to the U.S. 160/U.S. 84 junction, mile points 144-144.5.

"This resurfacing project was a regional priority for CDOT, the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta

County," said Julie Constan, CDOT regional transportation director. "We are pleased that U.S. 160 on either side of Pagosa is now improved. The well-maintained roadway is essential to the quality of life and safety for residents, employers, and visitors to Pagosa and the southwest region."

Contracting partner, Four Corners Materials of Durango, milled the existing asphalt, paved with new asphalt, installed rumble strips, replaced guardrail, replaced a culvert and performed final striping.

The new asphalt will add approximately 10 years of life to the highway, provide a smoother road surface and will add durability by increasing the resistance of ruts

and road damage. Additional work included sign and delineator replacement, conduit installation, seeding and mulching.

"CDOT appreciates the partnerships developed with the Town of Pagosa Springs, as we continue to improve U.S. 160 near and in the town," added Constan. "Residents may note that during this resurfacing project, no work took place through a 1-mile stretch of downtown Pagosa from South 10th Street to the bridge over the San Juan River. That downtown portion of highway is set for concrete reconstruction next year. The 2024 downtown project will help us achieve our top priorities identified for the Pagosa community."



SUN photos/Robert Moore, Shari Pierce

Annual Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Hilltop

By Susan Peet
Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Pagosa Springs volunteers laid balsam fir wreaths at Hilltop Cemetery on the graves of almost 400 veterans from the Civil War to the latest conflicts.

The ceremony was part of the annual National Wreaths Across America Day, whose mission is to remember the fallen, honor those that serve and their families, and teach future generations the value of freedom.

Linda Hobbs introduced Wreaths Across America to Pagosa Springs three years ago, joining the community with more than 4,000 other participating locations across the country.

"We are not here today to 'decorate graves,'" Hobbs said. "We are here to remember not their deaths, but their lives. Each wreath is a gift of appreciation from a grateful America."

The gathering included about 85 people of all ages, which fulfills an additional goal of the program to teach the next generation about the sacrifices of our veterans.

The ceremony was led under the command of Staff Sgt. Shawna Snarr and Post 108 of the American Legion. Speakers included Lynn Weiland, Tanice Ramsperger and Linda Hobbs.

The ceremony began with a missing-man formation flyover by the San Juan Squadron. As the wreaths were placed on the graves, the names of the fallen were said aloud to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of each veteran is never forgotten.

Wreaths Across America was also represented in Durango at the Greenmount Cemetery under the coordination of Jill Williams, president of the local Blue Star Mom's organization. Greenmount is home to more than 1,200 veterans. This year 570 veterans received a remembrance

wreath and we look forward to more sponsorships next year to increase that number.

Although ceremonies weren't feasible this year at Crestview, Ignacio and Bayfield cemeteries, remembrance wreaths to honor those veterans were placed.

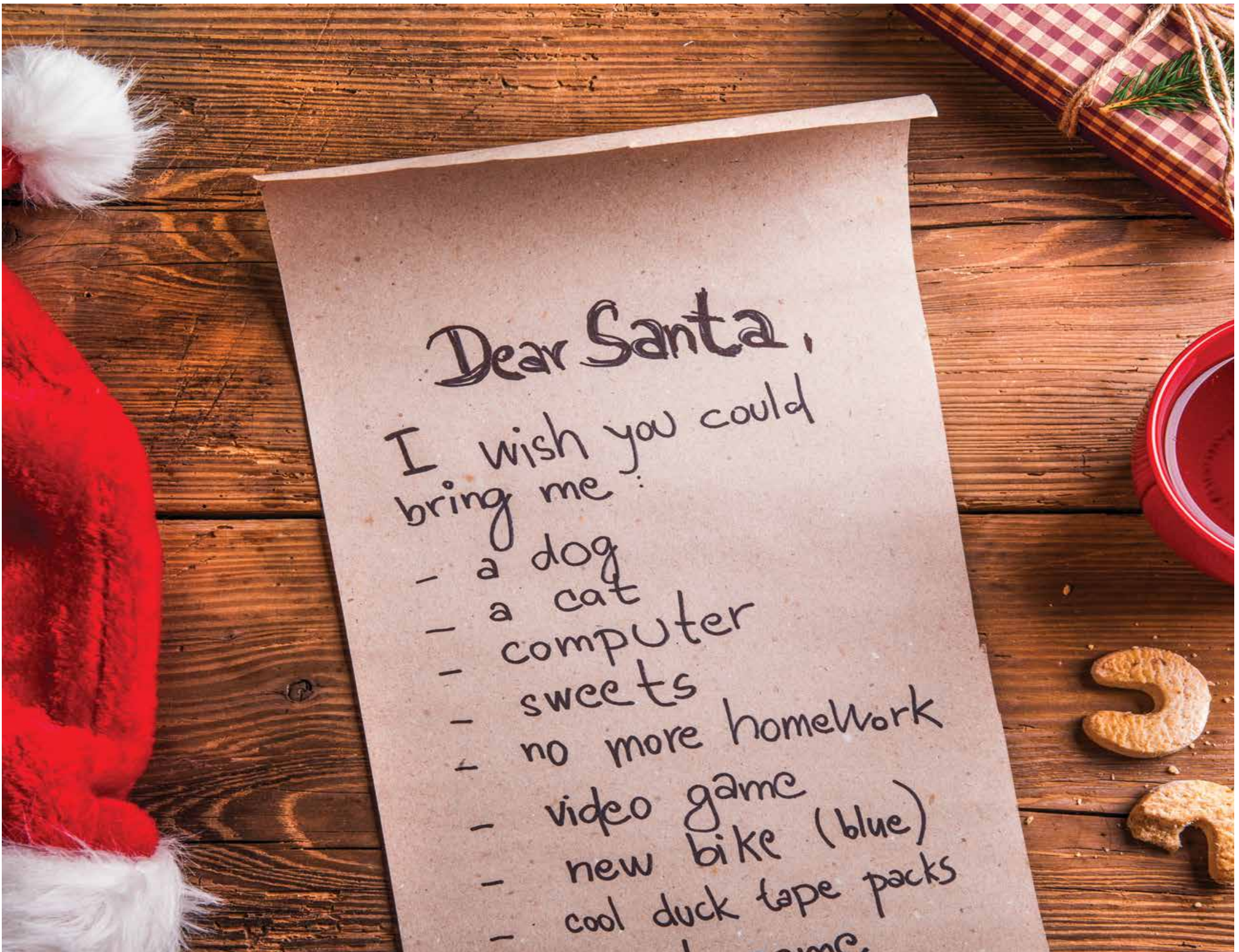
"It has been my honor to be involved with Wreaths Across America and to work with dedicated volunteers and donors in our community who have made this possible," said Hobbs, whose work with the Daughters of the American Revolution and Vets for Vets helped facilitate its partnership with Wreaths Across America for the ceremony.

A colleague and friend said it best: "Linda is a selfless worker who always placed the mission of honoring our veterans as the priority. The wreaths are her passion, and she has created a tradition in this community that will continue for years to come."

preview

ARTS & LIFE

Letters to Santa



Letters To Santa

Once again, The SUN teamed up with Santa and his elves to help deliver letters to the guy in the big red suit, with the promise we could share those Christmas wishes with our readers, as they were written.

Deer, Santa I gave a card to my cousin that broke his arm & mom & dad. I filled a box for others that need more stuff. Have I been a good girl? If I have been a good girl here's my list: Squishmellow, Play school kit, flower Lego Kit, snake, Black small Back pack. Thank you for the presents.

Sincerely, Josephine

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Elijah. I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. For Christmas I would like squishmellow and a Nintendo. How aryoa doing? Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Elijah

Dear Santa,

Hi my nam is Finnick. I am 6 years old. I have been good this year. For Christmas I woud like a dinosor as big as me and a re mote control policecar. What does the North pole look like? Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Finnick

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Henry. I am 7 years old I am in First grade. I have been kindu good this year. For Christmas I would like a play station 5 and a remote control helicopter. How are you doing santa? Merry Christmas!

Love, Henry

Dear Santa,

Hi my nam is Liam. I am 7 and i am in frst grad. Have bin cend good this year. For christmas I would lick a traih track that goes around your

bed. A reau phone and a squishy boll.

Love, Liam

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is sylvia. I am 6 years old. I have bee n good this year. For Christmas I wou like ae real bunny and a cat. Merry christmas Santa!

Love, sylvia

Dear Santa,

Hi My name is Bristol. And I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. I have been good this yea. For Christmas I would like a squihsmellow. And For Cloud slime. Merry Christmas.

Love, Bristol

Dear Santa,

Hi my nao is Emma. I am 7 years old. I have been good this year. I would like a tidye bunnye and a Fox

■ See Letters on next page

Live Performers



Friday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.

Saturday

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

Sunday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Steve Blechschmidt, 5 p.m.

Monday

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

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Glenn Unrath and Jack Ellis, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

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PagosaSUN.com

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Annual In County - \$35 • Annual Out of County - \$45
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7:30 am	7:40 am	7:50 am	8:00 am

Return shuttle from Wolf Creek at 4:15pm

*CUSTOM rides may be scheduled based upon AVAILABILITY



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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.

Letters

■ continued from previous page
squishmellow. How are you doing?
Merry christmas santa!

Love, Emma

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Westin. I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. I have been good this year. For Christmas I would like a squishmellow and a six by six toy truck. How are you doing? Merry Christmas! Santa!

Love, Westin

Dear Santa,

Hi My name is Evy kay. I am 7 year old. I haave good this year. For Christ ma I would like a squishmel- lod and a robot. How are you doing? Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Evy

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Elijah. I an 6 I am in first grade. I have been good this year. For Christ mas I would like a Nintendo switch and a switch game. How are you doing? Merry Christmas.

Love, Elijah

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is John. I am 7 a first years old. I am a first good this year. For Chnistmas I would like a souishmelloweand a dog and a bike. How are you doirg? Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, John

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Aubrey. I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. I have been vere good this year. For Christmas I would like a MOM- MMy and puppy toy and a hors. How are you dooing? I Love you. Merry Christmas to you and Mrs: clause. Are your elfs dooing good?

Love, Aubrey

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Sofia. I am 7 years old. First grade. I have bbee- haoodthi year. For christmas I wou l like a dtuffbunny and Barbio- reamttouse.

Love, Sofia

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Jayda. I am 7 years old. I am in first grad. I have been good this year. For Christmas I would like a reel fone and a Barbie Dream House. How is the reindeer dooing? Merry Christms Santa.

Love, Jayda

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Emir. I am 6 years old. I have been good this year. For christmas I would like a

■ See Letters on next page

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Letters

■ continued from previous page

monster truck and a soccer ball.

Love, Emir

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Lane. I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. I have been very good this year. For Christmas I would like a big easy book and a snoboard and snowboard boots. Where is the north pole? Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Lane

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Dakota. I am 7 year old. I am in first grade. I have been good this year. For Christmas I would like a big panda and a big claw machine. Why can't we see you on Christmas?

Love, Dakota

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Justice. I am 7 years old. Santa, I have been bad I am so sorry please forgive me. I am so so Loving. I want a diary and a necklace and a bracelet and a guinea pig. I am in first grade. I am going to leave you 1 and up cookies. I Love you

Love, Justice

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Aubriana. I am 7 years old. I want rainbow high barbie and I want a barbie house. I am sorry that I was being mean to my friend. I am going to leave 10 cookie ies for you Love you Santa.

Love, Aubriana

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Winter. I am six years old. I am sore becas i have bin lieng to my mom and dad. can i have black hieyls. and a qrs. and a wallet. and a dress. and a black lisc. and a perfume. and a soeg cit. and a mack uq set. and a pin wif scl wif bons. and a cudqer. and a black squa. and a ciaob.

Love, Winter

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Dylan. I am six years old. May I get a big Bluey house with her toys because that is the most thing I want and the nanu, Bingo Bluey. I am in first grade. I have been kind of good and bad. I am sorryo.

Love, Dylan.

Dear Santa,

Hi My name is Jadyh. I am 7 years old. I am in the first grade. I would relly like a bicycle, a racecar

and paw pawpatrol.

Love, Jadyh

Dear Santa,

Solnei H my name is SANTA I am years old. TAeF SANTA TOe I wanta santA toy I will leave 5 cookies and a cup of milk I have been veriy been very good this year.

Love, SANTI

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Moerea. I am seven years old. May I please have a stuffed snowflak. I am sorry for the apple when I took a piece of apple from my baby brother' apple bowl. I wish you a Merry Christmas to you santa. You are the best in the world. I am still really sorry.

Love, Moerea

Dear Santa, merry christmas! I hope you get my letter. I would like a 3-D pen and lead for pen. And I would a lso love to have some American Girl accessories for my dolls. Thank you, Sauta!

Love, Annessa I am in 3rd grade. christmas list for Santa
 Baby Axanthic Halmahera Blue tongue skink live animal.
 Blue tongue skink enclosure

■ See Letters on next page

Season's Greetings



Christmas in Pagosa

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Letters

■ continued from previous page

a new scooter
Yellow Blue Black Breaking boards

century Bob-Body opponent
century Bokken
unpeeled Escrima Set
hand carved Rattan Bo staff
Black foal corded Nunchaku
White oak Bokken
Bruce lee focus chuk
apple watch

Please santa I really want every thing on this list for my tikwondo training and the blue tongue skink.

By Rowan
thank you santa

Dear Santa,

For christmas I want a xbox because when I went over to my friends house he had a xbox and I Want the madden NFL game because I love football, and baseball.

Sincerely:
Pierce, Age 8

Dear Santa,

I want Ugg minboots & slippers. I want this because it will look good with my outfits and they're comfy. I would also like skincare and clothes from my Shein list. I really enjoy rings, bracelets and necklaces. Some ideas like my style is casual preppy and sporty. I would like Cede Lamb cowboy jersey. Size: Large or 10-12

Sincerely:
Prestyn, Age 10

to: Santa ...

Dear, Santa. I've relly wanted a stuffy of annie I miss her so much If you can't grant it I will Just have presents. from you hoho ho merry chirstmas.

Willow, 7

Dear Santa,

I want Barbie stuff and a toy dishwasher. How do you get to every house in one night? Merry Christmas!

Amelia, age 8



Santa Claus is coming!



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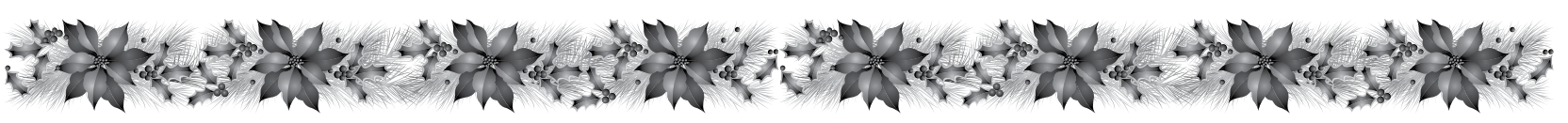
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Holiday Church Events



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

Thursday, Dec. 21

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

Sunday, Dec. 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent. 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

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.

Lessons and Carols. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

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

Children's Pageant Rehearsal. 3 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Pageant and Christmas Eve Eucharist Service. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive. For more information, visit www.restorationfellowship.net.

Christmas Eve Carol Service. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church,

56 Meadows Drive. **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.

Music and Christmas Eve Eucharist Service. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

Christmas Day Service. 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

Christmas Day Eucharist Service. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, Dec. 31

First Sunday After Christmas. 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

Carol Sing. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. No 8 p.m. liturgy.

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.

Sunday, Jan. 7

Celebrating the Epiphany in Worship. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episco-

pal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. **Epiphany (Observed).** 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

The Story of Epiphany. 9:15 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Celebrating the Epiphany in Worship. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.



Trinity Anglican Church

Morning Prayer with Lessons & Carols
December 24, 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve:
"Love"

246 Harman Park Dr.
trinityanglicanchurch.org

Subscribe to The SUN



From all of us at PSMC, have a safe and happy holiday season.

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Monday, December 25th.

We will reopen on Tuesday, December 26th to serve you.

The Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Photo courtesy Laura Moore

Whatchamawhozit performer Sedona Zissman tries on her zebra headpiece created by local artist Tanya Quinn. The Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre Camp will perform "The Lion King KIDS" on Dec. 30 and 31.

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SILVER DOLLAR LIQUORS

'The Lion King KIDS' to be performed Dec. 30 and 31

By Laura Moore

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

"The Lion King KIDS" will be performed at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Dec. 30 and 31.

Presented by the kids in the Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre Camp, this 40-minute show is fun for the whole family.

It is a wonderful way to introduce children to the wonders of live theater and, for the seasoned theater-goer, the delightful performances by the young actors will not disappoint.

Disney's "The Lion King" has captivated the imagination of audiences around the world, and now the African savanna is com-

ing to life with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters as they journey from Pride Rock to the jungle and back again in this inspiring coming-of-age tale.

"The Lion King KIDS" features classic songs from the Broadway musical and animated feature film, including "I Just Can't Wait to Be King," "He Lives in You," and "Hakuna Matata."

This show will be performed by the young students in the Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre Camp who study with the professional performers in Thingamajig production of "All is Calm."

Tickets are only \$5 and can be purchased online at www.pagosa-center.org.

Happy Holidays!

New Listing

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\$650,000

MLS 809504

This is a great house in a great location. 1 1/2 blocks North of Highway 160 on a corner 1.24-acre lot. It has 3 bd, 2 ba, with an awesome south facing sunroom on the main floor. In the basement is an oversized workshop/garage and a bonus room with a 3/4 bathroom. The views are of the East Range San Juan Mountains. The wood floors are about 3 years old. The yard is landscaped with a complete sprinkler system, and it has a circular driveway.

Under Contract

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>

Under Contract

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>

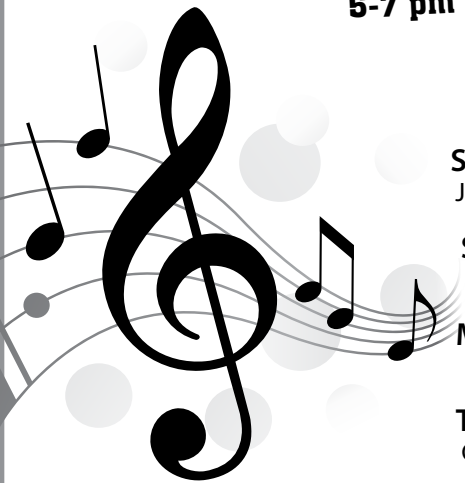
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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

“All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” is entering its second week at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

‘All is Calm’ continuing holiday run at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

By **Tim Moore**
Thingamajig Theatre Company

At Thingamajig Theatre Company, “All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” is weaving its magic on stage.

It’s hitting its stride in week two, and audiences can’t stop talking about it. People applauded thoughtfully, saying it’s hitting all the right notes making it one of the fastest-selling seasonal shows in the company’s history.

This retelling of the World War I ceasefire isn’t asking for medals, but it’s earned them.

“A wonderful story and a terrific performance. A must-see show,” remarked one viewer, summing it up perfectly.

Others are chiming in, saying, “Amazing! If you want the real Christmas spirit, don’t miss this show.”

They’ve added they love how it cuts through the commercial noise.

And you won’t find boastful claims here; it’s more about quiet excellence. The production is a team effort, bringing together local pros like Gus Palma and Robert Neel with talents from across the country. It’s like they’ve been working together for ages, not just a couple of weeks.

The dedication of this ensem-

ble, honestly retelling these soldiers’ stories, creates something that goes beyond a typical holiday show.

“It’s not just about entertainment; it’s about allowing you to think and feel,” remarked Artistic Director Tim Moore. “Experiencing, through the medium of live theater, what these men’s Christmas was like in the trenches of ‘No Man’s Land.’ I’m grateful to present this piece for our community.”

“All is Calm” offers a change of pace from contemporary holiday offerings, a chance to reflect on history and storytelling’s power. It’s a journey through time that continues to resonate with today’s world. Coming together amidst our differences in the name of humanity and faith in the goodness of man.

So, why not step into this slice of history? Experience the show that’s leaving everyone talking long after the curtain call. Join in and let the echoes of peace stay with you this season.

“All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” is directed by Andrew Barratt Lewis and is playing at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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<p><i>Bone-In Rib Roast</i> Cut to Size</p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$23⁵⁰</div> <p>PER LB.</p>	<p><i>Spiral Ham</i></p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$8⁹⁹</div> <p>PER LB.</p>



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The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board would like to thank the 100+ staff and volunteers for their help in creating a wonderful Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration on December 16th.

A special thanks to the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, The Pagosa Springs SUN, Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, NOEL singing group, Archuleta County Democrats, Buckaroos Horse-Drawn Rides, Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, Cornerstone Project Non Profit, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, Jackson Mountain Ramblers, Knights of Columbus, Main Street Advisory Board, Natural Grocers, Pagosa Adventure, Pagosa Fire Protection District, Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS, Posirado, Right Molecule IV Hydration Lounge, Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park, Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, Rugby’s Rescue House, San Juan Outdoor Club, San Juan Salt Caves, Seventh Day Adventist Church, The Restorative Solutions, The Springs Resort, Upper San Juan Search and Rescue, Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association and most importantly, Santa Claus!

The flame of good news

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

During the Christmas season, we pull out our Christmas tree lights. We light candles and place them in the window. We participate in family traditions and bring the good news into our homes.

For several years, we set out brown bags along the sidewalk, poured sand in the bottom, and placed lit candles in the sand. Luminarias are a Southwestern tradition from Mexico and celebrated in New Mexico, California and Arizona as a way to light the pathway for the Christ child. The truth be told, it's not what we do, but it's the light within us that will light the pathway to Jesus for others.

John writes in his gospel, "In him (Jesus) was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." — John 1:4,5 (NKJV).

These words from scripture caused me to ponder and gave me new insight into my own life's purpose.

When I read, "The flame of the good news," in a footnote in The Passion Translation, I wondered what that looked like — a light emanating flickering streams from burning material. That sounds too scientific. It doesn't fit. The flame is Jesus and is the light in us.

In 1978 when my heart opened to the Lord, it was like He struck a match and set my soul on fire. I've carried in my heart a bonfire for 45 years. The strong light of eternity deep in my soul has caused me to be a disrupter.

Many times, spiritually speaking, I could have burned down the church building and laid the members in ashes. After meeting with God during a sermon, I wanted

Artist's Lane

to talk about God and bask in the afterglow of His presence.

Others in the service wanted to talk about where they would go for lunch and with whom they would fellowship. Even my Sweet Al would head for the donut table. He enjoyed the sermon and it was enough for him until the next Sunday. That hour was never enough for me. I studied the Word for days. I couldn't get enough of Jesus. I still can't.

We are who we are. When my son said to me, "I've never been called sweet," I said to him, "Neither have I. We weren't wired like your dad. Your dad is sweet."

He loves unconditionally. And our family needed to be loved. His assignment in life was to love his family. He loved me in a way I knew he believed in me. Somehow, he understood what I was called to do to fulfill my purpose on earth.

I said to my son, "We have been called into another kind of mission. Corporate companies hired you to troubleshoot. They sent you to other sites in the states or to other countries to solve the company's problem.

"You have a unique gift of seeing the overall picture and to pinpoint the problem. This is not an enviable position, to tell people they are the problem. My calling has been to bring people to the Lord, challenge believers to love God's word, understand the hope that is in them, love God's Word and take seriously the unique gift they have been given."

I've tried to be different, but God knew what the world needed from me and made me for this purpose. I met a very charismatic couple in 1978 when we moved to Pagosa. I was compelled to follow them. He called his wife his "handmaiden." Learning how to be a submissive wife at the time, I tried to be like her and change my personality to be what I thought would be the perfect wife. It didn't happen that way. It was God's love in Al that subdued me and I learned how to submit.

One of the church leaders said I was too zealous in my early years

■ See Lane on next page

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Photos courtesy Shanna Robb

Last Saturday, teens from ABLAZE Catholic high school youth group delivered “love boxes” to seniors at Pine Ridge Extended Care Center and Bee Hive Homes. The day also included decorating Christmas cookies with Bee Hive residents and delivering sweets to the Pagosa Fire Protection District. For more information on the youth group, email ablazehsyg@ihmjp2.org.



Lane

■ continued from previous page
as a Christian. I needed to curb my enthusiasm. I thought something was wrong with me. I said many times I have gone through life apologizing for who I am.

I didn't want to be different. I wanted to belong, but never did. Being a woman, I threatened church leaders; I was edged out of teaching positions many times. Yes, I was a disrupter, obnoxious and too zealous. But God lit that match and I became a flame of the Good News. I thank God for that.

I became a fragile flame at that. I bucked strong headwinds and wondered why I was put in a position of leadership. But nothing has been able to extinguish that light, and in the process of facing raging storms, I've been tempered over these many years.

I sang to the choir until I couldn't do it anymore. The Lord stationed me outside the organized church

to go to the byways and highways and ignite the souls of others with that flame of Good News.

“For their minds have been blinded by the god of this age, leaving them in unbelief. Their blindness keeps them from seeing the dayspring light...” — 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 (TPT).

In a footnote, it reads, “The Aramaic translates dayspring light as ‘the flame of the good news.’”

Final brushstroke: These are very dark days. Even a smile shines brightly as Jesus lives in us. During this holiday season — as we turn our attention to Christmas songs, gift giving and family traditions — bring the light to those who are hurting and in deep despair. Be the flame of the Good News. Be willing to be different.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of *The SUN*.

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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

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Trim the tree: A brief history of the Christmas tree

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

It is Christmastime, and many people have been busy “decking the halls.”

The most recognizable of Christmas decorations is the Christmas tree. From the towering twinkling tree in Rockefeller Center to Charlie Brown’s diminutive sapling, the Christmas tree is a tradition many Americans recognize and practice each year. But how did this somewhat strange practice come to be?

To start, several ancient cultures practiced religious festivals around the time of the winter solstice that involved the use of evergreen boughs. Ancient Egyptians brought green palm rushes into homes to symbolize the triumph of life over death. Ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a feast that occurred on the winter solstice in honor of the Roman god of agriculture, Saturn. Part of the celebration included decorating homes with evergreen boughs. Similarly, Druids, the priests of the ancient Celtic peoples, used evergreen branches to decorate temples as it represented everlasting life to them.

The practice of the Christmas tree appears to have begun in Germany and parts of eastern Europe. In the Medieval Christian church calendar, Dec. 24 was celebrated as “Adam and Eve Day.” As part of the celebrations, “Paradise Plays” were performed, telling the story of Adam and Eve found in the book of Genesis in the Bible. In these plays an evergreen tree was often decorated with apples and other items to represent the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eventually, the decorated tree portion of the play made its way into peoples’ homes, and the trees were adorned with apples, pretzels, nuts, thread and other materials. The first written record of a “Christmas tree” was in 1510 in Riga, Latvia.

Other legends attribute Christmas trees to other figures from the history of Christianity. One holds

Extension Viewpoints

that Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, started the tradition when he was awed by the stars shining through an evergreen tree while on his way home one winter night.

An earlier legend from the Catholic Church holds that in the eighth century the monk and missionary St. Boniface prevented a human sacrifice by chopping down an oak tree under which the sacrifice was to take place. When returning a year later, a fir tree had grown in its place, thus starting the practice of using evergreen trees.

Regardless of whether these events are true, the practice of having Christmas trees was common in parts of Europe by the 16th century. Laws from that time make mention of how many trees a family could harvest each year and what size they were allowed to be. In years where wood was scarce, small wood pyramids were built and decorated instead of full trees.

The Christmas tree eventually made its way to the United States, mainly by way of German immigrants. While some German communities were practicing the tradition by the mid-1700s, the practice was more noticeable by the 1830s. However, the tradition did not catch on for a while. The Christmas tree was viewed as a pagan symbol, particularly in Puritan New England, where laws forbade the practice for a long time. Eventually the greater prevalence of German and Irish immigrants in the first half of the 19th century made the practice more accepted. Americans brought their own spin on the tradition by installing full-size, floor-to-ceiling trees in their homes for the season as op-

posed to smaller, tabletop-size trees, which were the German tradition.

The main turning point in the change of attitude surrounding the Christmas tree occurred in 1848. Across the Atlantic in Great Britain an engraving of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert decorating a Christmas tree with their family was printed in many British publications. Albert, who was of German descent, encouraged the practice in his household and in the country. The picture popularized the Christmas tree in Britain, and a few years later it made its way to American publications, particularly Godey’s Lady’s Book, the premier women’s magazine of the time. In following Queen Victoria’s fashion, the Christmas tree became popular in America and was established as a Christmastime tradition.

Trees began being sold commercially in the 1850s, but the first Christmas tree farm was established in 1901 by W.V. McGalliard on his farm in New Jersey. McGalliard planted 25,000 Norway spruce trees. Americans commonly cut down trees in nearby forests for their Christmas trees, and this practice gave cause for concerns about de-

■ See Viewpoints on next page

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Viewpoints

■ **continued from previous page**
 forestation. President Theodore Roosevelt even considered banning the practice to preserve the forests; however, Roosevelt's sons, along with conservationist Gifford Pinchot, were able to show that the practice could be done in an environmentally conscious way and prevented the drastic measure.

Trees were typically decorated with homemade or home-baked decorations like cookies, popcorn, nuts, berries and fruits. Glass Christmas ornaments began to appear in the late 19th century and were often imported from Germany. The advent of electricity later brought light to the tree.

At the request of electric companies, the first National Christmas Tree lighting occurred in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge lit a nearly 50-foot Vermont balsam fir that was strung with 2,500 electric bulbs. The National Christmas Tree Lighting has been an annual event ever since in Washington, D.C.

The 1960s brought a new change to the Christmas tree industry: the fake Christmas tree. The fake Christmas tree has taken over the Christmas tree industry in the past 50 years. A 2018 survey found that 82 percent of American households set up a fake Christmas tree, while 18 percent choose to harvest a real tree for the season.

Despite this change, harvesting and decorating real Christmas trees remain a Christmas tradition that many practice. Around 25 million to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold each year in the United States. There are around 15,000 Christmas tree farms in

the U.S. growing trees on 350,000 acres. Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Washington leading the way as the top-producing states.

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

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

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Mis Crismas: when a tradition becomes a memory

By **Rose Chavez**
PREVIEW Columnist

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) wishes the Pagosa community a very Merry Christmas.

We couldn't be more grateful for all the support we've received in 2023.

It has been my pleasure to serve the community as executive director of ASI for the past year and a half. I have had the honor and privilege of serving in this role, leveraging my lived experience and education for the betterment of my community with the support of an outstanding board of directors and more than 50 community volunteers. What a gift of learning it has been and will continue to be.

I originally returned home to Pagosa after being away for nearly 25 years to be the caretaker of my aging mother, Alice Chavez, or as many of you know her from growing up here in the 1940s and 1950s, as Alice Archuleta or "Archie."

Over the last few years that I have been home I have sat with her many times in an effort to provide her loving companionship and to capture her stories for future generations. One such story included her memories of Christmases gone past growing up here in Pagosa or, as she called it, "Mis Crismas."

I was on Facebook over this past week and read a story (shared here with his permission) from a friend, Jeremy Jojola, whose family shared similar memories in southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico of Mis Crismas to celebrate the season and our precious elders who remind us of traditions from the past. May these precious memories rekindle your love for capturing your loved one's stories as well, happy holidays.

"If you ask nearly anybody from rural northern New Mexico or southern Colorado who was born around the 1950s or before, they will tell you about a unique Christmas tradition called Mis Crismes. In short, on Christmas morning, children in the region would take bags like pillow cases or used flour sacks, and go door-to-door and scream out 'Mis Crismes!' Neighbors would hand out treats like oranges, candies and pencils, very much like trick-or-treating. Mis Crismes, of course, is the Spanglish version of saying 'My Christmas!'"

"I love hearing my mother share her childhood memories of Mis Crismes. She'd wake up early and in the cold on Christmas mornings, put socks on her hands because there were no gloves, and visit as many homes as possible for treats. Back then, especially in the tiny villages that are nestled in the Sangre de Cristo mountains, poverty was pervasive. An orange or a candy was a big deal for children who didn't grow up with grocery stores. Sadly, this tradition is gone. I'm not

Senior News

aware of Mis Crismes still happening anywhere.

"I recently did an online newspaper archive search on Mis Crismes and found a few articles from the 1980s and 90s referencing the tradition

"From Levi Valdez in the Rio Grande Sun back in 1991:

"Sacks, usually those that had previously contained twenty-five or fifty pounds of flour, were readied on Christmas Eve. These were the type of sacks, sturdy ones, that would be needed. On Christmas Day we expected to collect many goodies...empanaditas, biscochitos, piñon, peanuts, apples and candy that would last well into the new year."

"Beloved Chicano author Rudolfo Anaya wrote this in the LA Times in 1981:

"Then we were off to the homes of our neighbors running and shouting, 'Mis Crismes! Mis Crismes!' Much as trick-or-treaters do today on Halloween, we received the traditional gifts of Christmas, returning home with our flour sacks bulging with candy, nuts and fruits."

"After talking with my mother, it seems she was among the last in my family to participate in Mis Crismes, which ended for her at age 10 in 1965. My aunt, who is nine years younger than my mother, doesn't remember the tradition.

"Based on what I've read, it appears Mis Crismes quickly faded away beginning in the early 1960s. I'm not sure exactly why, but I can theorize.

"You've heard the saying 'It takes a village ...'"

"People in the remote regions of New Mexico and Colorado long relied on each other for survival, and I suspect Mis Crismes was a way for villagers to share the burden of making children happy when gift giving was a struggle.

"As economics of the times improved for some families in the 1950s and 60s, people could drive vehicles on new highways to the cities, putting grocery stores within immediate reach. Mis Crismes treats were no longer rarities. Fruits could be purchased anytime.

"Of course I could be wrong and there may be some sort of academic paper I haven't found yet that has a better answer.

"This week I ordered more gifts on Amazon. I didn't need to put socks on my hands or fish out a pillow sack when I clicked on my trackpad for a package that will be here at my door in less than

24 hours. The packages will be wrapped and placed under the tree. Mis Crismes is now gone. For me, it represents a rural community kinship that I've never experienced, but have only heard about in family stories and in newspaper clippings. What a gift it must have been."

■ See Senior on next page

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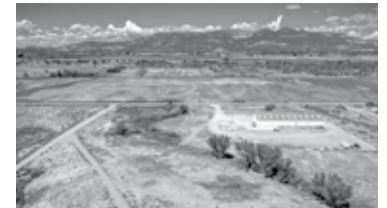
64 acres, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with 3 garages, includes 46 shares of water and is close to Navajo Lake.
MLS 807180 ■ \$995,000



Dream log home on banks of Stollsteimer Creek, on 2.5 acres. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, office, 2 car garage. Close to Navajo Lake.
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MLS 806370 ■ \$235,000

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1.1 acre, newly installed 4 bed septic, 1800 gal cistern, power, ready for your home. \$165,000. MLS 807665

1.21 acres, great building spot with views of Navajo Lake, Water and power available. \$75,000. MLS 806728

1.21 acres, No HOA! Trees galore. \$35,000. MLS 798589

Senior

■ continued from previous page

(Originally published Dec. 16, 2023, by Jeremy Jojola on Jeremy-Jojola.com.)

Mather D.I.T. art kits only for Illinois residents

We apologize for any inconvenience, but the Mather D.I.T. Art Kits program has been limited to Illinois residents only. Previously this program was offered across the U.S. when we featured their offerings earlier this year.

Senior conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of “Senior Conversations” with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhaver-creative@gmail.com.

Share lunch Monday through Thursday

Join us at the Silver Fox’s Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$10, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 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. 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.

Monday, Dec. 25 — Closed for the holiday.

Tuesday, Dec. 26 — Closed for the holiday.

Wednesday, Dec. 27 — New-castle beef and vegetable stew, biscuits, garden salad, fruit, milk and pumpkin muffins.

Thursday, Dec. 28 — Vegetable lasagna with spinach and white sauce, broccolini, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, milk and chocolate cake.

Friday, Dec. 29 — Pork tonkatsu ramen bowl with boiled egg, peas, scallions, garden salad, fruit, milk and fortune cookies.

Grab-N-Go meals

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

Meals on Wheels

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

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

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

Text reservations

Don’t forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you

to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

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

COVID-19 test kits available

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

Mahjong

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

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

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help

■ See Senior on next page

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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

New Thought Center to hold candlelight service Sunday

By Shayla McClure

New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Dec. 24 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. will be a candlelight service on Zoom with Shayla White Eagle.

Text or call (970) 510-0309 to sign up to receive the link via email.

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. 21, 6 p.m.: Solstice drumming and celebration.

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

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve celebration with the Retrocats at Vallecito Lake. There will be a burning bowl ceremony on New Year's Day. Call/

text (970) 510-0309 for reservations.

Jan. 1, 2024, 11 a.m.: Burning bowl ceremony to welcome in the new year with intention and purpose. This will be held at Vallecito Lake.

Jan. 7, 2024: Sunday service with Dr. Elaine Harding.

Jan. 27, 2024: Quintangled Masquerade Ball Fundraiser with Loar and the Good Vibe Tribe. This is a benefit for Wolf Rescue. There will be a cash bar, live band and costume contest. Tickets will be \$50 and will go on sale Jan. 5, 2024.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. We honor all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contrib-

ute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

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.

Re-elect Warren Brown County Commissioner District 1



The progress Commissioner Brown has been a part of delivering to the residents in Archuleta County, speaks for itself.

- Drivers license service
- Advocate for lower gas prices
- Free recycling
- Increased affordable housing options
- Expanded broadband
- Improved food security services
- Early childhood education
- Sensible STR regulations
- Increased citizen-led advisory committees
- Added public transportation routes
- Veteran discounts
- and many more!

Now is the time to keep moving forward and continue getting things done.
Re-Elect Commissioner Warren Brown, District 1!

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A new Christmas perspective

By Eric Fisk
PREVIEW Columnist



My early-age perspective of Christmas was skewed as much as most every child's is today. The premise that Christmas is nothing more than getting goodies and gifts overshadowed the story of the birth of mankind's Savior. The overshadowing can be attributed to the one who lurks in the shadows.

His goal has always been to thwart anyone's belief in the Most Holy God. To have come to this realization so late in my life makes me wonder if my Christian faith would be stronger or weaker if my heart had been changed while I was a child. Would the world have tried to turn my heart back to stone? That answer is yes. We see this hardening of hearts throughout our community and across this world.

Today, however, I know I am exactly where I am supposed to be. There is nothing in our lives that is not as it should be. There are many things in this world that are against the things of God. But there is nothing that is not ordained by an omniscient God. Those who feel as though all is falling apart in their lives are exactly where they are to be. God's love and justice is purely holy.

I have thought that in end times, when the Bible states that all knees will bow to the King of Kings, that some may not willingly. That some will be driven to their knees. But as I write this, I wonder if people will ask for help when they are at their lowest point in life. They see that this world cannot pull them out of the pit full of mire. Only God can do that. So, every knee may in fact bow to the King, but that does not mean their salvation is secure.

On the flip side, the thief on the cross who rejected Christ is evidence that this is probably not a biblical view. He was at his lowest point, and mocked Christ. He was not to be with Christ in paradise that day. God the Father had not given this guy to Christ. His name was not written in the Lamb's Book

of Life. However, he was exactly where he was supposed to be. He may have had the revelation that Jesus was in fact the Son of God prior to his own passing, but without a God-given heart change, he was stuck in his destiny.

I dread thinking where my attitude would have taken me if I had not asked for spiritual help years ago. I thank God that He gave me the ability to ask for that help. I certainly would not have a correct view of the Christmas season, nor would I be seeking an understanding of the story of salvation. Today, I can truly say that my heart was changed from stone to flesh. My mind is being renewed daily towards the things of God. Joy is finally here in my life.

God changes hearts. I am eternally grateful that He did that for me. Though I will never know the depth of Holy Scripture fully in this life, the act of seeking the depth of God's written word brings joy and living water to my soul.

The Christmas season has meaning that is truly supernatural. Walking with the Holy Spirit daily brings understanding that is beyond description. Thanks be to God that I was pulled from the miry pit of the world. He is the One who gives life. He is the light of the world. God the Father, giving His Son to us for our salvation, is by far the best Christmas gift anyone could be given. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. Jesus will never let go of those the Father has given Him. How could we possibly ask for anything better?

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Souvlaki meat
- 5 Cornfield cries
- 9 Stationed
- 14 Malarial fever
- 15 Mishmash
- 16 Eat away
- 17 Rack and pinion, e.g.
- 19 Theater platform
- 20 "No questions _____"
- 21 Fonda played one in "Ulee's Gold"
- 23 Diameter halves
- 25 Seating section
- 26 Rolling in dough
- 28 Defenseless
- 32 Type
- 33 Blue jeans' material
- 35 Sheik's bevy
- 36 Trim to fit, maybe

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20						21			22					
		23			24			25						
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32					33		34			35				
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41				42		43				44		45		
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52	53	54					55			56			57	58
59							60			61				
62							63				64			
65							66				67			

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- 38 Hole-boring tool
- 40 Tennis score
- 41 Romance, e.g.
- 43 Exodus leader
- 45 Harmless cyst
- 46 Give rise to
- 48 High as a kite
- 50 Celestial body
- 51 Arthur Murray moves
- 52 Enjoy the moment! (Latin)
- 56 Back in style
- 59 Atlantic, for one
- 60 Chip-making site
- 62 Trick-taking game
- 63 Wartime partner
- 64 Pot starter
- 65 Have a hunch
- 66 Overdue
- 67 Spotted

- 3 Exposing scandal
- 4 Use the guillotine on
- 5 Arroz ___ pollo
- 6 Form of defense
- 7 "Early to bed..." quote ending
- 8 Now and then
- 9 Beg
- 10 Kind of highway
- 11 Bath cake
- 12 Leg up
- 13 Forest forager
- 18 Stated further
- 22 Family member
- 24 Notion
- 26 Belgian city on the Meuse
- 27 Like days gone by
- 28 Partner of vim
- 29 NYC dwelling
- 30 River embankment
- 31 Fix text

- 34 Data-sorting method
- 37 Ignore a "Keep Out" sign
- 39 Half of R & R
- 42 Diplomatic agreement
- 44 Back of a boat
- 47 June honoree
- 49 Met productions

- 51 Silvery fish
- 52 Milk dispensers?
- 53 Advil target
- 54 Tack room item
- 55 Singer Fitzgerald
- 57 Learning style
- 58 Doomsayer's sign
- 61 Sailor's affirmative

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

If you or someone you know might be at risk of suicide, there is help.

Call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at 1-800-273-8255, text a crisis counselor at 741741 or visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

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Eight easy holiday centerpiece ideas

Special to The PREVIEW

The holiday season is a great time to make any home a bit more merry and bright. Most individuals let their personalities show through their home decor, and holiday decorating is just as personal as decorating throughout the rest of the year.

The main living areas of a home get the most decorating attention, with a Christmas tree or menorah taking a prominent position in the front window. Garlands, candles and other accoutrements also may dress up spaces.

However, when it comes to holiday hosting, attention also should be given to the dining table, which can benefit from a festive centerpiece.

Premade centerpieces are undeniably attractive, but adding a homespun touch can be a fun creative pursuit and become a family tradition. Explore these eight simple ideas to dress up your holiday table.

1. Frosted pine cones: Take advantage of a crisp winter's day to venture into a forest or park that is rich with evergreen trees. Gather pine cones from the forest floor and, if possible, a few evergreen boughs. Give the pine cones a touch of winter whimsy with a little faux snow in a can or even white paint. Nestle the boughs and pine cones into a wide-mouthed vase or bowl in the center of the table. Individual pine cones can later be turned into place cards for seating guests.

2. Holiday thanks: Cut many strips of paper roughly 6 inches in length from various colored pieces of paper to match the holiday theme. When guests arrive, ask them to write a favorite holiday memory or two, or what they're thankful for. Twirl the paper strips around a pencil to curl them, and then place the curlicues into a decorative bowl in the center of the table. Later in the evening, the host or hostess can read some of the sentiments.

3. Magical forest: Use green and silver conical party hats to turn a table or sideboard into a veritable evergreen forest. Arrange them

on a blanket of faux snow or white confetti.

4. Freshly cut: Select attractive flowers in vibrant holiday hues from a florist or even the supermarket floral section. Cut the stems and place them into an unusual display container, such as holiday-themed mugs or a punch bowl.

5. Glass baubles: Who says ornaments should be exclusive to the tree? A crystal or glass cake stand can be transformed into an icy delight when topped with silver and clear glass ornaments.

6. Birch wood: The crisp white coloring of birch bark is right at home with holiday decor. Go stark with pieces of the cut wood in varying heights intermingled with white candles that mimic the shapes and scale of the wood.

7. Fruit and vegetables: If guests are coming over and the race is on for a fast centerpiece, look no further than the kitchen. Lemons, artichokes, pears or pomegranates look festive in a bowl interspersed with some greenery and baby's breath.

8. Cornucopia: The horn of plenty can be customized to any holiday. Purchase a horn in wicker or woven grapevine and fill with flowers, fruit and greenery, or even painted

gourds or miniature pumpkins.

Holiday hosts and hostesses should not neglect the dining table when they decorate. Festive centerpieces can be handmade without much effort on the part of hosts.

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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Dr. Kitzel Farrah
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Dr. Cara Finstad
 Small animal and equine care — areas of interest are Equine emergency care and surgery. Dr. Finstad's hobbies are anything outdoors and skiing.

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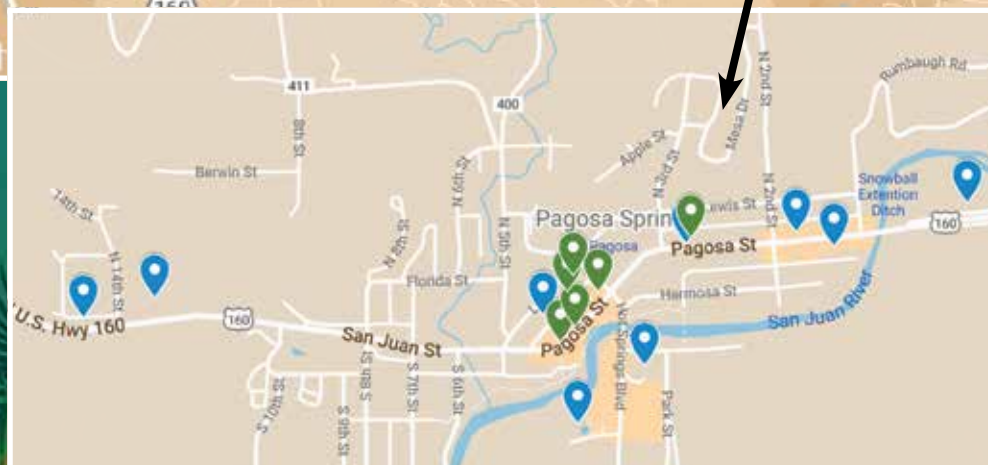
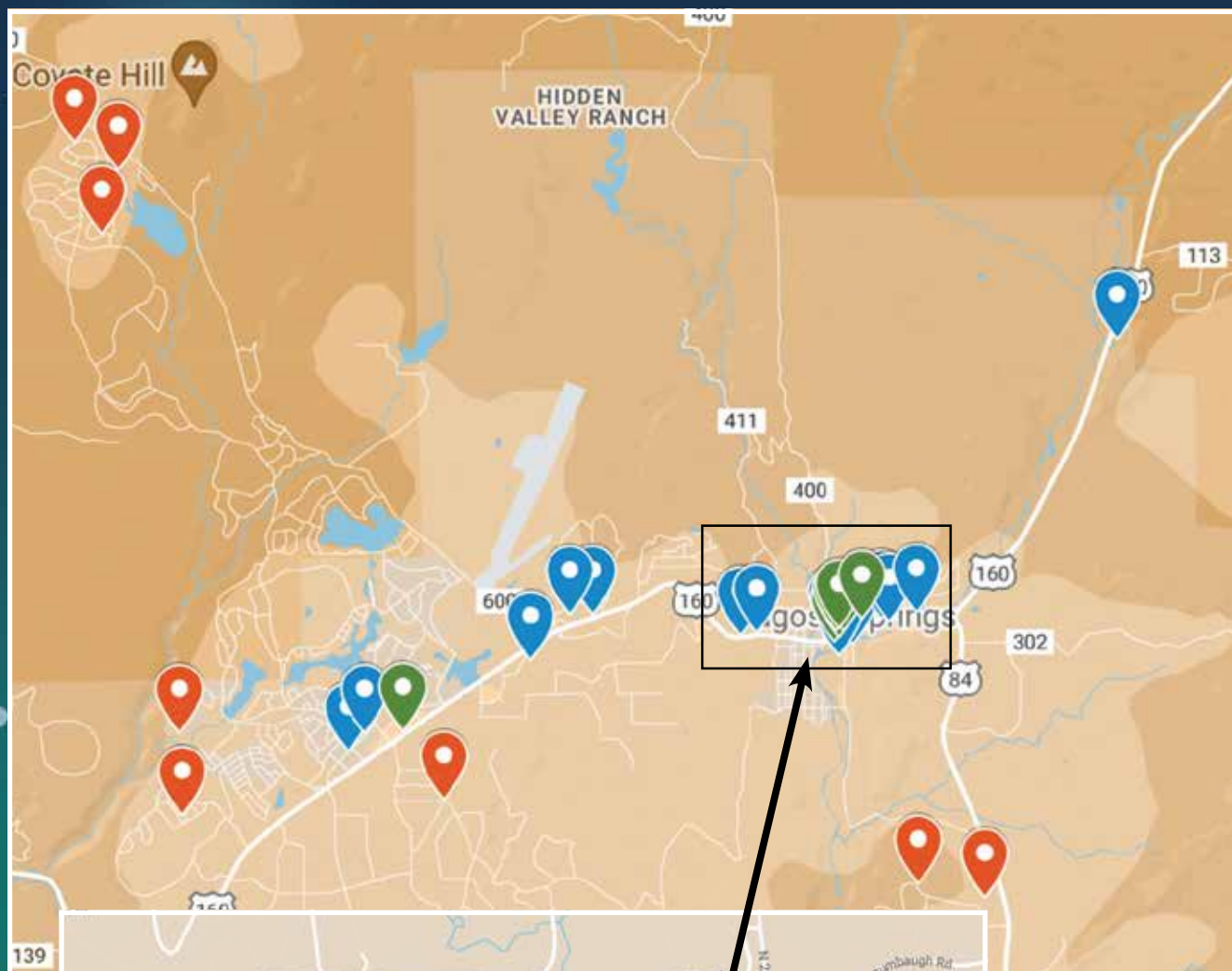
Winners of the 2023 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

Business

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

Storefront window

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





PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

Residential Lighting Contest, first place: 585 Shenandoah Drive.



PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

Storefront Window Display Contest, first place: Chow Down Pet Supplies.



PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

Business Lighting Contest, first place: RE/MAX Eagle's Nest and Build Pagosa.

Holiday Lighting Contest winners announced

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

The Pagosa Springs area has been bright with holiday cheer this season. The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board and The Pagosa Springs SUN are pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 holiday lighting contest.

We want to thank all of the participants. Voting was conducted online, with 267 votes submitted between Nov. 24 and Dec. 17.

Contest entrants will have their lights on from 6 to 8 p.m. every evening through the end of the year.

It was a close race for the Resi-

dential Lighting Contest, with a difference of only nine votes between first and third place. The winners of the Residential Lighting Contest are the following:

First place: 585 Shenandoah Drive.

Second place: 506 Morro Circle.

Third place: 344 Capricho Circle.

The winners of the Business Lighting Category are the following:

First place: RE/MAX Eagle's Nest and Build Pagosa.

Second place: Colorado Dream Homes.

Third place: PS Froyo.

The winners of the Storefront Window Display Category are the

following:

First place: Chow Down Pet Supplies.

Second place: Goodman's Department Store.

Third place: Community United Methodist Thrift Store.

Thanks again to all of the participants. We are already looking forward to next year's contest.

Free all-ages LEGO contest underway now

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We hope you're working on your entry for our all-ages LEGO contest. Submissions must be turned in by 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded for five different age groups — preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17, and ages 18 and up — on Saturday, Dec. 30, at noon after LEGO Club.

Entries must be built ahead of time and they must be of your own creation, not a LEGO kit or from another source. Also, no Technic or motorized pieces. Entries cannot be larger than 18 inches by 18 inches by 18 inches.

Any questions? Ask at your library or phone 264-2209.

Library closure

Your library will be closed Christmas Day so that staff can celebrate with their loved ones.

All-ages art fun tomorrow

Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., artists of all ages are invited to get slimy and make art. Participants should come ready to get messy at this free event. All supplies will be provided.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters this Saturday, Dec. 23, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

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.

ESL

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. Note there will be no class Dec. 26.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring both your device's charger and also your device passwords with you.

Note there is no Tech Time today, Dec. 21.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. PALS stands for Pagosa Adult Learning Services.

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.

Three short stories collections

"Seeking Fortune Elsewhere" by Sindya Bhanno is a collection of stories about South Indian immigrants and the families they left behind. "Stories from the Tenants Downstairs" by Sidik Fofana contains eight interconnected stories of apartment residents in Harlem. "Normal Rules Don't Apply" by Kate Atkinson contains 11 stories of subtly connected worlds.

Large print

"The Burnout" by Sophie Kinsella follows a woman who escapes her feelings of burnout at a seaside resort. "From a Far and Lovely Country" by Alexander McCall Smith is a No. 1 Ladies' Detective

■ See Library on page 22



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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACTIVITIES
- ARRIVAL
- BARTENDER
- BEVERAGES
- CHAFING DISHES
- CHARGERS
- ENTERTAIN
- FOOD
- GIFT
- GUEST LIST
- HOME
- HOSTING
- INVITE
- ITINERARY
- MENU
- MUSIC
- OVERNIGHT
- PARTY
- PLANNING
- PLAYLIST
- RECEPTION
- RSVP
- VALET

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Library

■ continued from page 20

Agency mystery. “The Corsican Shadow” by Clive Cussler is a Dirk Pitt adventure. “Hostile Territory” by William W. and J.A. Johnstone is a Preacher and Jamie MacCallister western. “Cade’s Revenge” by Robert Vaughan is the second book in the Western Adventures of Cade McCall series.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

“The Running Grave” by Robert Galbraith is the seventh book in the Strike series. “Too Late” by Colleen Hoover is a psychological suspense story. “The Edge” by David Baldacci begins when a CIA operative is murdered and her laptop and phone are missing. “Tom Clancy Command and Control” by Marc Cameron is a Jack Ryan adventure. “The Eye of Darkness” by George Mann is a Star Wars High Republic story. “Vengeance is Mine” by Marie NDiaye features a French middle-aged lawyer.

Other novels

“The Little Liar” by Mitch Albom is a story of truth and lies set during the Holocaust. “An Amish Cinderella” by Shelley Shepard Gray is a romance set in an Ohio Amish community. “The Waste Wilds” by Lauren Groff begins when a servant girl escapes from a colonial settlement. “The Record Keeper” by Charles Martin involves the rescue of a beloved mentor and friend. “The Last Exchange” by Charles Martin focuses on a bodyguard for a movie star. “The Five-Star Weekend” by Elin Hildebrand involves friends gathering in Nantucket.

“Stalking Around the Christmas Tree” by Jacqueline Frost is a Christmas Tree Farm mystery. “The Bookbinder” by Pip Williams features two women in Oxford during World War I. “The Porcelain Maker” by Sarah Freethy is a love story set during World War II. “The Constant Soldier” by William Ryan features a German soldier who returns home in 1944 to find his village dramatically changed for the worst. “Dark Memory” by Christine Feehan is a Carpathian

paranormal fantasy romance.

Books on CD

“The Wonder of All” by Barbara Taylor Bradford is the third House of Falconer historical novel. “The Running Grave” by Robert Galbraith is the seventh book in the Strike PI mystery series. “The Exchange” by John Grisham is a legal thriller. “12 Months to Live” by James Patterson and Mike Lupica features a criminal defense attorney with a terminal illness. “If You Would Have Told Me” by John Stamos is a memoir by this actor and producer and is read by the author.

“The Other Mothers” by Katherine Faulkner is a thriller about class and motherhood in an exclusive London community. “Good Girls” by Bangladeshi writer Leesa Gazi begins when a 40-year-old woman is finally allowed to go to the bazaar alone. “Sunny” by Colin O’Sullivan is a technological thriller about an AI conspiracy. “Saevus Corax Gets Away with Murder” by K.J. Parker is a fantasy about a man in the battlefield salvage business.

DVDs

“20 Days in Mariupol” is a documentary about the war in Ukraine.

Nonfiction

“Dolly Parton” by Tracey E.W. Laird highlights memorable moments in her life and includes 120 photos. “How to Smile” by Thich Nhat Hanh is part of the Zen master’s Mindfulness Essentials series. “Budapest” is a Rick Steves guidebook.

“Nuff Said” by Tyrus contains more tales of the author’s life in a complicated world. “The Radical Mind” by David Horowitz is a broadside against the policies of the radical left. “Tired of Winning: Donald Trump and the End of the Grand Old Party” by Jonathan Karl tracks the former president’s control of the Republican Party. “A City on Mars” by Kelly and Zach Weinersmith investigates the pros and cons of life in space settlements.

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Nancy Cole,

and to Susan and Terry Arrington, for their generous monetary donations.

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

“It’s no harder to think big than to think small. The only hard part is giving yourself permission to think that way. Well, I don’t just give you permission, I demand it of you.” — Arnold Schwarzenegger in his book “Be Useful: Seven Tools for Life,” available at your Ruby Sisson Library.

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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Anthony M. Doctor, RICP®
Wealth Manager
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Preview Calendar

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

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 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.

'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 Kymberley Pierce at (970) 946-7211 to RSVP.

'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 mem-

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

bers 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.

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 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.

■ 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.*

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

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.

Video Gaming. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Play age-appropriate video games on an Xbox, Wii and various other game systems, with mostly team or active games featured.

'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

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

'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).

Tuesday, Jan. 2

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

Wednesday, Jan. 3

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.

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.

Thursday, Jan. 4

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

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

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

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

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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)

■ See Calendar on next page

JIM GARRETT

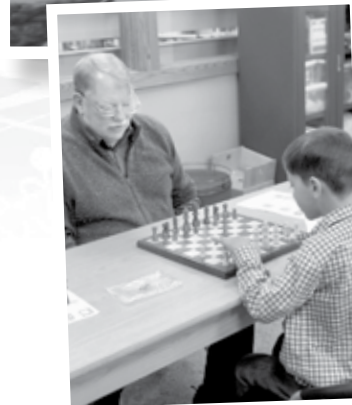
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
264-2209 for more information.

Friday, Jan. 5

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Wrestling. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Nucla. Rocky Mountain Duals.

Saturday, Jan. 6

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Wrestling. 10 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus multiple opponents. Rocky Mountain Invite.

Monday, Jan. 8

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

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

Wednesday, Jan. 10

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.

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.

Thursday, Jan. 11

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 students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Friday, Jan. 12

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Centauri.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School versus Centauri.

Monday, Jan. 15

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

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

Wednesday, Jan. 17

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.

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.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Wrestling. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Wrestling. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

■ See Calendar on next page

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to the following people
and organizations
for their guidance and support
during the journey
through the educational process
of the preceding years.

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Bill, Joyce & Lydia Hines
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■ continued from previous page

Monday, Jan. 22

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

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.

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.

Friday, Jan. 26

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Montezuma-Cortez.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Montezuma-Cortez.

Friday, Feb. 2

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Alamosa.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Alamosa.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.



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FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Photos courtesy Carole Howard and Simon Fuger

Scene ... Friends of the Theatre provide home-cooked dinners on Dec. 12 for the cast of Thingamajig Theatre Company's holiday musical, "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," playing at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts until Dec. 29. Two local actors plus eight professionals from across the U.S. are performing as enemy soldiers in the trenches of World War I who come together in peace, harmony and camaraderie after a German soldier begins singing "Stille Nacht" on Christmas Eve. Tickets are available at www.pagosacenter.org.





Photo courtesy Cristina Glebova/Unsplash

Dark-eyed juncos are in decline, despite there being no single obvious reason.

A warning from the snowbirds

By Pepper Trail
PREVIEW Columnist

No, this isn't about those folks who spend their winters in Arizona or Florida. The snowbird behind this warning is an actual bird, the dark-eyed junco, a small creature you probably know if you have a bird feeder and maybe even if you don't.

Trim, gray sparrows that flash white tail feathers as they take flight, juncos are called snowbirds because they arrive in our towns with the coming of snow. Come spring, they head back up into the mountains or north to Canada and Alaska for nesting.

Juncos are among the West's most familiar birds, reliable companions on summer hikes and winter days. The total population of the species is estimated to be around 200 million. Juncos are in no danger of extinction, so what warning could they be giving us?

Juncos may be abundant, but they are also in sharp decline. According to the Breeding Bird Survey, a decades-long monitoring study of the nation's birds, junco populations are down by 42 percent since the surveys began in the late 1960s.

But here is the peculiar part: There is no obvious reason for this loss of millions of birds. Juncos are adaptable, not requiring some disappearing habitat. They don't make long-distance migrations to the tropics. Poisons or toxins

Opinion: Writers on the Range

don't seem to pose a special threat to them.

What seems to be killing juncos is, simply, everything.

Based on numerous studies, the leading human-related cause of death among birds is predation by cats: over 2 billion (yes, billion) birds killed per year in North America.

This is followed by collisions: windows, 600 million birds; vehicles, 200 million; powerlines and communication towers, 43 million.

Then there are pesticides and toxics, 72 million; lead poisoning, 12 million; and oil and wastewater pits, 1 million. That adds up to well over 3 billion dead birds per year.

Nothing on this list is a deliberate effort to get rid of juncos or other birds. They're just byproducts of the way we conduct ourselves in the world.

These dangers, of course, are not faced just by juncos. A review of North American bird populations documents that we have lost almost one-third of our birds since 1970. The researchers summarized their findings in no uncertain terms: "This loss of bird abundance signals an urgent need to address

threats to avert future avifaunal collapse and associated loss of ecosystem integrity, function and services."

It's not just bird populations
■ See Writers on next page



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Bake up a sweet holiday treat

Special to The PREVIEW

Entertaining is a big part of the holiday season. Calendars are packed this time of year with gatherings with friends, family and professional colleagues.

Entertaining requires keeping plenty of refreshments on hand to ensure guests maintain their holiday spirit. Dessert is no stranger to the season, with office break rooms, dining tables and buffet stations brimming with sweet treats to tempt celebrants' palates. Everyone should have a go-to dessert to bring along to a holiday party or to offer guests when hosting their own fêtes. Cookies are a standard due to their versatility and portability.

Festive "Sour Cream Cookies" provide all of the holiday feels and can be customized in color to reflect celebrations of Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or New Year's. Bake up a batch, courtesy of "Live Well Bake Cookies" by Danielle Rye.

Sour Cream Cookies

- Makes 22 cookies
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla

extract
1/2 cup sour cream, at room temperature

Vanilla Buttercream Frosting

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon heavy whipping cream or milk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Gel food coloring (optional)

1. To make the cookies: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats and set aside.

2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt until well combined. Set aside.

3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well combined.

4. Mix in the egg and vanilla extract until fully combined, making sure to stop and scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed.

5. Mix in the dry ingredients in two additions, alternating with the sour cream. Make sure to mix in each addition until just combined, and be careful not to overmix the batter.

6. Using a 1 1/2-tablespoon

cookie scoop, scoop the cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one.

7. Bake for 14 to 16 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are set and spring back when touched lightly. Remove from the oven, and allow to cool on the baking sheets for 10 minutes, then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

8. To make the vanilla buttercream frosting: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter for 1 to 2 minutes, or until smooth. Add the powdered sugar, 1/2 cup at a time, mixing in each addition until well combined.

9. Add the heavy whipping cream, vanilla extract and gel food coloring (if using), and continue mixing until fully combined.

10. Once the cookies have cooled completely, spread the frosting on top of the cookies.

11. Store the cookies in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to four days.

Writers

■ continued from previous page that are collapsing. Insect populations are crashing as well. Studies from the United States, Europe and Asia over the past 10 years document shocking declines in insect populations, as much as 50 to 75 percent.

If you're plagued by swarms of mosquitoes in the summer, you might think that's not such a bad thing. But insects are crucial to the functioning of just about every ecosystem on Earth, serving as pollinators, decomposers and as food for countless species of critters higher up the food chain.

Is there an exception to this relentless litany of population declines? Why, yes. It's us. Since 1970, the human population of the United States has grown by more than 60 percent, while bird populations have fallen by a third. That doesn't seem like a coincidence.

Everyone has heard of the canary in the coal mine: the bird that miners brought underground to alert them to dangerous gases such as carbon monoxide. With its small size and fast metabolism, the canary

would collapse before the gas reached levels fatal to humans, giving the miners just enough time to escape.

We need to see the humble snowbird for what it is: Our "canary in the world." When even the commonest wild species are suffering drastic declines, do we really believe that a world inhospitable to our fellow creatures will continue to be hospitable to us? As one species after another dwindles away, the structure of the ecosystems that sustain life on Earth is weakening.

The familiar flash of a junco's white tail feathers as I hike along a mountain trail always brings a smile to my face. It's a reminder that keeping common species common is essential to keeping this beautiful planet livable, and for that, I say thank you, little snowbird.

Pepper Trail is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a biologist and writer based in Ashland, Ore. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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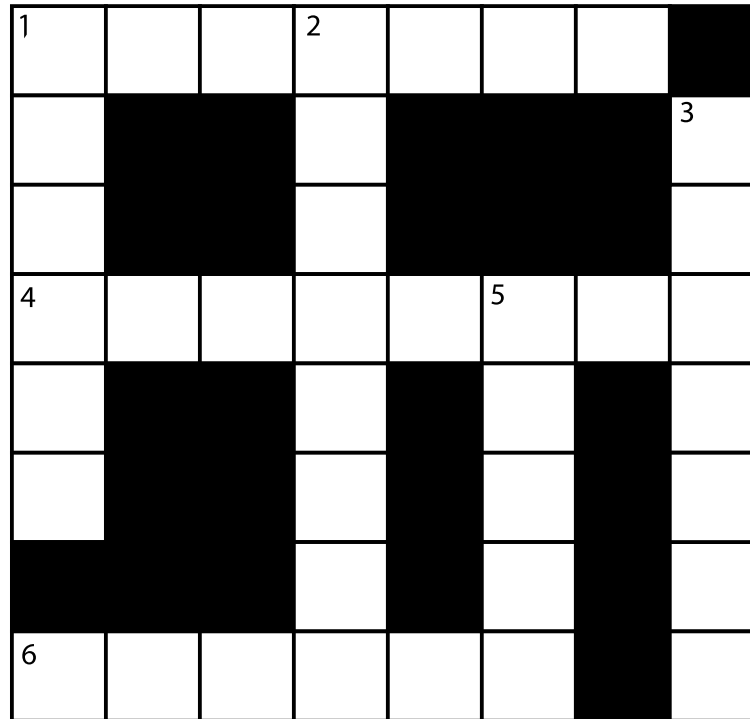
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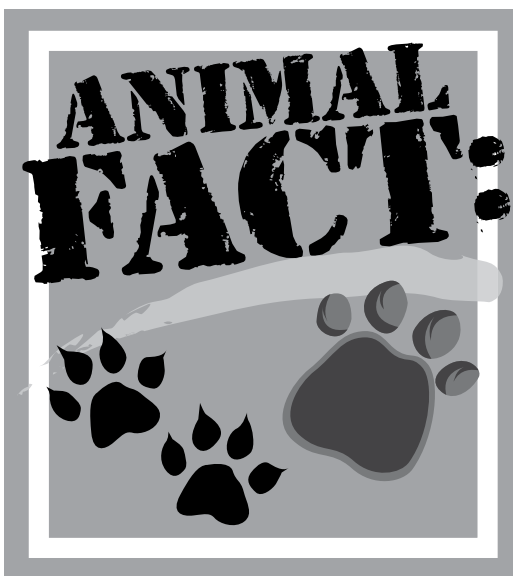
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ACROSS

1. Afraid
4. One who mimics
6. Jump on

DOWN

1. Cat
2. Hold back
3. Vibrating sound
5. Test flavor



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ANSWER: CAT

Down
1. Feline 2. Restrain 3. Purring 5. Taste

Across
1. Fearful 4. Imitator 6. Pounce



HAIRBALL

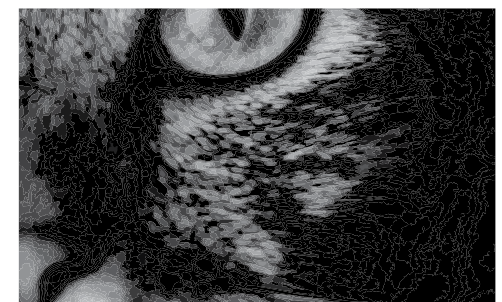
a ball of hair that collects in an animal's stomach

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Arch
- SPANISH:** Arco
- ITALIAN:** Arco
- FRENCH:** Arche
- GERMAN:** Bogen



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ANSWER: CAT'S FACE

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SNOW REMOVAL, HANDYMAN and small engine repair. Call or text for references and pricing. Geoffrey, (970)585-4586.

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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.

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.

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR CDL DRIVER Experience in forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

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.

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PART TIME RECEPTIONIST for 2024 tax season at H&R Block, Pagosa Springs. Mornings 9-1 Monday - Friday, some Saturdays. Contact Lisa (970)946-8543.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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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.

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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@orourkemediagroup.com

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TWO VEHICLES FOR SALE. 1st is a 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. 2nd is a 2001 Buick LeSabre, 123,000 miles. Runs well. Could use some work. \$2200 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

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2 PRIVATE OFFICE SPACES. Uptown at 543 Park Ave. 10x12, \$150, and 20x20 with sink, \$385. Both recently remodeled and price includes utilities. (970)300-9444, or info@pagosaseelfstorage.com.

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE JANUARY 1 Downtown Pagosa in the Metropolitan Hotel. 250 square feet. \$415 per month. Year lease. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

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PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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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.

CUTE 2 BEDROOM, one bath condo, Pagosa Lakes area. \$1675 per month, long-term rental. Available immediately. Semi-furnished. Call Tosh. (801)842-5150.

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.

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264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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SWEET FURNISHED 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1-car garage across from Lake Pagosa. Available 1/1/24. One small dog allowed. TP-7. \$2,400 per month. Some utilities included. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspingsrealty.com.

TWO BEDROOM CABIN. All appliances, washer and dryer, 8.5 miles out of town. Pets considered. Fenced yard, wood stove. \$1400 per month. Call (970)731-2010, please leave a message.

UNFURNISHED 3 BED 2 BATH, 1 car garage, duplexes. Newly remodeled and updated. All appliances including gas fireplaces. Pets allowed. \$2000 per month. TP-4 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspingsrealty.com.

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

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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 ACRE with great cell service, country views and 10 minutes from town. \$235,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

64 ACRES, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME, 3 garages and shed, 46 shares of irrigation water, 3-3 phase electric outlets and beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$995,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Log home on the banks of Stollsteimer Creek. 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home, 2-car garage, 2 acres with lots of extras. \$675,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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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.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

ONE ACRE LOT, all ready for your new home with newly installed all utilities, four bedroom permitted septic system, power and insulated pump house. \$165,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

RIVER FRONT PROPERTY, 1.45 acres, electricity across the street. \$289,900. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

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Email classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Barry Knott

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

Within its range in North America, fluctuations in presence, abundance and even nesting time of the red crossbill is linked with food availability. It is one of the nomadic finches of coniferous woodlands. Along with evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, pinyon jays and nutcrackers, the red crossbill is tied to the unpredictable nature of cone production by conifers.

Red crossbills live in mature forests, especially those with spruce, pine, fir, hemlock or larch. Both logging of older trees which produce seeds more reliably and destructive forest fires reduce the food supply and abundance of these birds.

Only the males of this medium-sized finch are red, with females colored yellowish and immatures streaked brown. All display darker wings and the criss-crossed bills for which they are named. Ten different call types or ecomorphs are recognized whose calls and tree preference differ enough to usually prevent interbreeding.

In these birds, bill structure is an amazing example of adaptation to a food source, with different bill sizes corresponding to different cones. The red crossbill places the curved tips of its slightly open bill under the scale of a cone and bites down. This forces the scale up and exposes the seed, which is then extracted by the bird's long tongue and hulled before it is swallowed. One bird can consume 3,000 seeds per day.

Red crossbills are not born with crossed bills. As the immature bird develops and starts feeding on its own, it twists its beak in one direction or another over and over until the growing tips become crossed. There is an equal chance of the tips crossing left to right or right to left, which in turn determines which seeds the bird can extract from a closed cone.

These birds exist in social flocks year-round, calling to each other with their secret language. Calls may communicate among the flock the quality of feeding conditions in a tree and keep it together when moving from place to place. When feeding at a good seed source, the flock may be quiet, with the only evidence of its presence the sight of seed wings floating to the ground from high up in a tree.

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

Your mental health matters

Colorado Crisis Hotline

1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255

Merry Christmas

Glory in the Highest: Luke 2

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"



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A special thanks to all of you who visited our booth for the "Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration" downtown. While it was cold outside (but not as cold as last year), our Hearts were filled with the warmth of our friends and neighbors. Congratulations to Scott B. of Hallettsville, TX for winning the \$100 Gift Card to Goodman's Department Store.

Thank you for supporting our advertisers!