



The Pagosa Springs

SUN

\$1

PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com

VOLUME 116 — NO. 13, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

'It's a miracle': Community steps up after gifts stolen from Adopt-A-Family project



Photos courtesy PaTrisha Patten

Top: The Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project's gifts are ready for distribution on Dec. 23. Bottom: The project's storage unit prior to being broken into days before the giveaway.

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

"I was afraid they weren't going to have a Christmas," PaTrisha Patten said of how she felt after learning the storage unit housing the gifts for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project

she runs had been broken into.

On the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 21, it was reported that the storage unit, located at Mountain View Storage Units off U.S. 84, had been broken into, according to a statement the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO).

The statement notes the gifts were stolen

sometime the previous evening or early on Dec. 21.

"When I opened the storage unit, I just started bawling," Patten said.

Patten learned about the break-in from the storage unit facility's owner.

■ See Miracle A8

Town to explore agreement with The Springs Resort over use of geothermal water

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At a Dec. 21 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council voted to change the language of an amendment to its tap agreement with The Springs Resort and Spa.

Since 2009, the agreement has provided a certain amount of "raw geothermal water" to The Springs Resort for commercial uses.

The town currently obtains water rights to two geothermal wells downtown.

The new language adopted by the council will leave open the possibility of raising the rate that the town charges The Springs Resort for municipal geothermal water to even higher than the \$12,000 per-year rate in the current drafted amendment.

In the original 2009 agreement, The Springs opted to pay a lump sum amount to the town for the geothermal water.

During the period from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2018, the Springs paid the sum of \$75,021, and between

Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2023, the Springs paid \$41,679, according to documentation on the matter.

The 2009 agreement also states that, "beginning Jan. 1, 2024 and thereafter services fees and charges shall be based on standardized market rates established by the Town for taps supplied raw geothermal water by the Town."

At the meeting, Town Manager David Harris said, "The existing rates are set to expire in this calendar year," which prompted the town and The Springs Resort to draft this amendment for the council to consider.

Harris explained that this new amendment was the product of discussions with the owners of The Springs and that both parties believe it is a "fair" agreement.

The intent of the amendment is "to define and memorialize how payment is made to the Town by the The Springs Resort for use of the raw geothermal water going forward beginning January 1, 2024," according to agenda documentation on the matter.

■ See Geothermal A8

Charter school receives \$688,000 playground grant

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) board member Elly Osmera announced at the board's Dec. 13 meeting that it received nearly \$700,000 for construction of a playground at the school.

"We did it," she said. "We got the grant."

"Good job," board president Lawrence Rugar said.

The grant is through the Colorado Health Foundation, which previously awarded PPOS a \$24,000 planning grant for the school's "Playground for the People."

The description on the Colorado Health Foundation website states the project will "Create a safe, stimulating and engaging playground for children and community members to expand their minds, strengthen their bodies, lift their spirits and incorporate embodied learning."

Osmera indicated the playground will be open to the public outside of school hours.

Board member Pamela Meade asked if the grant includes a project manager, and School Director Angela Reali-Crossland suggested PPOS use a local project manager or owner's representative to help make decisions on the project.

Osmera noted she didn't have a definite answer and that they would need to consult with the Colorado Health Foundation.

She added the Colorado Health Foundation allows two years to use the funds.

In discussing the project, the board and staff also talked about the timing of the playground construction and opening a preschool room within PPOS.

Osmera also indicated her opinion that it might help PPOS's enrollment to have the playground open by the start of the next school year and PPOS's preschool room.

"I agree with you about the desire," Reali-Crossland said. "I think that if the projects are on the same timeline

■ See Grant A8

Next phase of Plastic Pollution Reduction Act to kick in Jan. 1

By Hailey Sams
SUN Intern

The next phase of Colorado House Bill 21-1162, the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, which covers the management of plastic products, kicks in on Jan. 1, 2024, further limiting when plastic bags will be available in the state.

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, stores and retail food establishments will no longer be allowed to provide single use plastic bags as a result of HB21-1162, according to the Colorado Department of Revenue.

"Between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, a store may furnish a recycled paper carryout bag or a single-use plastic carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale if the customer pays a fee of 10 cents per bag or a higher fee adopted by the municipality or county in which the store is located. On and after January 1, 2024, a store may furnish only

a recycled paper carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale at a fee of 10 cents per bag or a higher fee imposed by the municipality or county in which the store is located," states the department's website.

This carryout bag fee does not apply to customers who participate in a federal or state food assistance program, relays the website. Additionally, certain stores that have three or fewer locations that operate solely in Colorado are exempt and may provide single-use plastic bags.

This act also does not apply to "materials used in the packaging of pharmaceutical drugs, medical devices, or dietary supplements or any equipment or materials used to manufacture pharmaceutical drugs, medical devices, or dietary supplements," according to the website.

Beginning on April 1, 2024, stores are required to send 60 percent of

■ See Plastic A8



Photo courtesy Scott DW Smith/Wolf Creek Ski Area

A snowboarder enjoys the 10 inches of fresh snow Wolf Creek Ski Area received prior to Christmas. The storm helped the ski area have a midway snow depth of 31 inches and a year-to-date snowfall of 80 inches.

Index

Opinion	A2
Letters	A3
Business	A4
Colorado to offer new streamlined process for broadband connectivity using CDOT property along roadways	
Sports	A9
Pirates go 2-1 at Durango Quad	
Public Notices	A14
PREVIEW	
Live Performers	2
Calendar	10
Sudoku	12
Crossword	16
Classifieds	24

PagosaSUN.com
ExplorePagosa.com



Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

©Copyright 2023
O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

(970) 264-2100 • PagosaSUN.com
Physical address: 457 Lewis Street
Mailing address: PO Box 9
Pagosa Springs, Colorado

"HOME OF THE WORLD'S DEEPEST
HOT MINERAL SPRINGS"



COLORADO
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

- 2017 Service to the First Award Recipient
- 2022 EXCELLENCE IN PHOTO & DESIGN
- 2022 EXCELLENCE IN ADVERTISING
- 2022 FIRST-PLACE AWARDS
 - Best Advertising Campaign
 - Best Data Journalism Reporting
 - Best Serious Column Writing
 - Best Cover Design
 - Best Page Design
- Best Photo Slideshow- Gallery or Photo Essay
- 2022 SECOND-PLACE AWARDS
 - Best Advertising Campaign
 - Best Advertising Special Section
 - Best Print Ad
 - Best Editorial Special Section
 - Best Education Story
 - Best Investigative Story Package
 - Best Public Service Project
 - Best Page Design

SUN STAFF

Publisher
Jim O'Rourke, jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

Editor Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Robert Moore, robert@pagosasun.com
Intern Hailey Sams, hailey@pagosasun.com

Advertising and Circulation Manager
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom Robert Penton

Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon

Mailroom William Thomas

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Digital subscriptions available at PagosaSUN.com/eedition

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Display - Noon Monday • Classified - Tuesday 10 a.m.
Legal - Friday 4 p.m.
Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks.
Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.

PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO
USPS 418-340

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
Periodical newspaper postage paid at
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Postmaster, Address Service Requested

The following
weather
information
is brought to you as a
public service by



Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Depth	Type	Moisture
12/20	47	29	-	-	-
12/21	40	26	NA	NA	.05
12/22	47	22	-	-	-
12/23	36	32	NA	NA	.6
12/24	33	17	.2	NA	.11
12/25	27	8	-	-	-
12/26	32	6	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs
603 S. 8th Street
(970) 247-5786

OUR VIEW

'You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch'

We were sickened and disappointed to hear on Dec. 21 that the storage unit housing gifts and needed items for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project was broken into.

Just days before Christmas, organizers and supporters were left panicked and in tears, not sure if they'd be able to provide the needed and desired items for 141 of our fellow Pagosa Country residents whom they'd pledged to help out.

The project isn't part of a nonprofit organization. It's just an effort for our community to help itself in a time of need. These are just citizens, our neighbors, looking out for each other at a time of year when expenses pile up and needs tend to be greater.

They didn't have extra funds and items lying around to replace what was taken two days before the gifts were set to be distributed.

But, the Grinch didn't win.

As soon as the break-in was discovered, word was put out on social media that there was a need to replace what was stolen. That word spread like wildfire.

Residents, law enforcement and other local officials rallied, and, within a day, the project organizers had everything they needed to replace the stolen items, either through people readopting members of the

44 families being helped or money donated to cover purchases.

Volunteers spread out between Pagosa Springs, Durango and Farmington, N.M., to buy everything needed.

After Saturday's distribution, PaTrisha Patten, who took over the project in recent years, shared photos with us and told us simply, "We made it happen with the [community's] help and tons of volunteers."

We call that the true spirit of Christmas. But, because of the break-in, this year's project is not yet complete.

Patten is still left working with law enforcement to help solve the mystery of the Grinch's identity and have donors gather receipts to help value the gifts that were stolen or damaged.

The organizers are also left to do more planning for the future so there's not a repeat of this year's events.

She told us they go to great lengths to keep the location of the gifts under wraps until they are distributed. Among the measures they take are moving storage locations every year, trying to ensure no one follows them to the storage location, and keeping the number of people with knowledge of and access to the storage very limited.

After the events and roller coaster of

emotions they've gone through this year, Patten reported they'll be adding even more security measures in the future.

On Tuesday, Sheriff Mike Le Roux reported the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office needs more information to help solve the case.

Photos of the gifts can be found in this issue of The SUN, our website, The SUN's Facebook page and elsewhere.

If anyone knows anything about the break-in, they are asked to contact Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.

While we're not sure if Pagosa's Grinch has had a change of heart or not, we're glad this story has had a (mostly) happy ending.

As we get ready to turn to a new calendar year, we hope we can take this spirit of the season with us into 2024 and whatever challenges it may bring.

We hope to see our community lend a helping hand even when there's not a crisis. We hope to see the togetherness, generosity and thankfulness we've seen this season continue long after our holiday decorations are boxed and put away.

Those of us at The SUN wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 28, 1923

The threatened scarlet fever epidemic, which was apparently in full swing last week when eight new cases were reported within three days, has subsided and the ban on public gatherings of school children has been lifted by Mayor G.S. Hatcher and the board of health.

Since our last issue only two new cases have been reported and both are in families which were already under quarantine for the disease.

Believing that all real danger was over and that all exposed to the disease had either contracted it or were immune, the authorities yesterday lifted the ban and business and activities will be permitted to continue uninterrupted.

The Pagosa Springs Orchestra of seven pieces announces a big dance to be given next Monday night, New Year's eve, at the Odd Fellows' hall. Lunch will be served and everybody is invited to participate in a real good time.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 7, 1949

A storm which started New Year's day left over 20 inches of snow in town before it quit Tuesday morning. Nearly 17 of the 21 inches fell Saturday night and Sunday morning. In the country there has been even more snow and winter is here with a vengeance. One "Old-Timer" stated that this looked as if it would turn out to be the kind of winter had many years ago.

A snow slide stopped traffic on Wolf Creek Pass for several hours Sunday. After the slide was cleared and the crews had returned to their stations another slide was reported on the east side of the pass by two college youths from Durango who skied to the road camp after their car was stopped by the slide.

The Town Street Commissioner and crew have been doing an excellent job of keeping the streets plowed out. Auto travel around town is without much trouble. All roads and streets are slick and the country roads were rapidly cleared.

With the clearing away of the storm the mercury dropped to sub-zero temperatures and some cold nights are anticipated.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 27, 1973

The Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Health denied an appeal last week from the San Juan Lumber Co. to continue a previously granted variance.

The variance was for the Durango and Pagosa Springs mills of the company. This is a reversal of a variance granted on August 14 of the year for 12 months. The variance was given on the condition that a smoke abatement plan be presented.

The plan was presented last month and the state board found it unacceptable. In this particular case there is no damage, other than to the view, from the sawmill smoke. The matter has been the subject of several hearings before the state board.

Spokesmen for the company say they cannot at this time invest the considerable sum that it would require to abate the smoke. They say that this expense can be justified only if they can be assured of an adequate timber supply for the next two years. The Forest Service has not at this time made a public commitment that such a timber supply will be available, according to a company spokesman.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 31, 1998

As many as 15 Canadian lynx, if Canadian trappers can catch that many, are scheduled for release in the Weminuche Wilderness Area Jan. 8. Or maybe there will be no lynx release at all. The great Colorado lynx restocking plan is under attack.

Threats from two sources jeopardize the release. First, Canadian trappers in British Columbia are having trouble meeting the quota, even with a price tag of \$400 per animal. Second, groups opposing reintroduction of the lynx may obtain injunctions halting the process.

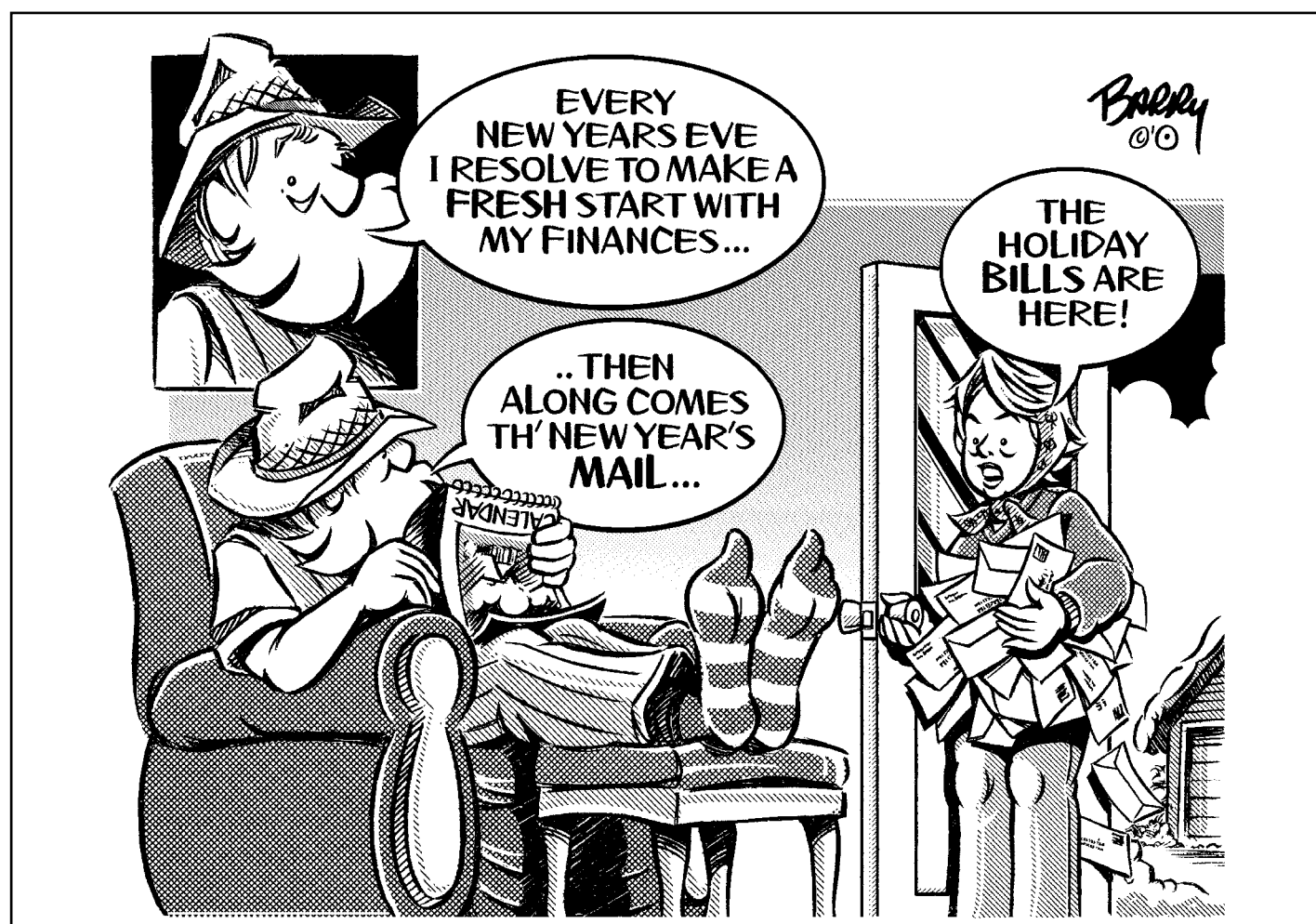
"As of two nights ago, the trappers only had two animals, both of them female," Bill Haggerty said Wednesday. Haggerty is the information specialist for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the state agency handling the release.

A second threat to the release program lurks in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Wiley Danielson in Denver. Tomorrow, Judge Danielson will listen to lawyers representing folks opposed to the release explain why they think the entire idea is a mistake. If Danielson accepts the arguments, he may issue a temporary restraining order banning the release.



From the January 5, 1967 Pagosa SUN - A NIGHT IN an igloo was experienced by Ted Edmonds, left, and Mike Harris, right, Monday. The two boys occupied the igloo, which had been built by a winter enthusiast, and found that it was not too arduous an undertaking. Temperatures ranged down to 23 below outside. SUN photo.

<p>Ron Maez, Chair rmaez@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8303</p>	<p>Archuleta County Commissioners Warren Brown warren.brown@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8300</p>	<p>Veronica Medina veronica.medina@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8305</p>
<p>Matt DeGuise mdeguise@pagosaprices.co.gov</p> <p>Madeline Bergon mbergon@pagosaprices.co.gov</p>	<p>Pagosa Springs Town Council Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosaprices.co.gov</p> <p>Mat deGraaf mdegraaf@pagosaprices.co.gov</p> <p>Brooks Lindner blindner@pagosaprices.co.gov</p>	<p>Leonard Martinez lmartinez@pagosaprices.co.gov</p> <p>Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosaprices.co.gov</p>



Barry
©©

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.

Unconstitutional

Dear Editor:
Trump is to be excluded from the Colorado ballot and the idea of "innocent until proven guilty" is no longer a right in Colorado.

How unconstitutional?
Dan Manka
Fairmont, W.Va.

Constitution classes

Dear Editor:
My father was killed in an accident in 1977. He was a business owner, husband and father of 4 teenage boys. Fortunately, he had the foresight to do extensive estate planning and had agreements set up for his business and Trusts created to manage his estate for the benefit of his family.

Our legal system today is conflicted between judicial interpretation and original intent of the constitution. Original intent is following the documents as written whereas judicial interpretation places meaning based on current times or personal beliefs. How did the founding fathers

view these differences?

Thomas Jefferson: "On every question of construction, carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed."

James Madison: "What a metamorphosis would be produced in the code of law if all its ancient phraseology were to be taken in its modern sense."

James Wilson: "The first and governing maxim in the interpretation of a statute is to discover the meaning of those who made it."

Joseph Story: "The first and fundamental rule in the interpretation of all documents is to construe them according to the sense of the terms and the intentions of the parties."

Imagine what would have happened to my mother's financial security if the Trustee's had succumbed to the many pressures from family members and others to access trust assets for reasons not specifically written in my father's Trust agreement? Thank goodness, the Trustee's followed the four corners of his trust document as written and to this day,

46 years later at age 90, my mother has never needed to worry about money!

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

Jamie Scholl

Hatred

Dear Editor:
With the widespread news coverage of the war between Israel and Hamas has come, it seems, a surge in antisemitism (hatred or harassment of Jews) in many parts of the United States. Perhaps the most attention-grabbing incidents of Jew-hatred come from public schools (see a FreePress article by Francesca Block dated 19 Dec 2023). These capture our attention especially because they involve the shaping of young minds and behavior.

I recognize that attention to political and military conflicts across the globe may be suitable subjects for high school classes to examine, in the interest of teaching critical thinking about those conflicts. Our students need to learn how history, rule of law, and policy should direct their

speech and votes for leadership in this country.

Our school system should also teach--in curriculum, in conversation, and in its discipline--that hatred of persons is wrong. All human beings deserve respect, honor, and love, regardless of category (including race, ethnicity, faith, and citizenship). While behaviors that do harm to others must be met with correction, we must teach that identity must never be hated or used as an excuse for violence or violence-inciting speech.

I intend here to make a plea to all of our K-12 educators--to whom I entrust my own children for education and guidance for at least 180 days a year--please to tolerate no speech or behavior that demeans any identity or nationality. Permission to hate one group gives implicit permission to hate any group. Ultimately, each of us has been given some unique identity which might come into the crosshairs of hatred. And when that happens, I expect my fellow citizens to respond in such a way that we may live together in peace. Let honor, respect, and love be the inviolable governing principles of our education system.

With gratitude,
Emrys Tyler

Commissioners vote to create Road and Bridge Advisory Board

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 19 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted to formalize the creation of a volunteer Road and Bridge Advisory Board to assist the county with road maintenance and improvement planning.

County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the BoCC had expressed an interest in creating an advisory board composed of persons with backgrounds in municipal public works, heavy equipment operation, snow removal, road work projects or supervisory experience in the public work sector.

He indicated that the county received seven applications in response to advertising the board openings

and that all applicants had relevant experience.

He stated that the present vote would cover the creation of the board, while a vote in 2024 will identify and appoint members to the board.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that the commissioners are in agreement about the need to create the board and that it would be "nice to know" who the applicants were.

Woodman responded that the applicants are "no secret" but that, as a procedural matter, the BoCC must create the board and appoint members to the board.

He added that he would send the applications to Medina, which she stated she would appreciate.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked County Attorney Todd Weaver if the BoCC could appoint the ap-

plicants to the board at the current meeting.

Weaver stated that appointing applicants would need to be a separate agenda item, which was not included on the meeting agenda.

Maez commented that the BoCC should have voted to create the board before seeking applicants to the board, adding that the process was "wonky."

Weaver stated that this could have been done, but that, because appointments were not on the agenda, the appointments would need to be made at a later meeting.

The BoCC then unanimously voted to create the Road and Bridge Advisory Board and instruct staff to review the applications to determine the appropriate candidates.

josh@pagosasun.com

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

e-mail:
editor@pagosasun.com

All letters must:

be submitted electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted, must not be in all capitals include the author's actual name, phone number and address be 500 words or less

be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition up to three weeks prior to the election.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.

YOU
MADE
THE RIGHT
CHOICE.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

Terry's COLORADO HOME SUPPLY
Pagosa Springs, CO

Thank You, Pagosa!

Thank you for another wonderful year, Pagosa!

50% OFF Christmas!
String lights not included.

Holiday Hours
Sunday, Dec. 31st • 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
New Year's Day: Closed

SAVE UP TO \$400
on an iComfortECO™ Hybrid Mattress. Come in to order today!

December 27, 2023 - January 15, 2024

Prices are as marked. All sales final on discounted items, cash and carry, no returns on sale items, discounts do not apply to sale items, sale prices may not be combined with other discounts. Delivery and set up or installation not included. Some other exclusions may apply. Limited to stock on hand.

See our ads on TerrysACE.com
Shop www.acehardware.com for free in store pickup

525 Navajo Trail Drive • 731-4022
Mon-Fri 7:30-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sun 9-4

Pizza & Pours

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

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM

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

175 PAGOSA STREET • 11 AM TO 10 PM DAILY
Order On Line: MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

A1 Taxi

970-585-4903

Reliability Matters! Fully licensed and insured! Smoke-free vehicles! Local discount system- just ask! Courtesy Counts!

8am-8pm daily or by appointment!
PUC 16400, MCT 0021, DOT 2842985

Robert D Scott, CFP®, AAMS®
President
bobscoott@scottstrategicinv.com

Anthony M. Doctor, RICP®
Wealth Manager
anthonydoctor@scottstrategicinv.com

189 Talisman Drive, Ste. D | Pagosa Springs CO 81147
970-731-3070 | scottstrategicinv.com

One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a new year of prosperity and happiness.

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor, Member FINRA SIPC

Business

Colorado to offer new streamlined process for broadband connectivity using CDOT property along roadways

Colorado Department of Transportation

Colorado communities and service providers looking to improve broadband access will have a new, accelerated and discounted option to help expand high-speed Internet access throughout the state.

The Colorado Transportation Commission approved a fee schedule to facilitate access to Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) rights of way — the land owned by the state alongside its roadways — for the purpose of third parties installing fiber and expanding broadband.

This adopted fee schedule, more than 90 percent lower than the version initially proposed, makes CDOT property available for broadband development in accordance with Gov. Jared Polis' 2022 executive order to accelerate broadband in Colorado and ensure people have access to the Internet in every corner of the state.

The fee schedule — the lowest of Colorado's surrounding states and southwestern neighbors — comes after months of engagement with local governments, industry members and community members, and is aligned with the bipartisan Senate Bill 22-083, sponsored by former Sen. Don Coram and State Reps. Marc Catlin and Susan Bird.

"Just as our transportation system creates vital connections for all Coloradans, we all need the modern

connectivity of broadband to fully access opportunities and services. The Transportation Commission has heard the perspectives of local communities throughout the state as well as industry concerns, and the proposal that we approved today offers greater opportunities for broadband development, competes favorably with our neighboring states on costs, and meets the state's existing legal obligations to care for the public land under our responsibility," said Transportation Commission Chair Karen Stuart.

The new fee schedule charges an annual property use surcharge as well as a onetime upfront fee to cover permitting costs, set as low as possible to only cover some administrative costs.

This follows the methodology used by the U.S. Forest Service for access to federal lands, which means that Colorado's structure uses a setup that is familiar to the broadband industry.

This will also make access costs in Colorado lower than in neighboring states.

In scenarios modeled by CDOT staff, the costs for broadband companies to access similar amounts of land for fiber optic lines are less than on-tenth of the cost in Colorado compared to Arizona and New Mexico, one-fiftieth of the cost compared to Utah, and less than or equal to costs in Nevada.

"Underserved communities have

an urgent need for improved broadband access, and today's access fee plan offers another option for high-speed internet development throughout Colorado. CDOT's right of way offers critical access to many of these communities, and so it is particularly important for this access proposal to move forward and offer these options as soon as possible. The fee structure works to strike a careful balance that reduces private sector costs and preserves assets owned by taxpayers, and we are committed to supporting these objectives so that more Coloradans can access broadband," said Transportation Commission Vice Chair Terry Hart on Dec. 20.

The approved proposal followed an extensive public process throughout 2023.

Thanks to extensive feedback and dialogue, CDOT made substantial revisions to its initial draft proposals, ultimately resulting in a fee schedule that is more than 90 percent lower than initial estimates.

CDOT's Fiber Optic Development staff delivered public briefings to the Transportation Commission in February, March, April, May and November, and the commission convened a fiber committee that held meetings from May through August. CDOT staff also briefed the Colorado Legislature, presenting to the Joint Technology Committee on Aug. 28 and the Joint Budget Committee on Dec. 8.

Those public meetings, along with

numerous meetings with private industry throughout the year, led to the updated access fee schedule's public release in early November, ahead of its approval on Dec. 20.

The fiber access fee schedule offers Internet service providers an option in addition to the existing option under Colorado's Public-Private Initiatives Act.

Under this state law, CDOT may consider unsolicited proposals that allow nonexclusive use to CDOT right of way and/or leasing of excess CDOT dark fiber (dark fiber is an industry term that refers to fiber optic strands that are not currently in use).

Broadband providers will pay \$0.10 per foot of fiber optic line in urban counties — with populations above 200,000 people — and \$0.03 per foot in rural counties, as well as a onetime charge of \$0.05 per foot to cover permitting costs.

Urban counties include Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld.

"Fast, reliable, and affordable broadband service is critical for participation in our modern economy. To create a Colorado for all, equitable online access to educational opportunities and government services is imperative. To accelerate Colorado's economic recovery and continue to position Colorado as a top state to live and work in, we must invest in broadband infrastructure," the executive order states.

Christmas tree recycling available, nominate for community awards

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Don't forget that you can recycle your Christmas trees and contribute to the fuel for the WinterFest bonfire event.

The location to deposit your trees is at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds near the blue Zircon storage unit located along Mill Creek Road. There are signs indicating where to drop off your trees, and trees have already been placed as markers.

Please do not bring wooden pallets, furniture or other items as this pile is for trees only. This is not the landfill.

You can bring your trees up until Jan. 19, 2024, which is when the WinterFest Bonfire will occur.

This event is new to WinterFest in 2024. It will take place on Jan. 19, 2024, at the Fairgrounds from 5 to 8 p.m.

Admission will be free and there will be live music, food trucks, and alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages of the hot and cold variety.

This event has been absent from the community for several years. Due to popular demand, the Chamber has taken over and brought this event back. Come out and enjoy this family-friendly, fun event. Who doesn't like a big bonfire in the middle of winter?

New Chamber website

The Chamber has released a new website. Still located on the website are the ever-popular business directory and events pages.

However, you will see some great additions — speed for one thing.

The site is very responsive and information is easily at hand also giving our business members a leg up on the search engines.

We have updated pages on the "Live, Work, & Play" tab with quick links to major community agencies, media outlets and recreational links. We have also partnered with Region 9 to link to community data in detail. Researchers looking to find out more about Pagosa demographics can connect to reports and statistics.

On the "Membership" tab, our

members can log in, change their information, find out about our Business Happy Hours, submit an event or find out more on how to become a member.

The home page has always had our community video, a partnership with the CGI group, promoting various aspects of the community such as health care, education, real estate, tourism and business. Check out the video and you may even learn some things about our town. This video is a big attraction for people looking to move to our area.

Also on the home page are our important happenings, announcements and links to such things as the Chamber board nomination voting, voting for the Community Award categories and the winners of the Adventure Raffle.

Take time to nominate a person, business or organization in our community for one of the awards. It is these industries and people that make our community tick. Let's give them a pat on the back and some recognition for all the work they do

and the contributions they make to our community. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the form and write something about the nominee.

If you would like more information on the community awards, please contact the Chamber.

Also on the homepage is the link to vote for the incoming Chamber board of directors.

Each business has one ballot vote and, for each ballot, you can vote for up to three candidates. Should you vote for more than three, the ballot will be invalidated. Should you vote multiple times, the ballots received after the initial ballot will be invalidated. Each candidate's photo and bio is listed on the ballot. Please take time to review the list of candidates and vote for those members you feel would be a good addition to the Chamber board of directors.

The Chamber is looking forward to 2024 to share some new programs, improved events, and is always continuing and expanding our connection with our business community. Happy new year, Pagosa Springs.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues order on Tri-State's contract termination payment

LPEA 'pleased' with step forward

La Plata Electric Association

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently issued an order on Tri-State Generation and Transmission's contract termination payment (CTP) tariff proceeding.

Tri-State is La Plata Electric Association's (LPEA's) wholesale power provider with whom LPEA has a contract until 2050.

FERC found that an adjusted version of the modified balance sheet approach (BSA) issued by the administrative law judge (ALJ) in September

2022 is "just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, with additional clarifications and modifications."

"We are very pleased with this latest step forward, towards more clarity from FERC that enables us to evaluate our options," said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. "After several months of work, our initial impression of the ALJ's decision is that our in-house CTP formula is in close alignment with FERC's newly affirmed methodology."

At the direction of LPEA's Board of

Directors, LPEA has been evaluating how to address the future needs of the membership. The CTP number would be the cost of a potential full departure from Tri-State.

"This is a win for LPEA, and we

look forward to reviewing Tri-State's compliance filings in the next 30 days and into next year. We greatly appreciate the efforts of FERC, the ALJ, and FERC Trial Staff," added Matlock.



**The journey matters—
let Hart Custom Builders
guide the way**

- Fine Custom Homes
- Commercial and Municipal Buildings
- Infrastructure

HART
Custom Builders, LLC

Serving:
Pagosa Springs, Bayfield,
Durango, South Fork,
and surrounding areas

Follow Hart on Facebook
@HartCustomBuilders

250 Pagosa Street • (970) 264-0110 • hartbuilders.com

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

**We wish you a Happy New Year.
We look forward to
serving you in 2024.**

Guy, Linda,
Vicki, Tessa
& Steve

The Tile & Carpet Store

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

Happy Hour!
25% off
At the Bar Stools Only
Tuesday - Friday 4-5:30 pm

Make your reservation at
exploretock.com/alleyhousegrille

ALLEY HOUSE
GRILLE

The Patio | The Lounge | The Grille

Open Tuesday – Sunday 4pm – 9pm
Happy Hour Tuesday – Friday 4pm-5:30pm at the Bar Stools
(970) 264-0999 | 214 Pagosa St, Pagosa Springs | AlleyHouseGrille.com

{N}POWER® PRICING ONLY!

NATURAL GROCERS
good4u
MEAL DEALS™

**FEED YOUR FAMILY OF 4
A CHICKEN DINNER
FOR UNDER \$14**

Valid Through December 31, 2023

*Price excludes tax. Terms and conditions apply. See store for details.
*Message and data rates may apply.

Scan the QR code to **download our app** or visit **NaturalGrocers.com/join** to join {N}power and start saving!†

Commissioners debate approaches to janitorial services

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) debated the proper approach to janitorial services for county buildings at its Dec. 5 work session.

County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the county put out a request for proposals (RFP) for janitorial services and received two bids, one from the current contractor, Val's VIP Cleaning LLC, at \$261,550 and another from Peachy Clean at \$140,000.

He stated that the proposed 2024 budget included \$160,000 for janitorial services.

He explained that, in an effort to be "proactive," county staff created and posted a job description for county employees to do custodial work, although, following concerns expressed by Commissioner Ronnie Maez, the job posting was removed after "a few hours."

He then indicated that these descriptions were part of a potential effort to move cleaning in-house by hiring two full-time employees with benefits at "just shy" of \$150,000.

Woodman stated that the \$160,000 could also support purchasing a vehicle to transport these staff and that the staff would work five days a week with an evening shift of 3 to 11 p.m. to clean the buildings.

He added that the county already has cleaning supplies and that staff feels "without question" that they could bring janitorial services in house.

He noted that the staff at Val's VIP Cleaning have already completed background checks, but that Peachy Clean staff would need such checks and would potentially be unable to access certain county buildings if they have a criminal record.

Woodman added that the proposal from Peachy Clean was "very incomplete" and he wanted direction from the BoCC on what approach to janitorial services to pursue.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked how much the county has spent on cleaning contracting in 2023, noting that the current contract involves an hourly rate, not a fixed amount for cleaning over the year.

Woodman indicated that \$145,000 was budgeted for janitorial services and year-to-date spending in October was \$148,000.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez stated that he asked county finance staff about the year-to-date numbers and they indicated that the county had spent \$214,273 year to date.

Commissioner Veronica Medina questioned why the county continues to pay for services after exceeding the amount budgeted, adding, "That just doesn't make sense."

Woodman explained that this specific line item may be over budget, but that the Buildings and Grounds budget, where the line items rest, is still under budget, enabling the additional spending.

Medina commented that the commissioners should be notified about line items going over budget and that adjustments need to be made when line items are exceeded.

"All of us need to have our finger on what is going on with these budgets in a better way moving forward," Medina said.

Maez countered, stating that he was "fine" as long as the overall budget does not go over.

Woodman noted that the county does not use strict line item budgeting, instead focusing on the overall balance of funds.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that bringing cleaning in-house would give the county "more direct control," noting that the county already provides all cleaning materials for the current contractor.

Maez expressed disagreement, noting that, when the county had one building and two staff to clean it, those staff worked from 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. or midnight to clean it and that the county has many more buildings now.

He commented that the county might be better served by outsourcing,

noting the potential savings on issues such as liability and workers' compensation by outsourcing "manual jobs."

He proposed that the county could go back out for additional or improved bids to find out what cleaning company bids might be available.

In response to a comment from Medina, Woodman stated that he contacted five cleaning companies, who all indicated interest in the RFP, but that only two companies submitted bids.

Maez commented that the county likely did not budget enough for cleaning and that two county staff would not "cut the cheese."

"I can guarantee you we'll be back at budget, after we hire these two people," Maez said. "We'll be back here saying we need to hire more people to get it done."

"And are we going to do that at a cost of \$260,000?" Brown asked.

Maez added that the costs of having additional vehicles and liability would be significant and that he would not support the proposal for hiring county staff since "it don't make sense."

"I'll throw the elephant in the room out here," Brown said. "I can't tell any difference other than my trash can's emptied from when the cleaning crew's been here to when the cleaning crew leaves."

"I can tell the difference," Maez interjected.

Medina noted that the new RFP needs to be clear about what is expected of the cleaning companies, noting that the county previously discussed requiring the companies to supply cleaning supplies and janitorial supplies such as toilet paper and that this would likely raise the costs.

"And it's not just today, this has been since ... we've started having a cleaning company and, as far as know them — I like them all — I have not seen a significant and measurable difference in that regard, and this is a lot to pay out for the labor that doesn't include any product at all and we have no control over it. The job is the job and what's done is done and that's ... what we're left with," Brown continued.

Maez replied that the county does have control, noting that there is a county manager and questioned if the county manager has discussed the need for better cleaning with the cleaning service.

Woodman stated that he has spoken to Val's VIP Cleaning anytime an issue is raised with the work and that he has not heard follow-up complaints about issues he raised.

Maez noted that the former cleaning service left cobwebs in his office, but the current cleaner hasn't.

He also commented that a "sit-down" with the current cleaner about the timeliness of cleaning needs to occur, but that it would cost the county more to bring the service in-house.

Medina commented that any charge for janitorial services of about \$200,000 is "way too much" given the county provides materials for cleaning.

Maez and Medina then debated the role of inflation in the increases in cleaning costs and the value of the labor and other potential costs being covered by outsourcing cleaning services.

Woodman suggested that the county award the contract to Peachy Clean, although he noted that knew

very little about the company. "Man, there you go," Maez said. "And that's a good reason for us to award it to them, because you don't know nothin' about them. I don't think that's good. We have performance and we have personnel already doing the job and performing the job. Let's have a good conversation with them."

Medina proposed putting the item out to bid again, adding that Val's VIP Cleaning was "over," but that she did not necessarily support awarding the contract to the lowest bidder and that a conversation could potentially occur with Val's VIP Cleaning to encourage them to submit a lower bid.

"I hear Commissioner Maez," Medina said. "I agree two people may not be able to do the job. I agree every year will be more because we're going to add more buildings, so there's that. But, I'm not comfortable with over \$200,000."

"We are," Maez responded, "because that's what it's costin' us now."

"And I don't agree," Medina replied. Brown asked how many cleaning staff are at county offices, to which Maez and Executive Assistant Mary Helminski responded that there are typically three staff at the county administration building and likely more at other buildings.

Brown proposed putting the item out for bid again, noting that the Val's VIP Cleaning bid was "extraordinary," but that he also had concerns about the low bid due to it being incomplete and potentially being inordinately low.

Medina noted that the new RFP needs to be clear about what is expected of the cleaning companies, noting that the county previously discussed requiring the companies to supply cleaning supplies and janitorial supplies such as toilet paper and that this would likely raise the costs.

Woodman stated that the Val's VIP Cleaning bid includes providing these supplies.

"OK, so now, a little more detail, a little more information," Maez said.

Brown stated that he would like to know how much is spent on cleaning products each year to understand how the bid compares, since, as he and Medina noted, they previously believed that the bid was purely for labor.

Maez suggested that the "devil is in the details" and that "you've gotta know the details."

Medina commented that the bid from Val's VIP Cleaning "made more sense" understanding that it included purchasing cleaning supplies.

"I take that back," said Woodman, referring to the bid including cleaning and janitorial supplies.

"Ay, dios mio," Medina interjected.

Woodman continued that the bid states that all paper products, trash bags and soap would be supplied by the county, while all cleaning products would be supplied by Val's VIP Cleaning.

Maez pointed out that cleaning supplies are expensive, and Woodman commented that he had "no idea" what elements were included in the Peachy Clean bid.

Brown reiterated his proposal that the county send the RFP out again, with Medina adding that it should be specific that the companies would be providing cleaning and janitorial supplies.

Woodman stated that this would be possible, adding that he was unsure how much the county spends on cleaning and janitorial supplies.

The commissioners concurred that gathering information on how much these supplies currently cost the county and getting revised bids would assist in making a more informed decision.

Woodman commented that the "good news" is that Val's VIP Cleaning had agreed to continue cleaning county buildings until the county

makes a decision. Medina pointed out that the contract with Val's VIP Cleaning expired in February 2023, which Woodman confirmed.

Maez commented that the county should have been having this discussion in February, and Woodman stated that the county should have had it "a year ago."

"Alright, go back out," Maez said. Medina commented that the RFP should be "very detailed and specific" about what the companies are bidding for before it is sent out again.

County Attorney Todd Weaver added that janitorial supplies costs should be broken out from the overall cost to allow for easy comparison to current county costs.

He added that the arrangement would need to consider how toilet paper would be supplied and whether it would have to be brought to the county offices or the cleaning company would provide a supply on hand.

During a budget discussion at the Dec. 12 BoCC work session summarizing changes to the budget, Woodman explained that the line item for janitorial services in the 2024 budget had been increased to \$260,000 to match the year-to-date expenses and bids since he believed it was "completely inappropriate" to budget \$100,000 less than expected spending.

He added that the county spends \$18,000 overall on janitorial products. The commissioners expressed no objections to the change.

josh@pagosahun.com

WINTER OPEN STUDIO HOURS
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
4:00-6:00 pm



• meet the artist
• new on the easel
• quick standing portraits
• appointments: text (424) 350-8186

DEMPSTER FINE ART GALLERY
IN THE SPRINGS RESORT LODGE

AGED USDA CHOICE

PRIME RIB
Holiday Sale

Boneless Rib Roast Cut to Size \$24.99 PER LB.	Whole Rib Roast Boneless or Bone-In \$22.99 PER LB.
Bone-In Rib Roast Cut to Size \$23.50 PER LB.	Spiral Ham \$8.99 PER LB.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

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



Happy New Year

from our family to yours

As the holidays near, we remember the year behind us and look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share new memories and endless possibilities with our friends, families and neighbors of this great community.

PAGOSA SPRINGS 205 Country Center Drive, 970.731.4166
bankofcolorado.com

Bank of Colorado
THERE'S ONLY ONE



Community news.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

GP GALLES PROPERTIES
Area Leaders In Real Estate

GallesProperties.com
970.264.1250



WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Our Family To Yours.

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD



County approves 2024 budget

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At the Dec. 19 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session, the board approved the 2024 county budget, which includes \$51,247,817 in revenues and \$55,656,796 in expenditures, and appropriated sums of money for county operations.

At the BoCC work session earlier in the day, the board heard an update on changes to the budget from Finance Director Chad Eaton and County Manager Derek Woodman.

Eaton explained that, since the adjustments previously discussed at Dec. 5 BoCC work session and reported in the Dec. 7 issue of The SUN, several additional budget changes were made.

Woodman explained that these included removing revenues and expenses for a grant the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) did not receive, an adjustment to the detention overtime budget for ACSO staff, the addition of \$1,250 in the commissioners' budget to cover Colorado Counties Inc. dues, an adjustment in commissioners' budget to provide an additional \$30,000 to the TARA Community Center in Arboles, an adjustment in the Human Resources Department budget to increase funds for employee recognition by \$7,000, and the addition of \$3,000 to the Buildings and Grounds Department budget for training.

Eaton indicated that, with these changes, the fund balance of the general fund would increase by \$28,992 in 2024.

Commissioner Veronica Medina raised the issue of spending on audiovisual upgrades from the commissioner's meeting room, noting that she previously had "sticker shock" about the proposed \$15,000 in upgrades, but that many constituents have difficulty hearing the BoCC and presenters, and that she would support audio upgrades.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that he feels improving the audio is important and reiterated the BoCC has had complaints from constituents about the audio.

The group also discussed the importance of a new system being able to be moved to a different location and being able to function for the variety of meetings that are held in the commissioner meeting room.

Commissioner Warren Brown expressed support for the upgrades, noting that clear audio and video make meetings more valuable and engagement more possible.

The BoCC then agreed to place \$10,000 in the budget to support the upgrades, bringing the projected increase of the general fund's balance down to \$18,992 for 2024, according to Eaton.

He added that the general fund is currently sitting at a year-to-date increase of \$3,442,427.

At the BoCC meeting, Eaton gave a presentation on the final 2024 county budget, opening by explaining that the board would hear a resolution to set mill levies on Jan. 2, 2024, and a resolution for the certification of levies and revenues for local districts and the 2023 budget adjustments on Jan. 16, 2024.

At the BoCC meeting, Eaton gave a presentation on the final 2024 county budget, opening by explaining that the board would hear a resolution to set mill levies on Jan. 2, 2024, and a resolution for the certification of levies and revenues for local districts and the 2023 budget adjustments on Jan. 16, 2024.

He stated that the revenue assumptions in the budget are "conservative," with property taxes showing "consistent growth" based on Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights calculations and sales tax expected to increase by 3 percent over 2023.

He explained that Highway User Tax Fund revenues have increased steadily since 2020, with 2024 expected to see about \$2.7 million in revenue.

Eaton indicated that some of the considerations for the 2024 budget include the completion of the county transit center and the goal of maintaining a 3 percent average increase in core operations budget, excluding increases in fuel and pavement costs.

He added that the budget includes limited growth in staffing, with only six positions added, and a 3 percent cost-of-living increase and 5 percent merit increase budgeted.

Eaton explained that the new staff positions include a mechanic in the Fleet Department, a fair manager, a full-time bus driver for Mountain Express Transit, a land stewardship compliance and education specialist for Weed and Pest, a landfill operator and a facility manager.

The budget is balanced, Eaton indicated, with expenditures not being higher than appropriated funds and 2024 revenues.

He added that the operational expenses are supported by "reliable" revenue streams and that capital outlay expenses focus on the maintenance of existing assets.

Eaton then reviewed the numbers for the 2024 budget, indicating that, among other funds, the general fund will have \$27,786,303 in revenues balanced by \$27,767,312 in expenditures, the Road and Bridge fund will have \$7,849,440 in revenues and \$10,923,052 in expenditures, the public health fund will have \$1,297,361 in revenues and \$1,372,511 in expenditures, the solid waste fund will have \$2,227,500 in revenues and \$3,266,330, and the fleet management fund will have \$1,882,735 in revenues and \$2,685,412 in expenditures.

He stated that, overall, the budget includes \$51,247,817 in revenues and \$55,656,796 in expenditures.

Eaton indicated that the county's largest operating expenditures include \$20,909,779 in general fund and \$7,554,172 in the Department of Human Services (DHS), while the capital outlay is concentrated in the general fund (with \$6,857,553 in capital outlay) and Road and Bridge Department (\$5,450,000 in capital outlay).

Overall, Eaton explained that the budget includes \$40,425,348 in operating expenses, \$15,069,533 in capital outlay and \$161,915 in debt service.

He then discussed changes in revenues, which include a 28.2 percent (or \$6,112,396) growth in general fund revenues, a 23.8 percent (or \$2,274,092) decrease in DHS revenues and a 58.9 percent (or \$197,279) increase in airport revenues.

He attributed the decrease in DHS revenues to the county not budgeting pass-through revenue directly administered by the state, which he noted impacts budgeted DHS expenses as well.

Brown asked if the increase of revenues at the airport was driven by grants, which Eaton confirmed.

Eaton explained that the county saw an overall increase of \$6,084,680, or 13.5 percent, in revenue.

He then discussed changes in expenses, noting that general fund expenses rose by 9.5 percent (or \$2,398,190), DHS expenses dropped by 23.8 percent (or \$2,354,625), Archuleta County Combined Dispatch expenses dropped by 6.7 percent (or \$102,202), solid waste expenses rose by 27.9 percent (or \$713,203) and airport expenses rose by 82.6 percent (or \$230,535).

In response to a question from Medina, Woodman noted that the dispatch expenses dropped due to a capital project being completed in 2023.

Eaton also explained that the increase in airport expenses is due to increased capital projects.

Overall, Eaton stated that county expenses will increase 3.1 percent (or \$1,672,699) in 2024.

Eaton also covered changes in expense by type, including a 20.9 percent (or \$3,152,149) increase in personnel costs, a 15.7 percent (or \$3,659,500) drop in material and services costs, a 27.5 percent (or \$3,246,121) increase in capital outlay costs, an 89 percent (or \$1,316,071) decrease in debt service costs, and a 10.6 percent (or \$250,000) increase in transfers.

He indicated that the increased personnel costs are driven by the addition of the Archuleta County Public Health Department as well as the addition of positions and increased pay.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Eaton added that the decrease in debt service is driven by the county paying off its debt on the former county courthouse, with the sale of that building completed in 2023.

Eaton then covered changes in ending fund balances, indicating that the general fund balance would rise 0.1 percent (or \$18,992) to \$14,926,862 and the road and bridge fund balance would fall by 59.6 percent (or \$3,073,612) to \$2,085,335, among other changes.

Overall, he explained that the county fund balances would fall by 11.9 percent (or \$2,590,457) to \$19,222,026 in 2024.

Eaton then presented resolutions to the board to adopt the 2024 budget and appropriate funds, which the BoCC passed unanimously.

Prior to the votes, Brown noted that, due to the recent state legislation intended to lower property taxes, the county may need to adjust its budget early in January 2024 to accommodate changes to property tax revenues.

josh@pagosahun.com

FREE RIDES for MEDICAID CLIENTS

anywhere in the State of Colorado
Please call us to get qualified:
970-731-4081

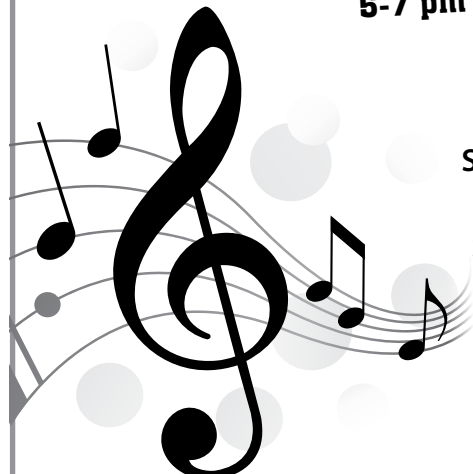
Also Durango Airport Shuttle • Taxi Service • Weddings
Charter Service • Private Parties

Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc
Call 970-731-4081 for scheduling
PUC # 16400, DOT# 2842985, MCT# 0021

Non-emergency medical transportation to Denver, Durango, Farmington, Colorado Springs — Anywhere in Colorado and border state approved cities for Medicaid insured rides to and from Medicaid providers
Pre-approval and 24-hour notice required.



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



Friday, December 29
Steve Blechschmidt
Saturday, December 30
Maxwell Miller
Sunday, December 31
Dustin Burley
Monday, January 1
Ron and Susan
Tuesday, January 2
Jason Rose

Charcuterie Board \$45
available for purchase during live music

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



ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

In the market for a new clothes washer?
Receive a \$30 rebate for qualifying Energy Star® appliance
Application/information on the LPEA web site



La Plata Electric Association 970.247.5786 | www.lpea.coop

Commissioners approve updated fee schedule

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a variety of changes to the county's fee schedule at its Dec. 19 meeting.

At the BoCC work session earlier in the day, Commissioner Veronica Medina questioned why many of the fees were being changed and asked County Manager Derek Woodman to provide her with additional information or direct county staff to do so, which Woodman stated he would do.

The fee changes include the removal of Pictometry access fees for the assessor's office, which Woodman explained at the work session was driven by public access to the software being removed and thus the fee not being needed.

The changes also include the addition of new fees for failure to be prepared for an inspection within the Building Department and increases to many fees in the Planning Depart-

ment, including some subdivision fees, use permit fees and miscellaneous fees.

Fees for violations in the building and planning departments are relocated to the code enforcement section of the fee schedule in the changes.

The altered fee schedule also includes fee schedules for the Archuleta County Public Health Department and the Water Quality Department, as well as a listing of the Mountain Express Transit fares under the Transportation Department section of the fee schedule.

Additionally, the changes involve alterations to the fees charged by the Colorado State University Extension Office and for fairgrounds rental.

At the meeting, Medina stated that she was "satisfied" and had received information from county staff on the fee changes.

She then recommended that the fixed base operator (FBO) fees from the airport be removed from the fee schedule.

Woodman and County Attorney Todd Weaver explained that these fees are set by the FBO at the airport for fuel and are not controlled by the county, although the county does receive a percentage of the proceeds, which goes into the airport budget.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked if staff recommended the removal of the FBO fees, and Woodman indicated they did.

The board then voted to approve the changes and to remove the FBO fees from the fee schedule.

josh@pagosahun.com

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Driveways • Ponds • Underground Utilities • Clean Up
Dozer Work • Land Leveling • Foundations

NEXT GEN EXCAVATION

20+ years local experience Michael Preuit | Cell:(970) 946-7303 Bonded & Insured

Winter is sadly the time for bursting pipes.

Call us 24/7 for your flood damage needs
Call 970-946-0238 or 970-749-9028

DISASTER RESTORATION

FLOOD MITIGATION

DUCT CLEANING

Fire Restoration
Water Extraction

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

Disaster Mitigation

Mold Remediation
Structural Drying

BJ Jones
970-749-9028

NATIONALLY LICENSED INSURED LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

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

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

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

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

PAWSD moves forward with rate study, sets public hearing

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed revisions to the district's rate study and associated rate increase at its Dec. 14 meeting, and voted to accept the rate study and set a public hearing on rate increases.

PAWSD Business Manager Aaron Burns opened the discussion by explaining that the board gave direction at its Nov. 14 work session for staff to look at other rates and fees beyond the district's main water and wastewater rates, and attempt to use these to reduce the increases in water and wastewater rates.

He stated that some of the areas discussed were availability fees, rates for waste haulers and rates at water fill stations.

He added that staff from Stantec — the company performing the rate study for the district — incorporated the changes into the calculations, which made a "significant" difference, particularly in wastewater rate increases.

Zac Koch of Stantec then presented on the rate study, highlighting the changes made from the previous presentation in November.

For water rates, Koch explained that the primary change in the study was that, as suggested at the November work session, availability fees will now scale in accordance with the increases in water rates, with the expected decrease in the number of lots remaining the same.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh raised concerns that the calculation of the decrease in availability revenue earned over time might be inaccurately high, though he stated that this did not concern him as the additional revenue that he believes would be available could be put toward additional reserves.

In response to Walsh, Koch commented that he would have to look at the calculation further, but that it used data from the PAWSD staff and from the previous Stantec rate study for the district.

Following further discussion of availability fees, Walsh reiterated that he did not see the potential recalculation in the availability fee revenue as something that would impact the rate increases, as any additional money could be put toward other projects for the district or into its reserves.

He added that he felt the level of increases in water rates that Stantec was able to achieve while financing

the construction of the \$45 million Snowball water treatment plant expansion was "really great work."

Koch explained that the increases in availability fees allowed Stantec to bring down the rate increases for 2028 to 2030 from 3.5 percent annually to 3 percent annually, although the study added a 3 percent increase in 2031 not present in the previous version.

Overall, Koch explained that the study includes an already-implemented 6 percent rate increase in 2023, 3 percent increases yearly from 2024 to 2031 and no increase in 2032, bringing the projected monthly residential bill from \$54 in 2023 to \$68.38 in 2032.

On the topic of wastewater fees and rates, Koch explained that the proposed capital investment fee (CIF) in 2024 and onward for wastewater dropped from \$16,509 to \$15,697 due to decreases in the expected cost of state Regulation 85 compliance for the district.

According to Koch's presentation, the 2023 wastewater CIF is \$1,179.

He indicated that availability fees will also scale with rate increases for wastewater and that the short-term rental (STR) fee multiplier of 1.4 remained the same as the previous presentation, although this could be explored more at a later date.

Walsh recommended that any additional revenues from STR fees should be put in reserves to prepare for the costs of federal Regulation 35 compliance in the next 15 years.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson pointed out that the revenues from the district's affordable housing surcharge may be insufficient to provide fee waivers for wastewater CIFs given the increase.

He questioned who should be paying for the increased costs of granting these waivers.

PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey and Burns noted that there are a variety of ways that the surcharge could be adjusted.

Following further discussion of the surcharge, the board agreed to put the discussion of adjustments to the surcharge on the agenda of a future meeting.

Koch then continued his presentation, noting that another wastewater fee change aligned increases in waste hauler rates with the increases in rates for customers connected to the PAWSD system.

He explained that these changes reduced the necessary annual wastewater rate increases from 40 percent

in 2024 and 2025 to 30 percent.

He stated that rate increases would remain at 5 percent annually between 2026 and 2029, with 15 percent increases occurring in 2030 and 2031 to cover the increased expenses for Regulation 35 compliance, and no increase in 2032.

According to Koch's presentation, this would bring the projected monthly residential bill from \$32.80 in 2023 to \$89.11 in 2032, down from the \$103.34 bill in 2032 indicated in the previous presentation.

PAWSD board chair Jim Smith asked if the rate increases in 2024 and 2025 could be spread out, which Koch indicated they could not be given the need for additional funds for Regulation 85 compliance.

Smith stated that PAWSD needs to provide a "good [public relations] statement" explaining how the regulations are driving the rate increases because PAWSD would likely receive "a lot of kickback" from customers regarding the increase.

The board discussed the reasons for the increase and the potential missteps the board made in its negotiations with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and attempts to meet regulatory requirements, including not increasing sewer CIFs earlier and expecting negotiations with CDPHE to be more productive than they were for the district.

Walsh added that, before the district found an "engineering work-around" for Regulation 85 to reduce costs, the rate increases in 2024 and 2025 potentially would have been 75 percent annually.

Koch concluded his presentation by explaining that, with these changes, PAWSD's rates would be slightly above average for selected peers, but below those of Durango, and that the CIFs would be below some peer districts, such as the Upper Blue Sanitation District, which serves Breckenridge.

In response to a comment from Walsh, Koch noted that some of the comparable districts are also pursuing rate increases in the near future which are not reflected in their current numbers.

Hudson commented that Stantec staff did a "great job" of addressing the questions and suggestions the board had at its previous meeting.

Walsh stated that another reason to dedicate excess funds to reserves is that the increased CIFs could cause the housing market to slow given the increased costs of building, thus

potentially reducing growth and revenues.

Ramsey then explained that, if the board was comfortable with the changes, it needed to vote to accept Stantec's findings and have a public hearing on the changes in January 2024.

Following a brief discussion, the board unanimously voted to accept the conclusions of the rate study and to set a public hearing on the rates for Jan. 25, 2024, at 5 p.m. at the PAWSD administrative offices at 100 Lyn Ave.

josh@pagosasan.com

Need \$100? Need \$5,000?

Come see us now!

\$ CASH LOANS \$

Short-term loans based on collateral only, we take collateral on the following:

Cars • Trucks • Trailers • ATVs • Motorcycles
Guns • Gold • Jewelry • Silver & More

★ Got Gold? Get Cash! ★

We buy gold, silver, guns, ammo and more.

Turn your old, broken jewelry into CASH TODAY

San Juan Trading Post

635 San Juan St. (Hwy 160) • (970) 731-PAWN (7296)

HAPPY New Year



From all of us at PSMC, have a safe and happy New Year.

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Monday, January 1st.

We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd to serve you.

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

PAGOSA SPRINGS

First-Class Care, Close To Home

Medical Center | 970.731.3700 | 95 S. Pagosa Blvd | pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org

County revises residential tax incentive

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 19 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved an alteration to the county's Residential Property Tax Incentive, raising the value threshold for qualifying properties to \$500,000.

County Manager Derek Woodman presented the revision, explaining that the incentive was established on Sept. 21, 2021, and had been revised two times since then.

According to Resolution 2023-133, which contains the revision, the incentive is intended to give a property tax reduction to eligible properties to promote affordable housing and housing access in the community.

Woodman stated that, due to high market rates in the area, staff recommended another revision of the incentive to raise the value of qualifying properties to \$500,000, up from \$400,000.

The BoCC then heard from Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County Deputy Director Leah Ballard, who explained that she contacted the county about revising the regulation due to the houses her organization is building this year appraising at more than the \$400,000 threshold previously defined in the incentive.

She stated that the houses' appraised values are about \$450,000 and that Habitat for Humanity sells houses at their appraised value, although the loan that buyers pay off is lower than this cost with the difference being made up by donations and grants.

She explained that the difference acts as a "silent second mortgage" that families do not make payments on but that protects the homes from sale since it would have to be paid off if the home is sold.

Ballard stated that this second mortgage disappears over 30 years and indicated that this process is why Habitat is selling homes at market value and thus asking for an increase to the incentive threshold.

She also highlighted that the loan limit in Archuleta County for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Financing that Habitat for Humanity uses, which is intended to represent the price of a "modest home" for a family at 80 percent of area median income, rose from approximately \$280,000 in 2019 to \$547,000 in 2023.

The BoCC then unanimously approved the revision to the residential tax incentive.

County clerk, treasurer to keep changed office hours in 2024

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The hours for the Archuleta County clerk's and treasurer's offices will remain the same in 2024. Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta and Treasurer Elsa White announced at a Dec. 26 Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session.

On July 3, the clerk and treasurer both temporarily changed their office hours to being open between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday,

as opposed to being open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, in an effort to test if the altered hours would improve access to their offices for working people in the community.

As Archuleta and White explained at the work session, the change was positively received by both staff and the public.

White added that her office is making changes to its website to help accommodate not being open on Fridays.

White and Archuleta stated that,

due to the positive response, they plan to continue the hours in the new year, although White stated that she wanted the commissioners to relay any negative comments about the change to their offices.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that the public would likely have expressed any negative comments by now.

Commissioner Veronica Medina added that she is "glad" that the change is working well.

josh@pagosasan.com

EXCAVATION WORK THAT MAKES THE GRADE



Schedule your project today!

970-731-7071



DRIVEWAYS • FOUNDATIONS • PONDS • BACKFILLING
FILL DIRT & GRAVEL HAULING • SEPTIC SYSTEMS • UTILITY WORK

Happy Holidays!

New Listing

155 Pike Drive
\$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>



Cloman Industrial Park
\$395,000

MLS 807337

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

Own Your Own Piece of Colorado Land!

- 219 Lakeside Drive —MLS 800074, \$190,000
- 30 High Drive — MLS 794628, \$59,900
- 72 High Drive — MLS 803168, \$39,000
- 17736 County Road 500 — MLS 804532, \$87,000.
- .82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.
- X Montezuma Circle —MLS 804537, \$87,000.
- .82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.
- 153 Greenway Drive — MLS 805178, \$25,000.
- 147 Cat Creek Overlook MLS 806842 \$25,000



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR®, BROKER
C: 970.759.8109
O: 970.264.6673
ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
www.shelliehogue.com



Barbara Swindlehurst
CIPS CRS GRI SFR CNE
REALTOR®, BROKER/ OWNER
C: 303.618.7423
O: 970.264.6673
Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com



409 Lewis Street | P.O. Box 3850 | Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
MountainMeadowRealEstate.info



Miracle

Continued from front

She explained the renter of another unit noticed the lock on the project's unit had been cut and reported it to the owner of the facility, who placed another lock on it and called Patten.

It was reported to the ACSO and Patten and Kimberlie Hamilton, who previously ran the project, put posts on Facebook alerting people to the break-in and the need for more gifts to replace those that were taken.

Patten explained that 40 gifts were stolen or damaged after the lock was cut off with a rusty bolt cutter.

Patten noted that she cried herself to sleep, not knowing if they'd have enough to support the 141 people (44 families) being helped this year.

The next morning she woke to her phone buzzing, saying, "It just kept

going and going."

She added she was terrified of what she was going to see when she checked her phone, but saw donations and adoption requests rolling in, and she started sending people lists of needed items.

At least 15 people readopted families, and at least 50 people donated, she said, with amounts ranging from \$5 to \$1,000.

"I just started crying again," she said of the large donations.

Within 24 hours, Patten noted, the project had everyone either readopted or funds were available to help replace damaged or stolen gifts.

The Pagosa Lake Property Owners Association, which donated the use of its clubhouse for Saturday's distribution, allowed organizers and volunteers

access on Friday night to give them space and time to wrap everything purchased and donated that day, Patten added.

She noted several who dropped off gifts Friday night commented, "The Grinch ain't stealing this Christmas."

And the distribution went beautifully, she stated, highlighting that Marsha Kern even made individual to-go food boxes for every person helped by the program this year.

"It's a miracle that Pagosa can come together that quickly and fix a crisis when there is one," Patten said.

Following Saturday's distribution, the ACSO posted on its Facebook, "The ACSO Operation Adopt-A-Family x3 is complete. Thank You to the ladies that put this on and work long hours to make sure families get their gifts.

This year was a true testament on how awesome our community is. Together, we replaced all the gifts that were stolen in one day. You're awesome Archuleta County citizens! Merry Christmas!"

"We appreciate every single person that jumped in and helped out," Patten said. "It's beyond amazing."

Patten reported she cried again on Christmas as families sent pictures of gifts being open, adding it warmed her heart to see how thankful they were.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.

About the program

Patten took over administration of the community effort last year after Hamilton, who ran it for 10 years, moved away.

"My grandma is the reason I took it over," Patten said, recounting that her grandma, who passed away in 2013, always had a generous heart, taking people in and buying gifts for people.

She indicated taking over the project makes her feel closer to her grandma.

She noted the program doesn't have restrictions, but seeks to offer help to anyone who needs it, asking for jackets, boots and other items.

She said most families are routed to the project through word of mouth or Facebook.

And the program is growing, she noted, explaining they helped 92 people last year and 141 this year.

Those interested in helping can reach out to Patten via Facebook or by contacting her at (970) 317-8975.

Geothermal

Continued from front

The new amendment states that "the lease rate for the calendar years 2024 through, and including, 2028 shall be \$12,000/year, payable on January 1st of each year."

After this period, the amendment states, the fee rate would be reconsidered every five years.

According to the agreement, the town would provide up to 350 gallons per minute (GPM) to The Springs Resort to "use for heating, recreation, and therapeutic uses."

But, at the meeting, the majority on the council expressed an opinion that the rate set in the amendment was too low, especially since The Springs Resort announced that it was raising rates on season passes and daily entry fees.

Council Member Mat deGraaf said that \$12,000 annually seemed like an "incredibly low" rate for The Springs to be paying for the town's geothermal resource.

DeGraaf also suggested that the increase in entry fees by The Springs Resort — which he said amounted to a "92 to 94 percent" increase — has made "visiting that wonderful amenity out of reach for a lot of people, including myself."

He asked why the town shouldn't just increase its "fee by the same amount."

Council member Gary Williams said, "I've been a long-term annual pass holder to The Springs and it's a great asset here, and I was surprised that my rate is gonna go up 80 percent for my pass for next year."

He added, "I was thinking back historically about what I've paid for a pass," and noted "it's essentially tripled" over the years.

He suggested that some in the community were "disappointed" in the original agreement between the town and The Springs Resort because the

town didn't get "a better arrangement" for providing the resort with this important resource.

He also cited what he called a 100 percent rate increase for commercial properties between 2022 and 2023 for geothermal utilities.

"It would seem to me, logically, that it's a geothermal utility that we are operating. We've raised the prices for [other] commercial users," but not for The Springs Resort, he noted.

He pointed out that the agreement's definition of the geothermal water received by The Springs from the town as "wastewater" was "a term of art for Colorado water law, but in reality the water is worth much more than it is in our geothermal system."

The water that the town sends to The Springs Resort has "thirteen critical minerals in it that they advertise as being beneficial to your health, and so not only do we send 118 degree water that they can use, but we also send them minerals with it and it's something they can put in their brochures and talk about," Williams said. "I think we have a valuable commodity here and we're not serving our utility well if we don't charge a rate and increase the rates like we did for everybody else ... I'm just looking for a fair price."

He added, "We are sending 350 gallons per minute ... so, it's a lot of product that they are consuming and we are sending, and one might ask if there's a higher better usage for that water. I don't know the answer to that."

Council member Leonard Martinez chimed in, saying, "The thing that's been bothering me about that [geothermal] asset is that" the town has just been "moving along and not talking about it very strategically."

He mentioned a recent Region 9 presentation which showed that Pagosa Springs is the most expensive place to live in the southwest region

of Colorado and wondered what more the town could do with its geothermal water to lower energy costs for the most economically vulnerable segments of the community.

He said "a strategic use" of the resource would be to explore ways to provide the economically disadvantaged in the community with "free heat."

"We have that water and as long as we don't trash it completely, but find a way to get the heat into the community, and maybe through this arrangement, somehow, we could find a way that [The Springs Resort] could help us to do that. It's just being underutilized," he said.

Williams indicated he thought that the town should ask that "free passes" to The Springs Resort for town employees should be part of the agreement, stating that this could be part of the larger goal of attracting and retaining employees for the town.

Council member Brooks Lindner said, "I agree with everything these guys are saying, but I'm in the category of needing more information" before making any final decision on the matter.

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed worry that if an agreement was not reached with The Springs Resort soon, that there would be no other entity to make an agreement with, amounting to "money lost to the town."

deGraaf suggested he doubted that The Springs Resort would just "walk away, if we increase the fees, saying 'we don't need your water.'"

When the meeting was opened up to public comment, resident Bill Hudson explained he reads the new agreement as remaining in perpetuity "as long as they are paying their fee," giving The Springs Resort more power than the town to keep or terminate the agreement.

He also mentioned that Archuleta School District is being charged more for geothermal water than The Springs Resort would be under the new agreement.

"That just seems ridiculous that they are getting 248 million gallons a year of our water that belongs to taxpayers for less than what we are charging our schools," he said.

However, he mentioned he was glad that the council seemed to want to look at the agreement "a little more fully," adding that there were "some serious problems" in the agreement and that a subcommittee could look into it and wanted someone from the public to be involved in the committee, volunteering his own time.

After public comment passed, Pierce suggested that the council needed more time to think about the issue.

She asked if the council would prefer pushing it to a work session, or if a subcommittee should be formed to explore the issue further.

The council decided that council members Williams and Martinez would spearhead a subcommittee to investigate the agreement, with council member Matt DeGuise expressing that he was in favor of the agreement as it stood and against exploring it further.

Martinez expressed that he did not want to "antagonize" The Springs Resort, explaining the way that the council was leaning as doing its "due diligence" by "saying, 'Listen, we need some time to look into this ... we want to have a positive discussion about ideas about how to move forward and we want you to be a part of that with us ...'"

Williams agreed, saying, "We are partners in this ... but there is a fair price."

Martinez made a motion to modify the agreement to say that the town

would adopt the rates as the amendment proposes starting in 2024, but that the town is also notifying all users that the town is engaging in a discussion about the value and strategic use of this geotherm asset, with the idea that the rate could be further amended during the 2024 calendar year.

The motion carried with DeGuise being the sole council member to vote against it.

derek@pagosasun.com



SOUTH WEST ESTATE PLANNING Ltd. COLORADO | TEXAS LAW FIRM

Straightforward Estate Planning Wills • Trusts

Charlotte P. Yochem, Attorney*
charlotte@yochemlaw.com • 512-529-6288
southwestestateplanningltd.com
Pagosa Springs, Colorado
*Licensed to Practice Law in Colorado and Texas

EARLY DEADLINES

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
970-264-2100 • www.PagosaSUN.com

Grant

Continued from front

that the pre-K construction and the playground should be rolled into one and managed by somebody together. I think the next two weeks are going to decide whether the pre-K can open by August of [2024] or not. And, right now, if the only project we were doing was the pre-K, it is already a stretch to have it completed."

She added most architects are six months out.

Because of that, if the projects were overlapping, they'd be looking at pushing off the preschool opening.

She noted that, based on talking to an architect, a project of that size is not feasible by next school year.

The preschool would require a mechanical engineer and an architect, she noted, while the playground would require a landscape architect and civil engineer.

She also noted the organization's fiscal policy states three quotes should be obtained before moving forward with a contract.

Reali-Crossland added that the preschool opening hinged on a grant decision PPOS was awaiting as of the date of the meeting.

Rugar suggested developing a job description for a project manager for the playground construction.

Meade agreed and added it needs to be determined if and how that position would be paid or if the work would

be given to an existing employee.

Rugar suggested they need to try to have the position paid out of the grant instead of the school's regular budget.

He also acknowledged that the added expense may mean other things have to be subtracted, further noting that he found some of the costs listed on the expense sheet "outlandish."

Reali-Crossland suggested the next step would be to hire an architect to take the conceptual drawing and produce something that could be taken to the state for permitting, which would likely include a code study being performed.

She added there would be discussion in that process about budgeting, then the project would be bid out to

general contractors.

She added they also may end up having to have an environmental impact study due to the wetlands and topography, which would also be an additional cost.

Bill Hudson suggested PPOS approach the town and county for additional funding since both receive funding for recreation.

"There's no park in this part of town," he said.

Later, Rugar noted they may be able to get local organizations to donate some items for the playground.

Meade and Rugar thanked all the volunteers who have helped get the project this far.

"Bravo," Rugar said, adding, "It was

not easy."

"And now the work gets to begin," Meade said.

"We're about two years in so far," Osmera said. "It's amazing."

"It's hard to get those the first time around," Reali-Crossland said of receiving the grant on a first attempt.

randi@pagosasun.com

Accounting

JJ ACCOUNTING SERVICES

We can assist you with the following:

- Bookkeeping and Accounting Services
- Payroll and Payroll Taxes • W2s & 1099s
- Income Taxes:

Personal • LLC • Partnerships
Corporations • Electronic Filing

264-5330 • 80 County Road 600 • FAX 264-4451

Attorney



Daniel L. Fiedler
Attorney at Law

Estate Planning • Wills • Trusts
Probate • Elder Law

970-507-8528

190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
next to Restoration Church, behind City Market

Professional Directory

Storage & Office

Pagosa Springs Mini Storage

14th St. at 15th Place
behind Home Expo Center

Prices start at \$25⁰⁰

Sizes available: 5'x5', 5'x10', 10'x10', 10'x15', 10'x20', and 10'x30'

For rental information call
Chris (970) 749-2867

Plastic

Continued from front

carryout bag fee revenues to the municipality or county the store is located in. The store may keep the remaining 40 percent.

For more information about the carryout bag fee, visit <https://tax.colorado.gov/carryout-bag-fee>.

hailey@pagosasun.com



Be a part of our plan to Build 15 homes in 5 years. Find out how you can help by calling 970.264.6960 or email office@HabitatArchuleta.org.
Your donation of time, money or advocacy provides a hand-up to Archuleta workforce families.



Thanks for laying the groundwork for Affordable Homeownership

Alpha Engineering and Murrey Land Surveying got the ball rolling for 3 homes in 2023 and already started on our 2024 build projects!

Sports



Photo courtesy Becky Deitemeyer

Four local high school soccer athletes were selected to represent Colorado at the Far West Olympic Developmental Program Championships in Mesa, Ariz., Jan. 4-8. They will be representing three of the 10 teams attending from the Colorado Select Mountain Region. All four athletes have played for Pagosa Springs High School and the Pagosa Ranger youth soccer club teams. From left to right are Adison Johnson, Ryder King, Milo Deitemeyer and Gavin Carter.

WRESTLING

Pirates go 2-1 at Durango Quad

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team competed in three duals on Dec. 20 at the Durango Quad, triumphing in two.

The duals included competition against Mancos, Durango and Farmington N.M., coach Dan Janowsky explained.

He stated that all of the duals were heavily impacted by forfeits and gaps in the teams' lineups and added that this put a high degree of pressure on the Pagosa wrestlers who competed to perform well.

Pagosa defeated Mancos 36-30, defeated Durango 40-30 and lost to Farmington 45-36.

The dual against Mancos included five forfeits for Mancos — in the 106-pound, 132-pound, 144-pound and 150-pound weight classes — scoring 30 points for Pagosa.

Pagosa had two forfeits, in the 113-pound and 120-pound weight classes, scoring 12 points for Mancos. Additionally, the dual included three double forfeits in the 126-pound, 157-pound and 175-pound weight classes.

In the 138-pound weight class, Luke Tressler pinned his opponent in 25 seconds to score six points for the Pirates.

In the 165-pound weight class, Derek Carter was pinned in 55 seconds, adding six points for Mancos.

Conner Kelly, in the 190-pound weight class, was pinned in two minutes, 53 seconds, scoring six points for Mancos.

The coach noted that Kelly wrestled against one of Mancos' top-performing wrestlers and "one of the better guys in the state."

He added that he had not seen the Mancos grappler wrestle frequently, adding, "I give him a lot of credit. He's

real. He's good. He got his thing going and kept us kind of reacting to him, and that's how it works. And maybe next time we'll be able to flip that around and get him a little bit on the defensive. All credit to him; he's good and he had a good plan, and he stuck to it and he got his hand raised."

In the 215-pound weight class, Harley Armijo pinned his opponent in 48 seconds, and, in the 285-pound weight class, Antonio Quesada was pinned in 56 seconds, giving Pagosa and Mancos six points each.

Janowsky explained that Durango altered its lineup to face Pagosa, shifting wrestlers to different weights to place them against weaker opponents from Pagosa.

The dual against Durango included three forfeits by Durango — in the 106-pound, 190-pound and 285-pound weight classes — as well as three forfeits by Pagosa Springs — in the 120-pound, 126-pound and 175-pound weight classes.

It also included two double forfeits, in the 113-pound and 157-pound weight classes.

Overall, these forfeits led to each team receiving 18 points.

In the 132-pound weight class, Hudson Mazur pinned his opponent in 2:52 to score six points, while Tressler pinned his opponent in 58 seconds to score six points.

In the 144-pound weight class, Colton Lucero defeated his opponent by major decision to score four points.

The coach indicated that Lucero's opponent was one of Durango's more talented wrestlers and that he "wrestled hard," though Lucero got a "nice win."

In the 150-pound weight class, Wyatt Hoover was pinned in 2:45 to give Durango six points, while Carter was pinned in 4:19, giving up another six points to Durango.

Janowsky noted that Hoover's op-

ponent is one of Durango's best wrestlers.

Armijo closed the contested matches by pinning his opponent in three minutes to score six points.

The coach stated that Durango moved Armijo's opponent from the 190-pound weight class to avoid Kelly with the expectation that Armijo would be a less challenging opponent, but that he secured a "nice win."

The dual against Farmington included five forfeits by Pagosa, giving up 30 points.

Janowsky highlighted that Pagosa performed well in the matches the team competed in, but that the high number of forfeits put them "too far in the hole" to be able to secure an overall victory.

Mazur pinned his opponent in 31 seconds and Tressler pinned his opponent in 54 seconds, scoring a combined 12 points.

Lucero achieved a pin in 40 seconds while Hoover finished his match with a pin in 1:08, scoring 12 more points.

Carter was pinned in 57 seconds, scoring six points for Farmington, and Kelly pinned his opponent in 25 seconds, scoring six points for Pagosa.

Armijo was defeated by an 8-2 decision, scoring three points for Farmington.


Janowsky highlighted Armijo's match as one of his favorites of the day, noting that he faced the No. 2 wrestler in New Mexico for his weight class, who considerably outweighed him since Armijo is underweight for his class.

"Harley did what you try to teach everybody... you can't always win, but you can give your best effort," he said. "He gave a great effort, very smart, difficult to score on, got some points here and there, frustrated the guy a little bit, but didn't have quite enough to get his


■ See Wrestling A10

Joyous Holiday Greetings


High-Producing Turn-key Business at Busy Intersection




19 Navajo Trail Drive & The Buck Stops Here
6,800 sq. ft. building and business at busy intersection. Includes Koch Grand Prize smoker (\$35,000 value), Cook Shack smoker, meat cutting equipment, meat grinder, band saw, meat rail system, scales, refrigerated display cases, meat tenderizer, meat slicer, tables, slaughter truck, freezer, cooler equipment. Seller will consider training and owner financing. All offers will be considered! Co-listed with Unger Realty Building and land only
MLS 801267 ■ \$1,250,000




46 shares of water!
64 acres, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with 3 garages, includes 46 shares of water and is close to Navajo Lake.
MLS 807180 ■ \$995,000




Huge Price Reduction!
Dream log home on banks of Stollsteimer Creek, on 2.5 acres. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, office, 2 car garage. Close to Navajo Lake.
MLS 805085 ■ \$675,000




Downtown .52 acres, location, location, location.
MLS 809064 ■ \$500,000



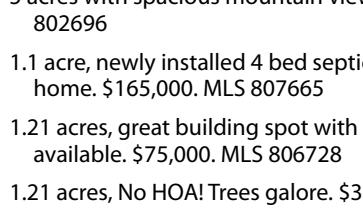
10 acres, just west of Arboles, prime commercial location, huge metal building, 3-phase power.
MLS 807868 ■ \$650,000



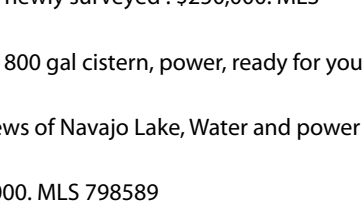
35.81 acre horse ranch property, ag status. Survey completed.
MLS 797745 ■ \$300,000




3 bedroom, 2 bath, oversized carport on one acre, views
MLS 806370 ■ \$235,000




5 acres with spacious mountain views, newly surveyed . \$250,000. MLS 802696




1.1 acre, newly installed 4 bed septic, 1800 gal cistern, power, ready for your home. \$165,000. MLS 807665



1.21 acres, great building spot with views of Navajo Lake, Water and power available. \$75,000. MLS 806728




1.21 acres, No HOA! Trees galore. \$35,000. MLS 798589



Deborah S. Archuleta
Independent Broker/Owner
970-903-2817
deb@archuletaproperties.com

Call Deb to buy or sell your next property!



ArchuletaProperties.com • Office: 970.883.3327

— PAGOSA MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILLION —

Winter Ice Rink

OPENING MID-DECEMBER* AT
SOUTH TOWN PARK • 550 S. 8TH STREET
**weather permitting*

Public Ice Skating / Figure Skating
Drop-in Hockey (all ages) / Curling with Riff Raff
Broomball

RENTALS AVAILABLE

CHECK WEBSITE FOR HOURS: skatepagosa.org
OR CALL 970.398.2337
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: friendsofpagosamultipurposepavillion






Build Your Sleds!




Sledz on Rez

January 20, 2024

Free registration and details




www.buildpagosa.org • www.facebook.com/buildpagosa/

Join us for

Family Fun

on

Reservoir Hill

behind Healing Waters Resort & Spa

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Stay warm with delicious food & hot drinks

Lots of prizes for sleds & spectators

BASKETBALL

Pirates best Demons to improve record to 7-1

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirates improved their record to 7-1 after traveling to play the 5A Durango Demons on Thursday, Dec. 21.

The Pirates defeated Durango by a score of 46-33, posting what coach Wes Lewis indicated was a strong team defensive performance to garner their sixth straight win.

Going into the game, Lewis suggested he was concerned with the size of the Durango team, commenting, "Durango's really big. They've got a lot of size on their team, and so we felt like we had to be good in some other areas. They did a pretty decent job of neutralizing the paint," and Durango led the Pirates 11-8 at the end of the first quarter.

Lewis stated that he had his team

begin pressing the Demons midway through the first quarter and that proved to be a major factor in the game, saying, "We felt like it frustrated them. We got some turnovers, got some steals, made 'em take some bad shots and the times they did beat it, we felt like we never gave up anything easy, and ... our half-court team defense was real solid."

A second quarter where the Pirates outscored Durango 14-3 enabled Pagosa to take a 22-14 lead at halftime.

The Pirates outscored Durango 15-10 in the third quarter to lead the Demons 37-24 heading into the final period.

With both Pagosa and Durango continuing their pressing defense, both teams scored nine points each. The final score was 46-33.

Lewis indicated he, overall, was

pleased with the team's performance, stating the Pirates had "no turnovers against their press ... and the only discredit to our whole game was the free-throw shooting."

He added, "We work on free throws more and more all the time. We work on free throws every day."

Colt Lewis had a double-double, scoring 21 points and chalking up 10 steals to go with his four assists and two rebounds. Blake Laner chipped in 11 points. Chase Harper scored eight points, Nathaniel Kinsley four, and Ridge Wilson two to round out the Pirate scoring.

Laner led the team in rebounding with eight and also had one steal. Seth Zeigler added three rebounds and one assist, and Wilson also had three rebounds and one block. Creede Dozier contributed two rebounds and three assists, Kinsley

added one rebound and one assist, and Harper had one rebound and three steals.

The Pirates made 10 of 24 attempts from the free-throw line to shoot 42 percent.

The Pirates' improved their record to 7-1, while the loss dropped Durango's record to 6-4.

With the victory the Pirates moved up to No. 1 in the current 4A Colorado High School Activities Association Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seeding.

Durango remained ranked No. 15 in the 5A RPI standings.

Next up for Pagosa will be an away game at 2A Sanford at 7 p.m. on Jan. 4, 2024. The Mustangs are 3-1 on the season and ranked No. 7 in the 2A RPI standings.

robert@pagosasun.com

Lady Pirates defeat Durango to extend winning streak to four

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates extended their winning streak to four games with a victory over the 5A Durango Demons last Thursday, Dec. 21, improving their record to 5-3.

Going into the contest, coach Sarah Osborn indicated she expected to be tested by the Demons, stating, "Durango's a good team. They went to the state finals last year ... So, they have girls that have been there that know the winning culture."

The Lady Pirates held a 10-6 lead at the end of the first quarter and posted a 26-15 halftime lead.

Osborn indicated that the team started slowly, but that the Lady Pirates continued to execute their offensive sets and build on their lead.

Osborn explained after the game that one of the main things the team

had been focusing on since its last game was aggressive defense but "without fouling."

Pagosa only had four fouls at halftime against Durango.

In addition, the team made all three of their free throws in the first half, per Osborn.

She added that Durango switched to a 1-2-2 zone defense with a trap to start the second half, which slowed the game down with the Lady Pirates only scoring nine and six points in the third and fourth quarters, with the final score in favor of Pagosa 41-26.

Osborn noted she was pleased with the team's performance, especially on the defensive end.

"We played really, really tough, in-your-face defense," the coach said. "When we pressed, it worked really well. We did some full-court press against them, but Karsyn [Shahan], Kylie [Ketchum], Daveyann [Snarr], Annie [O'Donnell] and Liz [Currier]

just were in their face. They couldn't get an inside shot. They couldn't get anything off the dribble drive. We were ready for their high post screens."

The Lady Pirates' scoring was led by Currier with 17 points, which included three 3-pointers, and Shahan added nine points. Ketchum logged seven points, O'Donnell four, and Snarr and Adelyn Hittle chipped in two each.

Shahan led the Pirates in rebounding with seven, and also had two assists and one steal. O'Donnell contributed four rebounds, one assist and one steal. Currier added three rebounds and two assists. Snarr had two rebounds, three assists, one steal and one block. Amber Snarr had two rebounds and one steal, Ketchum added one rebound and one assist, and Hittle added another rebound.

The team gathered 17 defensive rebounds and three offensive rebounds for the game and shot 65 percent from the free throw-line, making

11 of 17 attempts.

The win improved the Lady Pirates' record to 5-3, while Durango dropped to 4-5.

The Lady Pirates moved up to No. 8 in the 4A Colorado High School Activities Association Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seeding.

Durango dropped from No. 15 to No. 23 in the 5A RPI standings.

As the team enters the holiday break, Osborn suggested she is looking forward to the tough upcoming schedule, stating, "Sanford is next. They're also a good team. We've got some good games coming up ... we really like the challenges of our tough schedule."

The away game at 2A Sanford is up next for the Lady Pirates at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 4, 2024.

The Mustangs are 5-1 on the season and ranked No. 7 in the 2A RPI standings.

robert@pagosasun.com

RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for youth basketball, youth pickleball

By Matt Zaborowski
Town of Pagosa Springs

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

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

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

running through February.

Practices and games will be Mondays through Thursdays at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

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 pagosasprings.co.gov, or stop by the Ross Aragon Community Center.

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

Wrestling

Continued from A9
hand raised."

Janowsky commented that he felt this was "the best match of the day for us," adding, "It isn't always measured in wins and losses; it's measured in effort and smarts, and it was our best match."

He also stated that Armijo displayed "toughness" in the match by

facing difficult odds and excelling when challenged.

In the 106-pound weight class, Deegen Hoffschneider was pinned in 4:56 to close the contested matches, scoring six points for Farmington.

The coach explained that Hoffschneider is a freshman who alternates between varsity and junior

varsity.

"I'm really proud of him too for the way he competes," he said. "He gave a good account of himself there, maybe faded a little bit towards the end, but all in all, he hung in there tough."

Following the winter break, the Pirates will return to competition at the Rocky Mountain Duals event

in Pagosa on Jan. 5, 2024, at 5 p.m., where the team will face Nucla, followed by the Rocky Mountain Invite tournament beginning at 10 a.m. the following day.

"We're looking to get some recovery in and hit it hard when the time is right," Janowsky concluded.

josh@pagosasun.com

SNOW REMOVAL

Ranch Driveways • Driveways • Roofs
Call today to get on our client list now for better rates



970-507-1542

42belowconstructioncompany@gmail.com

Local and Proudly Serving
Pagosa Springs for seven years

Shuttle to Wolf Creek!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call 970-731-4081 24 hours prior to reserve your spot!

\$20 One Way • \$30 Round Trip*

*All return trips depart at 4:15 p.m. sharp.

Don't be late! We are running on a tight schedule!

Monday-Sunday from (by reservation only)

Wilderness Journeys 7:30 am	Alpen Haus 7:40 am	Quality Inn 7:50 am	Summit Ski & Sports 8:00 am
--------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

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!

Or, book online at GoWJP.com

All About You
Day Spa & Oxygen Bar
Gift Certificates Available!
970-731-3391
www.dayspapagosa.com
Energy Work • Natural Nails • Waxing • Massage • Eminence Organic Facials



CONSTITUTION ALIVE!

WITH AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION EDUCATOR RICK GREEN

Join our local Constitution Host and others from Pagosa Springs as we watch, study, and discuss this powerful video series with Rick Green and David Barton.



- * Know your Rights!
- * Gain more Constitutional Knowledge than 99% of Americans!
- * Learn Tangible Action Steps for Preserving Liberty!
- * Entertaining! Inspiring! Educational!
- * Learn the Biblical, Historical, and Constitutional Foundation of Freedom!

Grace IN PAGOSA
1044 Park Ave
Pagosa Springs



Monday evenings for 10 weeks beginning Jan 15 from 6:00-8:00pm at Grace in Pagosa. Scan the QR Code for more info. Course and digital workbook are FREE. A spiral-bound workbook is available for \$20. Refreshments will be provided.

Happy NEW YEAR



970-731-4701

www.RGBank.bank

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

POWER IT FORWARD WITH LPEA'S GIVING TREE



Donate and help your neighbors keep the lights on this holiday season.



1. Venmo us @GivingTree_LPEA (or scan the QR code)
2. Call us at (970) 247-5786
3. Drop off your donation at our office in Durango or Pagosa Springs.

Donations will be accepted through January 31st, 2024.

www.lpea.coop | (970) 247-5786

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was an interesting year in Pagosa Country. There was no want for good news, bad news, controversial issues, and no lack of interesting news to keep SUN readers focused on local events, situations and personalities.

The SUN is taking a look back at some of those events, selected by SUN staff writers. This week, we look back at January, February and March.

January

• Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson again struck down the Town of Pagosa Springs' voter-imposed fee on short-term rentals on Jan. 2 after nullifying his previous ruling on the matter, ruling that both the voter-imposed short-term rental (STR) fees and the charter amendment were invalid and unenforceable.

Prior to the April 2022 municipal elections, a group of residents who were concerned about the ongoing shortage and lack of affordability in the workforce housing market gathered enough signatures to get a citizen-driven initiative on the ballot.

The ballot question, which passed, asked voters if they wanted to amend the home rule charter so that the town could collect fees of \$150 per bedroom per month on STRs, with the collected revenues funding workforce housing initiatives. Homes occupied nine months of the year or more would be exempt from the fees.

In July 2022, 13 plaintiffs filed a complaint in court challenging the voter-imposed fee and charter amendment.

• 2023 started in snowy fashion, with sites in Archuleta County receiving between 6.3 and 17.8 inches of snow in the storms between Dec. 31, 2022, and Jan. 4, according to the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) website.

A Wolf Creek Ski Area report from the morning of Jan. 4 indicated that Wolf Creek had received 11 inches of snow in the previous 24 hours and 59 inches in the previous week, bringing the midway snow depth to 83 inches and the season-to-date snowfall total to 154 inches.

• At its Jan. 3 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed the potential statutory reclassification of the county and the responsibilities of county commissioners.

County Manager Derek Woodman noted he felt this was an opportunity to discuss a potential pay increase for elected officials by reclassifying the county as a 3A county.

He added that this change would not impact any current elected officials, but would impact the officials voted into office in two and four years and that reclassification would potentially provide other benefits to the county, such as grant opportunities.

• Multiple agencies investigated a Jan. 4 incident that included an officer-involved shooting.

According to a press release from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), at approximately 1:50 a.m. on Jan. 4, two ACSO deputies responded to a call for service in Aspen Springs Unit 6 "involving a disturbance between two male subjects."

According to the press release, "During the incident, one of the male subjects deployed a firearm and attempted to discharge the firearm at an ACSO Deputy. The second Deputy discharged their duty weapon at the male subject, neutralizing the immediate threat."

It further notes that deputies "provided lifesaving support immediately after the incident until medics arrived."

"The incident was non-fatal, and the suspect was transported to hospital for treatment," it notes.

The suspect was later identified as Tyler James Intermaggio, 37, of Pagosa Springs.

• On Jan. 5, The Pagosa Spring High School (PSHS) Pirate basketball team extended its win streak to seven games, leaving the Pirates as Colorado 4A boys' basketball's top team, after the team defeated the Sanford Mustangs 50-39.

• The PSHS Lady Pirates fell to Sanford 42-38 on Jan. 5, moving their record to 0-9 on the season.

• On Jan. 6, the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) announced that the skeletal remains of an adult male located in the area of Middle Mountain Road (northeast of Vallecito Reservoir) in La Plata County had been identified as Michael Kroll, who was reported missing on Oct. 19, 2021.

Hikers in the area discovered the remains on Sept. 25, 2022. According to a press release, DNA testing by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation Forensic Laboratory and in consultation with the La Plata County coroner identified the remains as Kroll, 42.

The press release notes that Kroll, a resident of Joplin, Mo., had been in the Pagosa Springs area a short time before being reported missing.

• A five-vehicle accident the evening of Jan. 9 resulted in one death and multiple people injured.

The accident was located near milepost 141 on U.S. 160, within the town limits.

• The PSHS Pirate wrestling team won a dual at home with the Center Vikings on Jan. 6 before taking fourth place at the Rocky Mountain Invitational hosted in Pagosa on Jan. 7 to open the 2023 portion of their schedule.

• The PSHS Lady Pirate swim team opened the 2023 portion of its schedule by embracing challenges and succeeding in several areas at the Scorpion Invite Jan. 6 and 7 in Farmington, N.M.

"Overall the meet was awesome!" coach Heather Miller wrote. "The Majority of the swimmers embraced the challenge of odd events and achieved best times and most were significant improvements."

The Lady Pirates finished second

out of seven teams at the Scorpion Invite with 380 points. That trailed Farmington's 552 points.

• Many of Archuleta County's elected officials were sworn in to office before a standing-room-only crowd Jan. 10 at the county's justice facility by Judge Justin Fay.

Those sworn in include Surveyor Ron Sutcliffe, Sheriff Mike Le Roux, Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott, Commissioner Veronica Medina (District 3) and Coroner Brandon Bishop. Treasurer Elsa White was sworn in before the event.

Following his swearing in, Le Roux swore in his office's staff, including a new undersheriff, Robert Hill.

• At its Jan. 10 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission rejected a request from Archuleta County for a variance to waive the rooftop equipment screening requirement for the new justice facility at 109 Harman Park Drive.

Both the court facility and county's detention center went before the town's Design Review Board in 2019 and 2020, respectively. However, the board awarded only a temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) for the justice facility because the building was found in violation of the town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). These conditions would need to be met before a final certificate of occupancy would be delivered.

As of the Jan. 10 planning commission meeting, two conditions had yet to be addressed on the county courthouse building — a lack of rooftop screening for mechanical equipment and issues with exterior lighting. This prompted the county to go before the town's planning commission asking for a waiver of the LUDC requirements.

• The 4A Lady Pirate basketball team came out of its first weekend of league play 1-1, logging their first win against Ignacio Bobcats — one of the top teams in Colorado 3A girls' basketball.

Their Pirate counterparts also went 1-1 in the first week of league play.

• The Lady Pirate swim team secured two more state qualifications on Jan. 13 and 14.

Those qualifiers were Lynelle Bartz in the 100-meter backstroke and Ivanna Erne in the 50-meter freestyle.

The team previously had a 200-meter medley relay team qualify for state at the first meet of the season.

• At its Jan. 17 work session, the BoCC discussed the formation of a county public health department and citizen participation in the transition advisory committee for the new department.

Medina commented that it was "clearer than mud" what the expectations for the members of the advisory committee are and that there still seems to be confusion among county residents on what the county is doing and how it would be accomplished concerning the new health department.

• At the same work session, the BoCC discussed shortfalls in payments to some elected officials.

Woodman explained that, as the finance and human resources departments were preparing the new salaries for elected officials and researching how this had been done in the past, they discovered that commissioners Ronnie Maez and

Warren Brown were paid less than their statutorily mandated salaries of \$77,884 for 2021.

Maez was paid \$77,398, \$486 short, while Brown was paid \$72,962, \$4,922 short.

• Later that day, the board approved a resolution in support of changing the county's classification from III-B to III-A.

The change would result in county officials having salaries 30 percent above the baseline for Category III counties instead of the 20 percent above the baseline that county elected officials receive under the III-B classification, with the change not effective until the beginning of the new term for each elected position.

• Heavy snows came to Pagosa Country in mid-January, causing Archuleta School District to call snow days on Jan. 17 and 18, among other disruptions.

Sites in Archuleta County received between 22.4 and 35.6 inches of snow in the storms between Jan. 11 and Jan. 18, according to the CoCoRaHS website.

A report from Wolf Creek Ski Area indicates that Wolf Creek had received 16 inches of snow in the previous 24 hours and 52 inches from the latest storm as of approximately 6 a.m. Jan. 18, bringing the midway snow depth to 106 inches and the year-to-date snowfall total to 219 inches.

• Pagosa Country celebrated winter Jan. 20-22 with a variety of Winter-Fest events, including Sledz on Rez, Penguin Plunge, skijor, Nordic skiing and the Barkus Parade.

• The PSHS Pirate wrestling team won two of its three duals Jan. 20 and 21, bringing the team to a 7-1 record overall in duals on the season.

• At its Jan. 23 special meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) voted to formalize its decision on the size of a proposed reservoir northeast of town at 11,000 acre-feet.

The reservoir would be a joint project between SJWCD and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) called the San Juan River Headwaters Project.

• At its Jan. 24 work session, the BoCC further discussed the formation of an advisory committee for the creation of a county health department and the process of creating the department.

• The Lady Pirate basketball team sailed to a 49-point win over the Bayfield Wolverines on Jan. 21 and a nine-point win over the Gunnison Cowboys on Jan. 24.

With the wins, the Lady Pirates improved to 3-10 on the season and put them in second in the league with a 2-1 record and moved up to the No. 26 spot in the 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings.

• The Pirates also picked up a pair of wins improve to 11-2 on the season and 2-1 in league play, putting them third in the league.

The team continued to be in the top five in Colorado 4A boys' basketball according to the RPI standings.

• The legal saga of a voter-imposed STR fee and charter amendment for the town came to a close on Jan. 24, when Wilson granted a joint motion — on behalf of the defendant (the town) and 13 plaintiffs — for approval of stipulation and dismissal.

On Jan. 19, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the first

■ See Review A12

MELTDOWN ON MAIN

Home of Pagosa's Best Specialty Grilled Cheese Sandwiches!

OPEN Every Day until Dec. 31st @ 11 a.m. (closed Christmas)

Check out our **NEW & IMPROVED Food Trailer!**

(970) 398-2332
257 Pagosa Street

THE Mountain Butler Pagosa Springs

Pagosa's Grocery Delivery Service

Order Fresh Groceries Online

Enter Your Information

We deliver to your home!

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

www.themtnbutler.com

Bill & Susan Schwab, Owners & Operators Since 2003

Drive Safe This Holiday Season

10% OFF Winterization Service or Oil & Filter Change

This Holiday Season make sure your family is safe.

There is no better time to have your vehicle winterized, put on all-season or studded snow tires, and equip it with Winter Wiper Blades to ensure easy start-ups and safer driving on the snowy, icy roads.

Bring in or mention this ad for this limited time offer. Shop supplies and tax not included. May not be combined with any other offer. See the pros at Piedra Automotive for details. Offer ends 1/17/24

Piedra Automotive
(970) 731-3335
505 Piedra Rd.
Open 8:00 - 5:30 Mon. - Fri.

24 Hour TOWING & EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Happy New Year! from all of us at RE/MAX Eagle's Nest

RE/MAX EAGLE'S NEST
EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Marianne Hamilton
Broker/Owner, Realtor
CRS, GRI, ABR, CLHMS
970-585-9005
mhamilton@remax.net

Vicki Liszewski
Associate Broker
Realtor
480-287-3155
Vicki.Liszewski@remax.net

Diane Pistillo
Associate Broker
Realtor
602-481-9212
DianePistillo@remax.net

David L. Lang
Associate Broker
MBA, ABR
602-228-0146
david.lang@remax.net

Andrea Peltier
Associate Broker
Realtor
303-918-8137
Andrea.Peltier@remax.net

Daniel Power
Associate Broker
Realtor
575-937-2354
dspower1958@gmail.com

970-731-0500 • RemaxEaglesNest.com
390 Boulder Drive, Suite 100 • Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
HOME • CONDO • RANCH • LAND • MOUNTAIN CABIN • LUXURY

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!

Subscribe Today!

PagosaSUN.com
(970) 264-2100
\$35 annual in county
\$45 annual out of county

Review

Continued from A11
reading of Ordinance 992, which would officially repeal the STR fee should the council approve it, upon second reading, and, on Jan. 23, the town entered into the joint motion with the plaintiffs in district court.

The joint motion states the charter amendment fees are invalid and of no legal effect, and states the town would refund money collected for the fee and pay the plaintiffs' attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$10,000.

- On Jan. 26, Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver filed a petition for writ of certiorari on the behalf of Archuleta County Clerk Kristy Archuleta to the Colorado Supreme Court requesting the court review a lawsuit between Archuleta and local attorney Matt Roane.

The lawsuit concerned Roane's efforts to secure a meeting recording from the county through a Colorado Open Records Act request while being in ongoing litigation with the county connected to the recording.

In a Dec. 15, 2022, decision, the Colorado Court of Appeals sided with Roane and ordered Archuleta to turn over the recording.

- In late January, it was announced that two members of PSHS's Unified bowling team were honored for their work for the fall season. Samuel Kelley was named to the all-state first team and Carson Pilgrim was named to the second team.
- Erne closed out January with two more state qualifications, qualifying in both the 100-meter butterfly and 100-meter freestyle, giving her three state-qualifying times on the season.
- The PAUSD board approved increases in rates at its Jan. 30 meeting.

According to PAUSD District Manager Justin Ramsey, the rate changes took effect immediately upon approval.

The rate increases included a 6 percent increase in water rates and a 2.5 percent increase in wastewater rates.

With these changes, according to agenda documentation, the monthly service charge for water rose from \$29.66 to \$31.44 per equivalent unit.

- Also at its Jan. 30 meeting the PAUSD board discussed state-mandated modifications to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant that come with a potential cost of \$15 million during a public hearing on a potential State Revolving Fund loan for the project.

The modifications are intended to improve nutrient removal and allow the plant to comply with new state nutrient standards.

Nutrient removal involves the removal of nutrients such as phosphorus or nitrogen, which can be damaging to drinking water and aquatic environments in high quantities, from wastewater.

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), such nutrients from the Vista plant could impact both nearby drinking water wells and the Piedra River — claims disputed by PAUSD.

February

- On Feb. 1, 6th Judicial District Attorney Christian Champagne reported that no criminal charges

would be filed against the ACSO deputy who discharged her firearm and hit a suspect during a Jan. 4 incident.

The suspect in the case, Intermaggio, was charged with criminal attempt to commit murder in the first degree, a second-degree felony, on Jan. 26.

- On Feb. 1, Black Hills Energy announced that, effective that day, the cost of its natural gas was going down.

Days later, Gov. Jared Polis announced that he directed state agencies to provide relief from high energy costs to Coloradans.

At the time, Archuleta County had a currently average monthly bill of \$109.92, with a proposed average monthly bill of \$107.03. That \$2.89 decrease, based off an average usage of 66 therms, was a 2.63 percent decrease.

- On Feb. 2, the San Juan National Forest's Pagosa Ranger District held an open house on the proposed Jackson Mountain project.

Plans for the area, northeast of town, included the creation of mountain bike trails, expanding the multi-use trail system, additional parking and trailhead areas, fuels reduction and vegetation management, and a noncommercial gravel mining operation.

The open house event was a chance for the public to interact with officials and view maps and plans on the project.

But neighbors of Jackson Mountain, those living in the San Juan River Village, as well as other concerned citizens and outdoor recreationists, came to the event to question the county's and Forest Services' determination on that particular location.

- The Pirate wrestling team was felled by the Alamosa Mean Moose with a 36-33 loss in the Intermountain League Championship Dual at home on Feb. 2.

Coach Dan Janowsky highlighted that the Pirates were "underdogs" in the dual, noting, "That could have been pretty one-sided, but we made a good account of it."

- When the Pirate boys' basketball team defeated the Ignacio Bobcats on Feb. 3 in Ignacio, coach Wes Lewis hit a new milestone in his coaching career: 300 wins.

The 300th win came in Lewis' 16th year of coaching PSHS varsity basketball teams.

PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell called the feat "phenomenal."

"For him to accomplish that in 15 years, he had to average 20 wins a season to do that. That's phenomenal," O'Donnell said.

As of Feb. 8, Lewis' career coaching record for Colorado high school basketball was 300-74, meaning Lewis' teams had won 80 percent of their games.

- In a special meeting on Feb. 6, the BoCC approved the creation of a pair of boards to oversee the standing up of a public health department for Archuleta County — the Volunteer Transitional Advisory Committee and an Internal Transitional Health Department Oversight Committee.

The BoCC also appointed members to both committees.

- Around the same time, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH), in coordination with Archuleta and La Plata counties, filed an action requesting a

judge appoint a third-party receiver to assist with the dissolution of SJBPH and the transition to single-county health agencies that will be operational on Jan. 1, 2024.

The receiver would serve to oversee the transition and assist with disposition of assets, liabilities and other financial components of the dissolution.

- The town council, which doubles as the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGD) board, confronted problems with its sewage system at its Feb. 7 meeting.

Two lift stations, one near the Visitor Center (the Chamber lift station) and one by the Apache Street bridge (on the northwest side of the San Juan River) were experiencing multiple functionality problems, according to staff and information presented at the meeting.

The board voted to authorize staff to purchase submersible pumps and engage a contractor for installation, waiving the competitive bid requirements "due to the state of this emergency."

- At its Feb. 7 meeting, the town council discussed the ongoing problem of destructive vandalism in the town's public restroom facilities.

As a result, town staff had recently made the decision to shut down "all public restrooms in town parks for the foreseeable future," states the agenda brief on the subject.

The restrooms were replaced by portable toilets at a cost of about \$1,040 per month.

- In early February, it was announced that PSHS students Regina Sikes and Ray Meade had recently received awards from the Scholastic Art Awards — something the school's art teacher, Kelly Lewis, pointed out is an "incredible honor."

For the competition, the local artists submitted work that was judged alongside every other high school arts program. Out of thousands of entries, Sikes received an honorable mention for her painting "Ghost Ranch," a realistic oil painting of the famous Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Meade also won an honorable mention out of thousands of drawing submissions for his work "Be'ek'id Baa Ahoodzani (Piñon): My cultural home," a rendered work showing the Pinon, Ariz., town sign, where Meade moved here from.

- The PAUSD board discussed the SJWCD's recently set target reservoir size of 11,000 acre-feet and the future of the Running Iron Ranch property at its Feb. 9 meeting.

PAUSD secretary Bill Hudson opened the discussion, highlighting that the SJWCD commissioned a water demand study by Wilson Water Group and that PAUSD estimates of growth for the district are lower than those indicated in the Wilson Water Group study, with PAUSD's drought management plan expecting approximately 2 percent annual population growth.

Hudson commented that the Growing Water Smart group, which was largely funded by SJWCD, had estimated approximately 1.7 or 1.6 percent annual growth.

"So, I don't see any real justification for coming to a conclusion that the Dry Gulch reservoir should be 11,000 acre-feet and that ... we should

guess at 5 percent growth — three times what the Growing Water Smart group advised us," Hudson said.

- Five Lady Pirate swimmers competed in the state championships Feb. 10 and 11: Erne, Karis Blackman, Bartz, Evelyn Rose and Emma Gantt.

The Lady Pirates qualified for state in six events and competed in five at the season's final meet.

The relay team of Bartz, Blackman, Gantt and Erne competed in the 200-meter medley relay.

The relay team of Bartz, Gantt, Rose and Erne competed in the 200-meter freestyle relay.

Bartz also competed in the 100-meter backstroke.

Erne qualified in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter butterfly and 100-meter freestyle, and competed in the 50 free and 100 butterfly at state due to athletes only being allowed to compete in two events at state.

- Seven Pirate wrestlers advanced to the state tournament after placing in the top four of their weight classes the 3A Region 2 tournament on Feb. 10 and 11.

The wrestlers advancing were Colton Lucero in the 126-pound weight class, Luke Tressler in the 132-pound weight class, Chandler Mazur in the 150-pound weight class, Derek Carter in the 157-pound weight class, Heath Fulbright in the 175-pound weight class, Conner Kelley in the 190-pound weight class and Unified Division wrestler Samuel

See Review A13

Good luck, Pirates!

ROOFING

Standing Seam/Pro Panel Roofing, Roof Heating Ice Melt Systems, Roof Repair, Sheet Metal and Excavation Services

(970) 799-6278

42belowconstructioncompany@gmail.com

Local and Proudly Serving Pagosa Springs for seven years

91 Stevens Lake Rd., Pagosa Springs

HUD Publisher's Notice

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Thursday wouldn't be Thursday without ...

The Pagosa Springs SUN

Name _____ In county \$35 yearly

Address _____ Out of county \$45 yearly

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mastercard Visa Check enclosed

Account number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

The Pagosa Springs Sun
PO Box 9
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
(970) 264-2100

Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2023-009

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On October 26, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s): Justin Travis Fowler
Original Beneficiary(ies): Terry Jackson
Current Holder of Deed of Trust: Terry Jackson
Date of Deed of Trust: September 21, 2016
County of Recording: Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust: September 26, 2016
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book Page No.): 21606226
Original Principal Amount: \$54,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$55,229.40

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

Lot 11 of Block 7 in ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3, according to the plat thereof filed for record July 6, 1971 as Reception No. 74567, being an Amendment of the plat of Aspen Springs Ranch Subdivision No. 3, filed on April 9, 1971 as Reception No. 74284

Also known by street and number as: 514 Echo Lane, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCOMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 02/22/2024, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 12/28/2023
Last Publication 1/25/2024
Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 10/26/2023
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Cantafio & Song PLLC 1875 Lawrence Street, Suite 730, Denver, CO 80202 (303) 813-1200
Attorney File # 514 Echo Lane
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
Published December 23, January 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (221896)

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 complainant 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 upon 35 days after the service of this summons upon you.

Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

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

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
Lot 21 of Block 13 in AMENDEE 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 complainant 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 upon 35 days after the service of this summons upon you.

of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

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

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
Lot 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
(223888)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING JANUARY 2, 2024 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 30-28-116 that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider revising the County Land Use Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department 970-264-1390 and on the County Website.
The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing.
Published December 14 & 28, 2023 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (223699)

Invitation to Bid: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for the purchase of a New Dump Truck. Responses due Monday, January 15, 2024, at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs section for details and instructions.

details and instructions.
Published December 28, 2023 & January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224971)

Invitation to Bid: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for the purchase of a New Hook Lift Truck. Responses due Monday, January 15, 2024, at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs section for details and instructions.
Published December 28, 2023 & January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224962)

Invitation to Bid: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for the purchase of a New Mini Excavator. Responses due Monday, January 15, 2024, at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs section for details and instructions.
Published December 28, 2023 & January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224975)

Invitation to Bid: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for the purchase of a New Water Truck. Responses due Monday, January 15, 2024, at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs section for details and instructions.
Published December 28, 2023 & January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224974)

Invitation to Bid: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for the removal and replacement of two (2) HVAC Carrier Roof Top units located at the Pagosa Springs Community Center. Optional site visits will be available January 8-12th. Responses due Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 4pm. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs button for details and instructions.
Published December 28, 2023 & January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224556)

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

Notice is hereby given that 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 Jerrold 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 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 28, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224178)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Silvia Maria Doglia, 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 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 28, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224180)

Review

Continued from A12

Kelly.

- Heavy snows again came to Pagosa Country in mid-February, with sites in Archuleta County receiving between 6.1 and 13.1 inches of snow in the storms between Tuesday, Feb. 14, and 11 a.m. on Feb. 15, according to the CoCoRaHS website.

- In mid-February, the San Juan National Forest welcomed a new forest supervisor, David Neely.

- Two Pirate wrestlers took fourth place at the state wrestling tournament held at the Ball Arena in Denver Feb. 16-18: Lucero and Tressler.

The team finished 21st at state overall with 39.5 points.

- Janowsky, among others, was honored at the Ball Arena on Feb. 17 prior to the semifinal matches at the state wrestling tournament.

The honor was a precursor to Janowsky's being inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in May with a Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award from the Colorado Chapter.

- A little over an hour into the SJWCD Board of Director's meeting on Feb. 20, during the director's report, the members got into a heated debate lasting around 45 minutes.

At issue was the board's previous decision to endorse a size of 11,000 acre-feet for a proposed reservoir in Dry Gulch Valley and, together with that, a discussion about data in the Wilson Water Group study, which the board's reservoir size decision was partly based upon.

Sparking the debate was board president Al Pfister's update that he had received a new "water demand study" from PAWSD Manager Justin Ramsey — an alternative to the Wilson Water Group demand study that the SJWCD commissioned.

- The Lady Pirate basketball team ended its season on Feb. 21 in Loveland with a three-point loss in the first round of the state playoffs.

With a 10-14 regular-season record, the Lady Pirates earned the No. 20 seed in 4A girls' basketball and took on the No. 13 Resurrection Christian Cougars in the first round.

- Another heavy winter storm hit Pagosa Country on Feb. 21 and 22, bringing the closure of schools and other facilities, U.S. 160 over Wolf Creek Pass and Wolf Creek Ski Area on Feb. 22.

According to the CoCoRaHS website, snowfall ranged widely, with 1.5 to 7 inches of snow falling across Archuleta County between Feb. 21 and 1 p.m. on Feb. 22.

- The Pirate basketball team earned the No. 5 seed in the 4A basketball playoffs and hosted first-round action against the No. 28 DSST: Conservatory Green Hornets on Feb. 24, after the game was rescheduled multiple times due to inclement weather.

Pirates ultimately beat the DSST: Conservatory Green Hornets 57-48 to advance to the Sweet 16.

- Continuing winter weather in the region spurred several emergency responses in February, including the recovery of two area residents who were killed by an avalanche.

According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC), three avalanches were estimated to have occurred in the region on Feb. 25 — near Vallecito Reservoir, on La Manga Pass and at Hourglass Path near Wolf Creek Pass.

The victims were identified as backcountry skiers Jurgen Montgomery, 47, of Pagosa Springs, and James Sutton, 67, of Durango.

- The Pirate basketball team hosted the Sweet 16 round and welcomed the No. 12 Pueblo Central Wildcats to town on Feb. 27, but the Wildcats ended the Pirates' playoff win with a 67-61 win.

The team ended the season with a 19-5 record.

- In late February, the BoCC heard suggestions relating to STRs from an independent citizen group.

March

- In early March, it was announced that several Pirate wrestlers had recently garnered all-conference honors for their work during the winter season. Lucero, Tressler, Mazur and Fulbright were named honorable mentions to the Intermountain League all-conference team, and Kelly was named to the first team.

- After discussing the matter at multiple work sessions and a special meeting, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors voted unanimously on March 6 to move toward opening a preschool class and applying to serve as a Colorado Universal Preschool, also called UPK, host.

UPK was created with House Bill 22-1295, with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood launching UPK for the 2023-2024 school year.

- The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PPFD) announced that several

firefighters received the honor of being selected by their peers to receive awards, including the 40-Year Excellence Award, which went to Capt. Kelly Robertson.

- Two Destination Imagination (DI) teams from Pagosa Springs Elementary School competed at the DI Regional Competition at Escalante Middle School in Durango on March 4. They competed against teams from Cortez, Durango, Dolores and Utah. Both teams qualified to go on to compete in Denver at the state level.

The first team, "The No Name Dogs," made up of Savannah Graves, Kaci Moeller, Jeri Moeller and Maheyla Witting, competed in the scientific challenge. This team was coached by Jill Witting and received a first-place medal.

The second team, "The Bamboozlers," including Maheyla Witting, Ashlynn Mathis, Ana Romero Gallegos, Riley Sanders, Bodhi King and Gabriela Padilla, was coached by Ben and Wells Witting. They competed in the engineering challenge and placed second.

- During council comments at the March 7 town council meeting, Mayor Shari Pierce announced that council member Jeff Posey had resigned effective March 6.

In his resignation letter, Posey states, "After long soul-searching and deep discussion with my family, and with reluctance but certainty, I hereby resign from Town Council, effective immediately, to focus on taking better care of some lingering health issues and my family. I have enjoyed working with you all, and I wish you the very best of luck. Thank you!"

- At the same meeting, the town council voted to move forward with creating an ordinance for additional fees on STRs within the town.

Town Manager Andrea Phillips ended discussion of the issue by noting it was a follow-up discussion to the Dec. 6, 2022, discussion where the council had received a report from Root Policy Research on the STR nexus study.

She added that the council had requested that the topic come back after the lawsuit on the previous voter-approved STR fee had been settled to consider a new workforce housing fee on STRs.

Following a discussion of the logistics of creating the ordinance, when the fees would be set and potential changes to the STR regulations, the council agreed to move forward with directing staff to create an ordinance for STR fees and to discuss the changes to the existing STR regulations at a future meeting.

- At its March 9 meeting, the PAWSD board approved a 20-year capital investment plan for the district.

At the meeting, board president Jim Smith highlighted the amount of work that had gone into the plan and the document's effectiveness in showing the elements of PAWSD's system and its mission.

The plan details the improvements and replacements that will be needed to maintain and keep the PAWSD system operational over the next 20 years.

Among the largest items are an expected \$50,760,382 in upgrades to the Vista wastewater treatment plant.

- The PFPD responded to an incident described as a "possible house explosion" on March 10, with one patient transported to local medical facilities via ambulance.

- PAWSD announced mid-March that a rain-on-snow event the weekend of March 11 caused flooding and sewer issues in the area, with the continuing wet weather expected to worsen the problem.

"Rain on Snow (ROS) events occur when rain falls onto an existing snowpack," a press release from the agency explains. "The result is runoff that includes both rainfall and melted snow, which can overwhelm

drainage structures causing flooding. This flooding saturates the soils, enters basements and crawlspaces and infiltrates the sewer system."

The ROS event led to regional flooding in the community, and PAWSD crews were monitoring the situation and assuring pump stations were working at their highest capacity.

- That same weekend, Pirate track and field teams got their first taste of action at an abbreviated meet in Farmington, N.M.

The meet, hosted by Piedra Vista, was canceled after about two hours, according to coach Connie O'Donnell, because standing water on the track created safety issues.

"We were all soaked and really cold," she wrote in an email to The SUN.

The Pirates competed in five events before the meet was canceled.

- The Pirate baseball and girls' soccer teams also opened their seasons over the weekend, with both teams going 0-3.

- The Pagosa Springs Middle School wrestling team edged out the competition to win the six-team league tournament on March 11 at Escalante Middle School in Durango. The Pirates defeated Bayfield 195-189 in the final round.

- The Archuleta County Health Department Transitional Advisory Committee contemplated the potential of resolving the differences between Archuleta and La Plata counties and retaining SJBPH at its March 13 meeting.

At the meeting, the committee spoke with SJBPH Executive Director Liane Jollon about the structure and funding of SJBPH and confronted the logistical difficulties of the dissolution and the potential for losses of services, particularly because certain grants currently available to SJBPH from the CDPHE may not be available to one or both of the smaller county public health agencies due to the difficulties of administering them.

- The BoCC discussed a report from the county STR task force at its March 14 work session and, at its meeting later in the day, voted to not reinstate the recently expired moratorium on new STR permits.

- At the March 14 PFPD Board of Directors meeting, Fire Chief Randy Larson announced his upcoming retirement.

At the meeting, Larson submitted his letter of resignation indicating that he would retire effective Sept. 1.

- At its March 14 meeting, the town planning commission, which doubles as the Design Review Board, considered the final major design review application for a proposed lodging development on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The project, named Casas at Two Doves, would be built at 320 Hot Springs Blvd. and consists of two lots (totaling 1.04 acres).

It also encompasses "the old church," which the agenda brief explains "was moved to the property from its original location, from where it bears the nickname 'Juanita Church.'"

The property owner, McMullen Properties Inc., proposed to build 14 standalone, cottage-style lodging units. Also included in the project's designs are social gathering and parking areas, as well as an event space, which "may accommodate special events or meet boutique lodging needs," according to the brief.

- In mid-March, it was announced that the Pagosa Shooters attended the Special Olympics Colorado Western Regional Basketball tournament in Grand Junction. The team placed third in its bracket after a tough first game loss by four points.

- After beginning its season 0-3, the Pirate baseball team picked up three wins at the Delta tournament in mid-March to even its record at 3-3.

The Pirates scored 29 runs over the

three games while allowing nine runs and nine hits by their opponents.

- Another storm impacted Pagosa Country in March, bringing heavy snows and the temporary closure of Wolf Creek Pass, among other regional passes.

According to the CoCoRaHS website, snowfall ranged widely, with between 2.8 and 26.5 inches of snow falling across Archuleta County between March 19 and March 22.

- The SJWCD board voted to accept the resignation of one board member at its March 20 meeting.

SJWCD president Al Pfister stated that Rachel Suh emailed him announcing her immediate resignation on Feb. 28 and that he was unsure of the reason for her departure.

- On March 28, the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners and the Archuleta County BoCC reaffirmed their commitment to the dissolution of SJBPH at separate meetings.

- The Daniels Fund announced its 2023 class of Daniels Scholarship Program recipients in late March. A total of 238 high school seniors across Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming were selected as 2023 Daniels Scholars, including 138 students from Colorado and one student from PSHS: Reece Peterson.

Daniels Scholars receive up to \$100,000 over four years toward their undergraduate degree.

- In late March, it was announced that four Pirate basketball players and a trio of Lady Pirate basketball players were recently honored for their work on the court over the winter season.

For the Pirates, Colt Lewis, Gunner Dozier and Kayson Shahan were named to the all-conference team, and Blake Laner garnered an honorable mention.

For the Lady Pirates, Chantelle Caldwell and Annie O'Donnell were named to the all-conference team, and Karsyn Shahan received an honorable mention.

- Three Archuleta County juveniles were arrested in Farmington, N.M., on March 29 on warrants out of Pagosa Springs and charges out of New Mexico.

According to Rockensock, the three juveniles, whose names were not released, were suspected of breaking in to the Everyday Store in east Pagosa Springs earlier that day.

Rockensock explained the three — a 15-year-old female, a 16-year-old female and a 15-year-old male — allegedly broke in to the convenience store and took primarily cigarettes, vape pens and similar items, with the value of the stolen merchandise estimated at approximately \$2,000.



More Than Just Signs!

- DECALS & WINDOW GRAPHICS
- VEHICLE GRAPHICS & WRAPS
- STORE FRONTS
- PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
- APPAREL PRINTING
- NEON & ELECTRIC SIGN REPAIR
- MEMORIAL STONES

LOCATED AT 57 MAJESTIC DR. PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO

JIM GARRETT

♦ ATTORNEY ♦

Protecting your interests

LITIGATION, CRIMINAL DEFENSE
BUSINESS, REAL ESTATE, WILLS

New location: Downtown, above the theatre
422 PAGOSA ST., NO. 5
970-880-0468 • 412-508-1060
P.O. BOX 3265, PAGOSA SPRINGS • jyg44law@gmail.com



A Cut above

Complete tree service in Pagosa Springs.

- Removal of Hazardous Trees
- Fire Mitigation
- Climbing & Cleaning Dead Limbs
- Chipping of Slash

Safer Home & Healthier Trees.

Chappy Faber
(970) 389-6604
chappfaber@gmail.com



for supporting me in my 8th year of real estate!

Are you thinking of a change in 2024?

I want to sell your home for you. The market is still moving! I'm working with buyers and sellers.

Call me today for a free market analysis.



Debbie Loewen
Employing Broker
(970) 946-3480
debbie@ownpagosa.com


448 PAGOSA STREET • OWNPA.GOSA.COM
2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

GET YOUR 2024 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR TODAY!

A Great Gift Idea!

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

Support your local San Juan Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Purchase your calendar at Square Top Bar-B-Que. Watch for our annual banquet in Spring 2024!





SQUARE TOP BAR-B-QUE

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

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

1 Pines Club Place
(970) 398-5267

SquareTopBBQ.com

Holiday Packs

Make your holiday hosting easy!

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

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

Host your holiday events & parties at our restaurant

Catering available

Weekly Specials

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

Sell it in the classifieds

Cars • Bikes • Houses • Land • Saddles • Hay • Goats
Horses • Boats • Tools • Furniture • You name it!

The Pagosa Springs SUN
To place your classified ad, call
(970) 264-2100



Photo courtesy Scott DW Smith/Wolf Creek Ski Area

Santa Claus was among those who took to Wolf Creek Ski Area prior to Christmas to enjoy the 10 inches of fresh powder the mountain received.

San Juan National Forest seeking public comment on Spring Creek project

San Juan National Forest

The San Juan National Forest is seeking public comments on a pre-decisional environmental assessment for the Spring Creek Pipeline and Associated Fruitland Coal Gas Drilling Project located on the Columbine Ranger District through Jan. 16, 2024.

The project goal is for the Catamount Energy Partners LLCs to further develop their valid and existing federal natural gas leases in the Spring Creek area south and east of Bayfield, in La Plata and Archuleta counties.

The environmental assessment describing the proposed action,

along with maps, can be viewed on the project webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/sanjuan/?project=63036>. Written comments can be submitted through that website or sent to:

Columbine District Ranger, P.O. Box 439, 367 Pearl St., Bayfield, CO 81122.

Commenters can participate in the planning process by sharing suggestions for how to improve the project, specific concerns or information they have about the project area.

Catamount plans to construct an 8.4-mile pipeline system and expand one existing gas well pad to facilitate recompletion of one exist-

ing gas well and horizontal drilling of seven new gas wells from the same pad.

Only those individuals or entities who submit timely, specific written comments during identified public comment periods will be eligible to object to the proposed decision. This comment period is the last opportunity to establish eligibility to object to this project. Comments received, including names and addresses of commenters, will be part of the public record.

For more information or a hard copy of the environmental assessment, please contact the Columbine Ranger District office at (970) 884-

2512.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874 or visit the forest website, or follow us on social media.



Photo courtesy Bob Endres

The warm color of Squaretop and nearby peaks on Christmas invited Bob Endres to grab the camera and rush outside before it faded. He reported that he didn't see the rising moon until he was outside.

Clip 'n Save 10% 

•Off of 750 ml and 175 ml bottles•

WINES & LIQUORS
Non-Sale Items Only • Coupon not valid for beer purchases

264-2749
Next to River Center - Hwy. 160
East Pagosa Springs
Mon.-Sat. Open 9 a.m. - Midnight
Sun. Open 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

SILVER DOLLAR LIQUORS

FORTY TWO 42 BELOW CONSTRUCTION

Custom Builders

Our local in-house energetic and experienced team, with New Zealander Dan Aitken at the helm, have a broad skill set and the equipment to keep up with Quality and also Timing-logistics with full Integration of trades producing a higher seamless standard of build. Let us handle your project from vision — design — planning — reality. We pride ourselves on transparency to our clients throughout the process, establishing long-lasting friendships in our small mountain town.

Established and Insured

Call Dan at 970-799-6278 for more information.
42Belowconstructioncompany@gmail.com • Media source: Instagram 42below_construction_co
Located at 91 Stevens Lake Road, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

A Cure for Winter Projects: Rent it from P.V.R.

Sewer Inspection Cameras
Sewer Snakes
Dehumidifier
Wood Chippers
Man Lifts
Dump Trailers
Skid Steers
Excavators
Log Splitters & more



See our full line of equipment on pinevalleyrental.com

Shop local for your equipment rental needs

Pine Valley Rental & Sales Inc.
Pagosa Springs

305 Bastille Drive
(970) 731-4410

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.

Services we provide

Emergency After-hours Care for both Small animals and Equine
House Calls
At-Home Euthanasia
Preventative Medicine
Full In-house Diagnostics

Digital Radiology
Ultrasound
Advanced Dentistry for small animal and equine
ICU Care/Full Hospital Care
Soft tissue and Orthopedic Surgery
Whole Life Care



We are accepting new clients

Appointments can be made by calling our office 970-264-2629, or visit sanjuvethospital.com to book online.

2024 Health Insurance OPEN ENROLLMENT
November 1, 2023 — January 15, 2024

Not Sure Where to Start?
As certified Connect for Health Colorado brokers, we are here to help.

Angelene J. Talamante - Health Insurance Agent
CO Agency License #510951 • CO License #291160

Tricia G. Vega - Health Insurance Agent — CO License #252560

With the changes to the Affordable Care Act this year, we finally qualified for the Advance Premium Tax Credit and now have an insurance plan in place. *What a relief!*
Thank you HomeTown Pros for your help and patience in finding a plan that fit our budget.
—Kanaka Perera

HomeTown Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
(970) 264-4321 | Toll Free: (866)333-8342
818 Rosita St. • Pagosa Springs, CO • www.hometowninsurancepros.com
Your Friendly, Knowledgeable, Professional HomeTown Team.

In-person, or phone appointments available
Call today!

preview

ARTS & LIFE



**Happy
New Year
2024**



Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

World War I soldiers celebrate from the trenches in harmony on Christmas Eve in “All Is Calm,” playing through Dec. 29 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Karaoke Dance Party



The Den

Restaurant • Sports Bar

**Every Wednesday
8pm-Midnight**

729 San Juan St
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-264-3005

Shuttle to Wolf Creek!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call 970-731-4081 24 hours prior to reserve your spot!

\$20 One Way • \$30 Round Trip*

*All return trips depart at 4:15 p.m. sharp.

Don't be late! We are running on a tight schedule!

Monday-Sunday from (by reservation only)

Wilderness Journeys 7:30 am	Alpen Haus 7:40 am	Quality Inn 7:50 am	Summit Ski & Sports 8:00 am
---------------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	---

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!

PUC# 16400

Or, book online at GoWJP.com

Live Performers



Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

Monday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

©Copyright 2023

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

(970) 264-2100
PagosaSUN.com

Physical address: 457 Lewis Street
Mailing address: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Publisher
Jim O'Rourke, jorouke@orourkemediagroup.com

Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Robert Moore, robert@pagosasun.com
Intern Hailey Sams, hailey@pagosasun.com

Advertising and Circulation Manager
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom Robert Penton
Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon
Mailroom William Thomas

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Digital subscriptions available at PagosaSun.com/edition

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Display - Noon Monday • Classified - Tuesday 10 a.m.
Legal - Friday 4 p.m. • Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks. Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.



Pizza & Pours

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



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

175 PAGOSA STREET • 11 AM TO 10 PM DAILY
Order On Line: MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

Thingamajig Theatre Company's 'All Is Calm' enchants audiences with holiday harmony and hope

By **Tim Moore**

Thingamajig Theatre Company

As the holiday season wraps the world in a warm embrace, Thingamajig Theatre Company's production of "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" has captivated audiences at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The historical and theatrical piece, playing through Dec. 29, has seen an incredible run of sold-out shows, spreading the holiday spirit and fostering a renewed hope amongst its viewers for peace across the globe.

"All Is Calm" transports audiences back to the trenches of World War I, specifically to the Christmas of 1914, when an extraordinary event unfolded. Amidst the chaos and violence, soldiers from opposing sides laid down their arms and united in a spontaneous truce to celebrate Christmas together.

The production skillfully weaves together firsthand accounts, letters and period songs to recreate this historical moment of unity, showcasing the power of humanity even in the darkest of times.

The performance has resonated deeply with audiences, offering a poignant reminder of the universal desire for peace and goodwill.

Thingamajig Theatre Company's commitment to bringing this historical event to life has resulted in a heartwarming and thought-provoking experience for all who attend.

With only a few days left until the final curtain call, theatre enthusiasts and those seeking the true meaning of the season are encouraged to secure their tickets to witness this unique production before it concludes on Dec. 29.

But the holiday spirit doesn't end there.

Thingamajig Theatre Company invites you to ring in the new year with the Watchamawhozits Kids Camp performance of "The Lion King KIDS" on Dec. 30 and 31.

This enchanting production, featuring young and talented performers age 7-12, promises to be a joyous experience for the entire family.

Tickets for "The Lion King KIDS" are a mere \$5. We advise purchasing tickets online in advance to ensure a seat, as past events have seen enthusiastic audiences turned away at the door.

As the year draws to a close, Thingamajig Theatre Company extends warm wishes for a happy holiday season and a blessed, safe and joyous new year to all patrons and supporters.

Join us in celebrating the magic

of theater and the enduring spirit of hope as we look forward to more captivating performances in the coming year.

"All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," directed by Andrew

Barratt Lewis, is playing at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts through Dec. 29. For tickets and show information, visit pagosa-center.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469)



Complete tree service in Pagosa Springs.

- Removal of Hazardous Trees
 - Fire Mitigation
 - Climbing & Cleaning Dead Limbs
 - Chipping of Slash
- Safer Home & Healthier Trees.

Chappy Faber
(970) 389-6604

chapfaber@gmail.com

Thank You, Pagosa!

Thank you for another wonderful year, Pagosa!

50% OFF
Christmas!

String lights not included.

Holiday Hours
Sunday, Dec. 31st • 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
New Year's Day: Closed

Serta **iCOMFORTECO**
HYBRID

SAVE UP TO
\$ 400

on an iComfortECO™ Hybrid Mattress. Come in to order today!

December 27, 2023 - January 15, 2024

Prices are as marked. All sales final on discounted items, cash and carry, no returns on sale items, discounts do not apply to sale items, sale prices may not be combined with other discounts. Delivery and set up or installation not included. Some other exclusions may apply. Limited to stock on hand.

See our ads on TerrysACE.com
Shop www.acehardware.com for free in store pickup

525 Navajo Trail Drive • 731-4022
Mon-Fri 7:30-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sun 9-4



Photo courtesy Build Pagosa
Students work together to build a structure. Build Pagosa, a non-profit, works with Pagosa Springs High School to improve career pathways programming.

ROAD MAINTENANCE
 Driveways • Ponds • Underground Utilities • Clean Up
 Dozer Work • Land Leveling • Foundations

NEXT GEN EXCAVATION

20+ years local experience | Michael Preuit | Cell:(970) 946-7303 | Bonded & Insured

Build Pagosa building momentum heading into 2024

By Will Ridlehoover
 Build Pagosa

In Archuleta County and across the region, there exists a problematic gap between the needs of our workforce and the career and technical education (CTE) offerings available locally.

Across industries, local employers tell the same story — a lack of skilled, credentialed candidates to fill jobs is a binding constraint to growth and economic development.

At the same time, the cost-of-living crisis continues to make meeting ends a challenge for many workers, particularly young people

and early-career folks.

Build Pagosa is a local, grassroots, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Pagosa Springs that is working to bridge that gap and create economic opportunities.

For more than seven years, Build Pagosa has worked alongside Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) and other community and regional partners to improve the career pathways program offered to students. These programs include building trades; health science; transportation; agriculture, food and natural resources; business; and computer science.

With the generous support of **See Build A5**

HAPPY
New Year



From all of us at PSMC, have a safe and happy New Year.

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Monday, January 1st.

We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd to serve you.

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

PAGOSA SPRINGS
 Medical Center

First-Class Care, *Close To Home*
 970.731.3700 | 95 S. Pagosa Blvd | pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org



{N}POWER® PRICING ONLY!

NATURAL GROCERS
 good4u
MEAL DEALS™

**FEED YOUR FAMILY OF 4
 A CHICKEN DINNER
 FOR UNDER \$14***

Valid Through December 31, 2023

*Price excludes tax. Terms and conditions apply. See store for details.
 †Message and data rates may apply.



Scan the QR code to **download our app** or visit **NaturalGrocers.com/join** to join {N}power and start saving!†

Build

■ **continued from previous page** many community members, Build Pagosa has contributed equipment, sponsored student and family attendance in CTE-related events, and provided scholarships so students can continue their CTE education after high school.

PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell and Archuleta School District Superintendent Rick Holt are strong supporters and partners to Build Pagosa.

"CTE is as important for our community today as it ever has been," said O'Donnell, "and we're excited to be working alongside the team at Build Pagosa to continue to strengthen our career pathways programs."

Many organizations are working in this space in our community, and Build Pagosa has prioritized work-

ing in partnership with others to amplify their potential for impact.

As an example, Build Pagosa is proud to be a partner to the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC). In particular, the PSCDC is spearheading a program which offers summer apprenticeships and job placements that allow students to apply what they've learned in the classroom at job sites in various industries across Pagosa Springs.

In the last year, Build Pagosa has received numerous grants and donations that have allowed it to build some real organizational momentum. For the first time in its history, Build Pagosa now has dedicated staff, including a program manager, and Cindy Nobles, who serves as the office manager. Will Riddlehoover, a Build Pagosa board member, is serving as the interim executive director.

Looking toward 2024 and beyond, Build Pagosa is fundraising for new facilities to host a regional workforce center. This new building would expand the offering of the PSHS career pathways programs, provide the facilities for other educational institutions to

offer courses, and be a space for community events like job fairs.

Build Pagosa has had a great year and is looking forward to 2024 bringing lots more accomplishments and growth for our region. The organization hosts super fun events, so keep an eye on www.facebook.com/buildpagosa/ for regular updates.

WINTER OPEN STUDIO HOURS
 Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
 4:00-6:00 pm



• meet the artist
 • new on the easel
 • quick standing portraits
 • appointments: text (424) 350-8186

DEMPSTER FINE ART GALLERY
 in THE SPRINGS RESORT LODGE

Holiday Church Events

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

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 Episcopal 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.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
 970-264-2100

GET INVOLVED.

Now is your chance to be part of the decisions made by the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

HERE'S HOW.

The three at-large seats on Town Council will be up for election on April 2, 2024.

Candidate packets, information, and requirements will be available beginning January 2, at Town Hall. Information can be found on the town's website: www.pagosasprings.co.gov.

All candidate packets are due January 22.

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

APRIL 2, 2024 · 7 AM — 7 PM
 TOWN HALL
 THIS IS A MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

For town boundaries, eligibility, or more info call 264-4151 or visit www.pagosasprings.co.gov

Build Your Sleds!



FreeImages.com

Sledz on Rez

January 20, 2024

Free registration and details



Join us for
Family Fun
 on

Reservoir Hill

behind Healing Waters Resort & Spa

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Stay warm with delicious food & hot drinks

Lots of prizes for sleds & spectators

www.buildpagosa.org • www.facebook.com/buildpagosa/

Free all-ages LEGO contest to be judged this weekend

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

This is the big weekend for our all-ages LEGO contest.

Submissions must be turned in by 6 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 29. Then, on Saturday, Dec. 30, at noon, after LEGO Club, winners will be announced and prizes awarded for five different age groups: preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17, and age 18 and up.

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 (970) 264-2209.

Library closure

Your library will be closed New Year's Day so that staff can celebrate with their loved ones.

Special crystal energy event for teens

Next Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, from 2 to 4 p.m., teens are invited to a special crystal energy session where you will learn about the chakras and the crystals that relate to each of them, and how to feel energy beyond the physical. This is a one-time special event that will be led by Amma Lee, a practicing chakra clearing/crystal healer.

Library News

Special event for Friends

Friends of the Library will gather Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at 5 p.m. at the library to enjoy pizza and sodas while getting to know other Friends.

You will learn about our plans for 2024 and how you can get involved. Please RSVP to cindi@pagosalibrary.org by Jan. 8, 2024.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks continue with three more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions in January. For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at 6 p.m. will feature "Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Serle."

Jan. 23, 2024, at noon will showcase a conversation with Rajiv Nagaich, author of "Your Retirement."

On Jan. 30, 2024, at noon we will talk with Dr. Robert Lustig, author of "The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition and

Modern Medicine."

Gaming tomorrow

Enjoy free all-ages, age-appropriate video gaming on the Xbox, Wii and other game systems tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. We mostly feature team or active games.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. There is no minimum skill level needed. Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults.

Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Writers' guild

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free

■ See Library on next page

Clip 'n Save 10%



•Off of 750 ml and 175 ml bottles•

WINES & LIQUORS

Non-Sale Items Only • Coupon not valid for beer purchases

264-2749

Next to River Center - Hwy. 160

East Pagosa Springs

Mon.-Sat. Open 9 a.m. - Midnight

Sun. Open 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

SILVER DOLLAR LIQUORS

A1 Taxi

970-585-4903

Reliability Matters!

Fully licensed and insured!

Smoke-free vehicles!

Local discount system- just ask!

Courtesy Counts!

8am-8pm daily or by appointment!

PUC 16400, MCT 0021, DOT 2842985



Your local news source since 1909.

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE!

25% off

All Christmas Stock

10-75% off

Other select stock

While items last.

Sale ends January 13th, 2024

Winter hours starting January 1:

Tuesday-Saturday: 11:00am-4:00pm

Tuesday through Saturday . 10am to 5pm or by Appointment
468 & 462 Lewis Street . (970) 264-0800 . twooldcrowps@gmail.com



AGED USDA CHOICE

PRIME RIB

Holiday Sale

Boneless Rib Roast Cut to Size	Whole Rib Roast Boneless or Bone-In
\$24.99 PER LB.	\$22.99 PER LB.
Bone-In Rib Roast Cut to Size	Spiral Ham
\$23.50 PER LB.	\$8.99 PER LB.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

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

Library

■ continued from previous page gathering.

ESL class times

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there is a change in the way the time is divided: 4 to 5 p.m. is reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students.

Please help us spread the word about these classes to others in our community who would be interested, and contact us by phone or email if you have any questions.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring both your device's charger and also your device passwords with you.

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. Note there will be no PALS Jan. 2.

Activities calendars

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

Downloadable books

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

Books on CD

"Unnatural Death" by Patricia Cornwall is a Dr. Kay Scarpetta forensic thriller. "Alex Cross Must Die" by James Patterson is the latest in this series. "The Corsican Shadow" by Clive Cussler is a Dirk Pitt NUMA adventure. "Inheritance" by Nora Roberts is book one of a new Lost Bride trilogy. "Just One" by Karen Kingsbury is a World War II love story.

DVDs

"Sandman" is the complete first season. "The Eight Mountains" reunites two estranged friends in the Italian Alps. "Little Bird" is a documentary about a First Na-

tions woman researching her past after adoption. We have two DVDs with the PBS Masterpiece mystery "Endeavour" series — the pilot and seasons one through five, and seasons six through nine.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"Unnatural Death" by Patricia Cornwall is a Dr. Kay Scarpetta forensic thriller. "The Watchmaker's Hand" by Jeffery Deaver is a Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs thriller.

Other novels

"Ball at Versailles" by Danielle Steel features four American debutantes attending the Paris cotillion. "Queen Charlotte" by Julia Quinn and Shonda Rhimes is a romance about a king and queen in the 1760s. "Meet Me at the Lake" by Carley Fortune reunites two lovers who meet again 10 years later. "Iron Flame" by Rebecca Yarros is the second book in the fantasy Empyrean series.

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Joan Rohwer and to Carol and Roger Sheets 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

"Little Richard had an enormous religious background, and that background is essential to his work. Of course, Elvis also. These were people with gospel roots. They sang religious music in their spare time. They were people who were looking for a way to incorporate their beliefs [into their music]. I find that to be essential in their work and also in mine. The pure

imagery in the Bible that I studied for one hour every day [as a child] just took you there ... I still go to the religious ... to draw me into the highest part of myself and do my best work." — Bruce Springsteen, rock singer, songwriter and guitarist nicknamed "The Boss," who has released 21 studio albums, most with the E Street Band, during his six-decade musical career.

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>.

MELTDOWN ON MAIN

OPEN Every Day

until Dec. 31st @ 11 a.m.
(closed Christmas)

Home of Pagosa's Best Specialty Grilled Cheese Sandwiches!



Check out our NEW & IMPROVED Food Trailer!

(970) 398-2332
257 Pagosa Street

GET YOUR 2024 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR TODAY!

A Great Gift Idea!



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

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

Watch for our annual banquet in Spring 2024!

Holiday Packs

Make your holiday hosting easy!

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

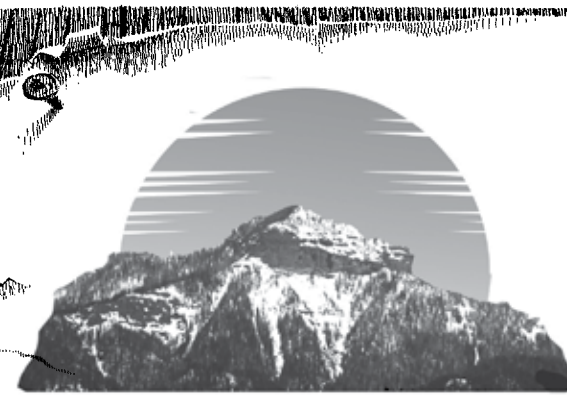
*includes four 1 quart sides, see website for complete package.

Host your holiday events & parties at our restaurant

Catering available

Weekly Specials

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



SQUARE TOP BAR-B-QUE

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

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

1 Pines Club Place
(970) 398-5267

SquareTopBBQ.com

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

Embracing the journey: finding purpose and joy in aging

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

In our youth-obsessed culture, there is a lot of fear and anxiety about growing older.

Aging is a natural part of life, and it can be a time of great fulfillment, growth and joy.

The Pagosa Senior Center will be offering T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich starting Jan. 4, 2024, and continuing each Thursday in the new year from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and longtime local practitioner Udgar Parsons will offer mindfulness-based meditation classes from 3 to 4 p.m. in the dining hall to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life.

T'ai Chi Chih and mindfulness-based meditation are not martial arts, but rather tools for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in these practices.

For tai chi, it will include 19 easy-to-learn movements and one pose designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy, or universal life force, referred to as "Qi," which is inherent in all of us.

T'ai Chi Chih is often thought of as a moving meditation because of the calming effect on the mind and emotions, and the release of tension throughout the body. All classes will be free for older adults (age 60 and better) and will last approximately one hour in the

Senior News

dining hall.

No special clothing or equipment is required for either class. We welcome and invite you to join us on your journey. We are here to support you and the community on our collective healing journey.

For more information, contact rosa@psseniors.org or call (970) 264-2167.

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.

Healthy aging and yoga therapy class series

Gather with local yoga practitioner AJ Connors for a series of evidence-based healthy aging and yoga therapy classes at the Senior Center geared for adults and older adults of all ages.

This yoga series promotes

healthy aging for individuals with therapeutic classes offering yoga tools and education for strength, resilience and wellness.

Classes are designed to address different aspects of healthy aging and are geared toward accessibility and gentle practice. The themes for the class will include physical and mental well-being utilizing movement, meditation and breathing practices.

Mats and chairs will be provided; it's optional to bring a blanket, and please wear comfortable clothing.

The class is offered Mondays 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the dining hall.

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@psseniors.org

■ See Senior on next page



Robert D Scott, CFP®, AAMS®
President
bobscott@scottstrategicinv.com

Anthony M. Doctor, RICP®
Wealth Manager
anthonydoctor@scottstrategicinv.com

189 Talisman Drive, Ste. D | Pagosa Springs CO 81147
970-731-3070 | scottstrategicinv.com

One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a new year of prosperity and happiness.



Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor, Member FINRA SIPC

Local reporting that matters.

LIVE MUSIC

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

Friday, December 29
Steve Blechschmidt

Saturday, December 30
Maxwell Miller

Sunday, December 31
Dustin Burley

Monday, January 1
Ron and Susan

Tuesday, January 2
Jason Rose

Charcuterie Board \$45
available for purchase during live music

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



— PAGOSA MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILLION —

Winter Ice Rink

OPENING MID-DECEMBER* AT
SOUTH TOWN PARK • 550 S. 8TH STREET
**weather permitting*

Public Ice Skating / Figure Skating
Drop-in Hockey (all ages) / Curling with Riff Raff
Broomball

RENTALS AVAILABLE

CHECK WEBSITE FOR HOURS: skatepagosa.org
OR CALL 970.398.2337

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: [friendsofpagosamultipurposepavillion](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofpagosamultipurposepavillion)



Senior

■ continued from previous page

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. 28 — Vegetable lasagna with 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.

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 — Closed for New Year's.

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 — Closed for the New Year's holiday.

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024 — Teriyaki beef with sauteed peppers, coconut rice, sauteed snap peas, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024 — Vegetable lasagna with white sauce, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Jan. 5, 2024 — Chipotle lime tilapia, jasmine rice, sauteed kale, garden salad, fruit, milk and cookies.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$10 helps to

sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

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

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

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

Text reservations

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

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

COVID-19 test kits available

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

Mahjong

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

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

Medicare call by appointment

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

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place

on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

■ See Senior on next page

Pagosa Auto Rents

RENT A CAR

Local • Nights & Weekends

Delivery Available!

(970) 585-9181

pagosaautorents.com

\$70
per Day



High-Producing Turn-key Business at Busy Intersection



19 Navajo Trail Drive & The Buck Stops Here

6,800 sq. ft. building and business at busy intersection. Includes Koch Grand Prize smoker (\$35,000 value), Cook Shack smoker, meat cutting equipment, meat grinder, band saw, meat rail system, scales, refrigerated display cases, meat tenderizer, meat slicer, tables, slaughter truck, freezer, cooler equipment. Seller will consider training and owner financing.

All offers will be considered!
Co-listed with Unger Realty
Building and land only
MLS 801267 ■ \$1,250,000



Prime business property near Navajo Lake

Fully operational turnkey income-producing business Rentals, laundromat, post office with 5-year lease, gas station, convenience store, liquor store
MLS 791582 ■ \$1,650,000



Deborah S. Archuleta

Independent Broker/Owner

970-903-2817

deb@archuletaproperties.com

Call Deb to buy or sell your next property!



46 shares of water!

64 acres, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with 3 garages, includes 46 shares of water and is close to Navajo Lake.
MLS 807180 ■ \$995,000

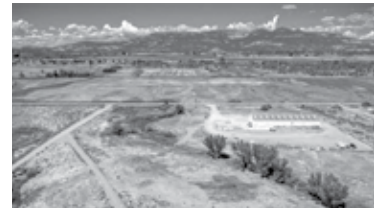


Huge Price Reduction!

Dream log home on banks of Stollsteimer Creek, on 2.5 acres. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, office, 2 car garage. Close to Navajo Lake.
MLS 805085 ■ \$675,000



Downtown .52 acres, location, location, location.
MLS 809064 ■ \$500,000



10 acres, just west of Arboles, prime commercial location, huge metal building, 3-phase power.
MLS 807868 ■ \$650,000



35.81 acre horse ranch property, ag status. Survey completed.
MLS 797745 ■ \$300,000



3 bedroom, 2 bath, oversized carport on one acre, views
MLS 806370 ■ \$235,000

5 acres with spacious mountain views, newly surveyed . \$250,000. MLS 802696

1.1 acre, newly installed 4 bed septic, 1800 gal cistern, power, ready for your home. \$165,000. MLS 807665

1.21 acres, great building spot with views of Navajo Lake, Water and power available. \$75,000. MLS 806728

1.21 acres, No HOA! Trees galore. \$35,000. MLS 798589

ArchuletaProperties.com • Office: 970.883.3327

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 28

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

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

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

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

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate 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. 31

'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

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with access-

ing 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.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

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

Wednesday, 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.,

■ See Calendar on next page

FREE RIDES for MEDICAID CLIENTS

anywhere in the State of Colorado
Please call us to get qualified:
970-731-4081

Also Durango Airport Shuttle • Taxi Service • Weddings
Charter Service • Private Parties

Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc

Call 970-731-4081 for scheduling

PUC # 16400, DOT# 2842985, MCT# 0021

**Non-emergency
medical
transportation**
to Denver, Durango,
Farmington, Colorado
Springs — Anywhere
in Colorado and border
state approved cities
for Medicaid insured
rides to and from
Medicaid providers

Pre-approval and
24-hour notice
required.



- hearing evaluation
- hearing aids
- adjustment and repair
- cerumen management
- tinnitus treatment

Jen Hurst
doctor of audiology

Hurst Hearing

2343 Eagle Dr, Pagosa Springs, Colorado
(970) 444-2314 • www.hursthearing.com

Senior

■ continued from previous page Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Thursdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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.

2024 Health Insurance

OPEN ENROLLMENT

November 1, 2023 — January 15, 2024

Not Sure Where to Start?
As certified Connect for Health Colorado brokers, we are here to help.

Angelene J. Talamante - Health Insurance Agent
CO Agency License #510951 • CO License #291160

Tricia G. Vega - Health Insurance Agent — CO License #252560

With the changes to the Affordable Care Act this year, we finally qualified for the Advance Premium Tax Credit and now have an insurance plan in place. *What a relief!*
Thank you HomeTown Pros for your help and patience in finding a plan that fit our budget.
—Kanaoka Perea

In-person,
or phone
appointments
available
Call today!

HomeTown

Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.

(970) 264-4321 | Toll Free: (866)333-8342
818 Rosita St. • Pagosa Springs, CO • www.hometowninsurancepros.com
Your Friendly, Knowledgeable, Professional HomeTown Team.

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

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.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

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.

Mindfulness-based Meditation Class. 3-4 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m.,

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

Friday, Jan. 5

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Crystal Energy. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Teens are invited to a special crystal energy session to learn about the chakras and the crystals that relate to each of them.

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.

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

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

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 Stitches. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist

■ **See Calendar on next page**



SOUTH WEST ESTATE PLANNING Ltd. COLORADO | TEXAS LAW FIRM

Straightforward Estate Planning Wills • Trusts

Charlotte P. Yochem, Attorney*
charlotte@yochemlaw.com • 512-529-6288
southwestestateplanningltd.com
Pagosa Springs, Colorado

*Licensed to Practice Law in Colorado and Texas

Happy Holidays!



New Listing

**155 Pike Drive
\$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>



**2453 Running Horse Place
\$2,400,000**

MLS 806520

35.2 Acres with guest house, set up for horses. Property comes with workshop/garage, growing dome, round pen, 3 stall + barn and numerous outbuildings.

To see this property go to:
<https://vimeo.com/850327930>



**Cloman Industrial Park
\$395,000**

MLS 807337

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

Fall in love with your hair!

Come see your small town Pagosa girls at Tangles!



Tanya

Kasey

Tangles Hair Salon

970-731-2810

2035 Eagle Drive Unit 110

tangles hair

Own Your Own Piece of Colorado Land!

219 Lakeside Drive —MLS 800074, \$190,000

30 High Drive — MLS 794628, \$59,900

72 High Drive — MLS 803168, \$39,000

17736 County Road 500 — MLS 804532, \$87,000.

.82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.

X Montezuma Circle —MLS 804537. \$87,000.

.82 acres, views and access to the San Juan River.

153 Greenway Drive — MLS 805178, \$25,000.

147 Cat Creek Overlook MLS 806842 \$25,000



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR®, BROKER

C: 970.759.8109

O: 970.264.6673

ShellieCHogue@gmail.com

www.shelliehogue.com



Barbara Swindlehurst
CIPS CRS GRI SFR CNE
REALTOR®, BROKER/ OWNER

C: 303.618.7423

O: 970.264.6673

Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com



409 Lewis Street | P.O. Box 3850 | Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
MountainMeadowRealEstate.info

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

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

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

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. This free book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and non-fiction titles, with snacks provided. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, 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.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11-11:45 a.m., Sisson Library. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog.

Virtual Author Talk: Rebecca Serle. 6 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring "Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Serle." For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

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.

Mindfulness-based Meditation Class. 3-4 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

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.

Free Legal Clinic. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via Zoom at the library. Registration required. Registration opens on the first day of each month. Space is limited. Call (970) 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.com.

'Mario Kart' Live. 2 p.m., Sisson Library. Love playing "Mario Kart"? Play in real life at this drop-in program. Participants will race around the course on space hoppers.

'Hunger Games' Party. 4 p.m., Sisson Library. Are you a fan of the "Hunger Games"? Join for crafts and activities based on the books.

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.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Beginners Chess Club. 9:30-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Learn how to play chess with quick lessons and game time or practice your skills.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

■ See Calendar on next page

EXCAVATION WORK THAT MAKES THE GRADE



Schedule your project today!

970-731-7071

Tim Brown CONSTRUCTION LLC

**DRIVEWAYS • FOUNDATIONS • PONDS • BACKFILLING
FILL DIRT & GRAVEL HAULING • SEPTIC SYSTEMS • UTILITY WORK**

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

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

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

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 Stitches. 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.

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

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

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate stu-

dents from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

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

Wednesday, 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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com

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.

Airport Shuttle & Taxi Service

PUC 55878

Food & Grocery Delivery • Doctor's Visits
Serving Durango to South Fork and metro Pagosa

Why pay more?

PAGOSA CAB

Call today to schedule! (970) 398-0123

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.

Services we provide

Emergency After-hours Care for both Small animals and Equine
House Calls
At-Home Euthanasia
Preventative Medicine
Full In-house Diagnostics

Digital Radiology
Ultrasound
Advanced Dentistry for small animal and equine
ICU Care/Full Hospital Care
Soft tissue and Orthopedic Surgery
Whole Life Care



We are accepting new clients

Appointments can be made by calling our office 970-264-2629, or visit sanjuanvethospital.com to book online.

Your source for community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

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

We wish you a Happy New Year.

We look forward to serving you in 2024.

Guy, Linda, Vicki, Tessa & Steve



The Tile & Carpet Store

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

PAGOSA SCENE . . .

ARCHULETA SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Photos courtesy Pagosa Senior Center
Scene ... celebrating Christmas at the Pagosa Senior Center on Dec. 20. The festive event included lunch, dessert, door prizes, a visit from Santa and time spent together.



Welcoming a friend home

By Daris Howard
Special to The SUN

My mother was 96 and living in an assisted living center. Her heart was struggling, and she was having a hard time getting enough oxygen.

She had gone into hospice care, but often refused their help. I was on call in case they needed me for anything.

One morning, they rang and asked me to come down. I immediately left work and drove over. When I walked in, the nurse was suggesting some morphine to help Mom, but Mom was leery about it, as she seemed to be about most things at that point in her life.

"Joyce, it will help you relax and get more oxygen," the nurse said.

"I don't trust it or the doctor that prescribed it," Mom said.

The nurse noticed me and asked me to convince Mom to take it. I shook my head. Even though I had power given to me to make decisions for her, I refused to go against her wishes.

"Is there anything else, maybe something milder, that you could give her?" I asked.

The nurse sighed. "Yes, but it is slow-acting and will take a half hour or more to have any real effect. She is so tense and combative

because of lack of oxygen."

I talked to Mom, and she agreed to take the milder medicine. The nurse nodded and gave it to her. Then she said, "Maybe you can find a way to calm her down. That will help her more than about anything."

Mom knew she wasn't doing well, so after the nurse left, she said, "Son, you've read a lot about what happens after a person dies. What will it be like?"

"From what I've read, those you love come to meet you."

"Do you think your dad will be there?" she asked.

"Of course," I replied.

"How about your brothers?"

I answered in the affirmative. Then she started naming others she hoped would meet her. There were her parents, her siblings and some grandparents. As she talked about them, her tension appeared to melt away and her breathing stabilized. She then started mentioning friends. Being 96, most of her friends were already gone, but she couldn't remember names and grew anxious again. I named a few, but it didn't help much. Then I thought of something.

"Mom, how about Bob?"

Mom spoke with a disgusted tone. "I don't know anyone named

Bob."

"I'm talking about Bob, your dog."

It took a moment, but suddenly she smiled. "Old Bob."

She then turned to me and said, "Have I told you about the time he accidentally knocked me into the canal, then he nearly died himself saving me?"

Though I had heard the story many times, I simply said, "Tell me, Mom."

She told me the story, then told me the one about the migrants stealing Bob and taking him thousands of miles from home, only to have him return. She told quite a few stories about him, then she leaned up on an elbow. "Son, do you really think dogs go to heaven?"

"There are some I have doubts about," I replied. "But I feel what makes it heaven is being with those we love. I don't think it would be heaven without the animals we care about."

Mom smiled. "I don't think so, either." She then rested back on her pillow and said, "I think I'll sleep now."

She closed her eyes and spoke Bob's name once more before her breathing became steady. The nurse came in and gasped. "What

■ See Welcoming on next page



Pagosa Smiles
Dentistry and FASTBRACES®



★★★★★
JUST FINISHED FAST-BRACES WITH DR. RUTHERFORD AND HIS STAFF. IT WAS ESSENTIALLY PAIN-FREE WITH MINIMAL OFFICE VISITS. AND, THEY WERE VERY GOOD AT WORKING AROUND MY TRAVEL SCHEDULE. DR. RUTHERFORD HAS ALSO TAKEN CARE OF REGULAR CLEANINGS AND SOME NECESSARY CROWNS FOR ME. IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE!

JEANNETTE K. 10/23

Save \$1000

ON FASTBRACES®

Special not valid with other offers.
EXPIRES JANUARY 31ST, 2024

970-731-3627
PAGOSASMILES.COM

No Insurance? CASH Discounts!



\$99
LIMITED EXAM
AND X-RAY

CALL NOW TO
BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER
EXPIRES JANUARY 31ST, 2024

SERVING THE PAGOSA AREA FOR OVER 29 YEARS!

Shop the SUN classifieds.

Happy
New Year!
from
all of us at
RE/MAX
Eagle's Nest



Marianne Hamilton
Broker/Owner, Realtor
CRS, GRI, ABR, CLHMS
970-585-9005
mhamilton@remax.net



Vicki Liszewski
Associate Broker
Realtor
480-287-3155
Vicki.Liszewski@remax.net



Diane Pistillo
Associate Broker
Realtor
602-481-9212
DianePistillo@remax.net



David L. Lang
Associate Broker
MBA, ABR
602-228-0146
david.lang@remax.net



Andrea Peltier
Associate Broker
Realtor
303-918-8137
Andrea.Peltier@remax.net



Daniel Power
Associate Broker
Realtor
575-937-2354
dspower1958@gmail.com

RE/MAX
EAGLE'S NEST
EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

970-731-0500 • RemaxEaglesNest.com
390 Boulder Drive, Suite 100 • Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
HOME • CONDO • RANCH • LAND • MOUNTAIN CABIN • LUXURY

What did Westerners care about in 2023?

By Betsy Marston
PREVIEW Columnist

This past year, Writers on the Range, an independent opinion service based in Western Colorado, sent out 52 weekly opinion columns. They were provided free of charge to more than 200 subscribing editors of publications large and small, each of whom republished dozens of the columns.

Writers on the Range has a simple two-part mission.

One of its aims is to engage Westerners in thinking and talking to each other about issues important to the region. The other aim is to entice readers to look forward to these fact-based opinions, with the hope that they'll then want to keep their local journalism outlet alive and flourishing.

This year, the focus of writers ran the gamut from A to W. Abortion bans, wrote Idaho-based Crista Worthy, caused women's health to suffer severely, while wolves, wrote Story Warren, were

Opinion: Writers on the Range

unfairly blamed for killing livestock in Colorado.

Several columns covered the depleted Colorado River, while longtime journalist Rocky Barker wrote that, at last, four Klamath River dams would be demolished in the northwest to help struggling salmon populations.

Greg McNamee made an excellent case for paying wildland firefighters what they deserved for their hazardous work, and Pepper Trail, the renowned Oregon biologist, wrote several opinions, including one about his own efforts to save wildlife from fatal encounters with vehicles.

No matter what Marjorie "Slim"

■ See Writers on next page

Welcoming

■ continued from previous page did you do?"

"It wasn't me," I said, "It was Bob."

I explained it to her, and she smiled. It wasn't too many days later that Mom left his life. I struggled a lot with my grief. However, when

it would become overwhelming, I would think of those who would be there to greet her — Dad, my brothers, her family and her friends.

But most of all, I would envision a small, bobtailed dog running joyfully to her, happy to welcome his friend home.

EARLY DEADLINES

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

970-264-2100 • www.PagosaSUN.com

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Mouth, slangily
- 5 Course of study
- 10 Red ink amount
- 14 Jedi guru
- 15 Fluid accumulation
- 16 Feed the kitty
- 17 NFC West team
- 18 Type of test
- 20 Something left out
- 22 Romp about
- 23 Lowest pinochle cards
- 24 Soft drink
- 25 Big name in sci-fi books
- 27 Disregard
- 31 Peaks on a graph
- 32 Tend to the turkey
- 34 Luigi's twin
- 35 Prom partner
- 37 Deciduous conifer
- 39 Pie perch
- 40 They may be bright
- 42 Huron and Erie
- 44 Hair holder
- 45 Very or quite
- 47 Uncommon thing
- 49 Beseech
- 50 Athenian lawman
- 51 Yard's 36
- 54 Illegal pitch
- 57 Occasion fit for a king
- 59 Bummed out
- 60 Actress _____ Rachel Wood
- 61 Starbucks offering
- 62 Site of Napoleon's exile
- 63 Title for Judi Dench
- 64 Head lock
- 65 Like Easter eggs

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	26						27					28	29	30
31				32		33				34				
35			36		37				38		39			
40				41		42				43		44		
45					46				47		48			
			49					50						
51	52	53					54						55	56
57						58					59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

Copyright 2023 by The Puzzle Syndicate

DOWN

- 1 Novice
- 2 Wander about
- 3 Give, as medicine
- 4 Footnote word
- 5 Like feudal times
- 6 Felipe's farewell
- 7 She played TV's Edith
- 8 Texter's "Wow!"
- 9 Resentment
- 10 "Ocean's Eleven" setting
- 11 Cognizant of
- 12 Recipe direction
- 13 Religious offshoot
- 19 Caulking fiber
- 21 Nose-in-the-air type
- 24 Restaurant bill
- 25 Taxpayer's fear
- 26 Digging tool
- 27 Dogcatcher's catch
- 28 In the first place

- 29 Choice beef cut
- 30 Misguided act
- 33 Astronaut Ride
- 36 Audio accessory
- 38 Leading ladies
- 41 Warning wail
- 43 Table staple
- 46 Volcanic rock
- 48 Charged too much, informally

- 50 Ladybug features
- 51 Kind of tea
- 52 Exploding star
- 53 Study hastily
- 54 Internet destination
- 55 Garage job
- 56 Coveted role
- 58 Black gunk

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Subscribe to The SUN
pagosason.com

Writers

■ **continued from previous page**
Woodruff writes from her perch at the bottom of the Grand Canyon — insulting hikers for their lack of trail etiquette, mocking visitors for their Instagram obsessions — readers love how she slings her stings. Her pieces routinely run in 50 or more outlets.

From the Yellowstone area, Molly Absolon was also a popular writer, telling about backcountry heroes — mostly volunteers — who extricate hikers, climbers and drivers of snow machines from dangerous situations they'd gotten themselves into.

In Colorado, Erica Rosenberg detailed how federal land exchanges almost always serve the wealthy, and, in Alaska, Tim Lydon wrote about his recreationally oriented town of Girdwood, so out of whack economically that teachers can't find local housing.

Ernie Atencio celebrated the work of two Westerners who died recently, the New Mexico rancher Sid Goodloe, who transformed ranching by promoting short-duration, rotational grazing, and Dave Foreman, founder of EarthFirst! who worked to save old-growth forests, wilderness and migration corridors for big game.

The most-read award goes to Writers on the Range publisher Dave Marston, whose piece about the looming energy gap appeared in 67 publications. It also prompted an invitation from Amory Lovins, the guru of energy efficiency, for Marston to visit his Rocky Mountain Institute and learn why his column was so wrong about small, modular nuclear power being an option. Marston accepted that invitation, and this January his opinion will reveal whether he's seen the light, so to speak.

Writers on the Range fields di-

verse reactions on its website, and some, to put it mildly, get personal. The column by Dana Johnson headlined "Mountains don't need hardware," enraged some technical climbers. The director of The Access Fund, which wants climbers to be able to put bolts into mountains in wilderness, vilified Marston, even accusing him of securing his position through "nepotism."

Marston, who wrote eight opinions this year, didn't bother to point out that not that many people choose to work for free, no matter what their last name.

There also emerged a healthy conversation about whether too many out-of-area hunters crowded public land. Andrew Carpenter's opinion prompted rancher Lesli Allison to reply that 80 percent of scarce winter habitat for big game is provided by ranchers, and that cutting hunting tags for outsiders threatened the ability of ranchers to make a living.

Whatever retired land-use professor Rick Knight writes about — monster mansions polluting views or how much fun it can be to work like a dog restoring neglected land — readers love his message. They can tell he knows and cares about protecting the region's open lands. But then, every opinion writer this year seemed to share his passion for the fascinating and often contentious West.

Finally, opinions can have impact if they're sent out at the right time. "Outrage in Wyoming," by Savannah Rose, urged the state not to auction off 640 acres within Grand Teton National Park. Her piece helped raise the number of angry objectors to 9,000, with 7,000 comments coming in the last week. The pressure worked: Wyoming officials postponed a decision on an auction until sometime in 2024.

Betsy Marston is the editor of Writers on the Range, an independent opinion service that seeks to spur lively conversation about the West. Want to comment, get on our newsletter list or write a column? Go to writersontherange.org. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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.
Window Fashions
Certified Professional

WINDOW COVERINGS

Helping Pagosans and beyond to make their house a home since 1986. 264-4462

GRABER



Happy New Year

from our family to yours

As the holidays near, we remember the year behind us and look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share new memories and endless possibilities with our friends, families and neighbors of this great community.

PAGOSA SPRINGS 205 Country Center Drive, 970.731.4166
bankofcolorado.com

Bank of Colorado
THERE'S ONLY ONE



\$7

Off Any Full Service

OIL CHANGE

\$12 OFF

Any Full Service Synthetic Oil Change

Buy One, Get One FREE

Wiper Blades

No Appointment Necessary!

1985 Eagle Drive
731-1400

Next to Advance Auto Parts
Locally Owned/Operated

Learning to rejoice always

By Kanaka Perea
PREVIEW Columnist

I listened for the soft pitter-patter of feet on our dark, laminate wood floor, but it didn't come. It wouldn't come. But how I missed the sound. For 17 years we had established a routine and habits, this little dog and I. Now, my life felt emptier without her company throughout my day.

"Lord, is it silly I get so attached and my heart hurts so much? Please help me get past this. Don't let the grief pull me into depression. I have no strength to fight through it again, especially without my little four-legged comforter."

Rejoice.

The word echoed in my mind, then repeated as I shook my head back and forth.

For the last several years I have prayed for a word to start each new year. It was a fun trade-off from making a New Year's resolution. You simply ask God for a word and then study the word through scripture over the next 12 months and watch for how it shows up in your life. This year I didn't feel like asking God for a word, so I didn't. Instead, I sat at the dining room table staring toward the calendar on the wall that still read December even though we were days into January.

Rejoice.

What an odd thing to hear in such a sad moment. I squeezed my eyes closed, willing the power of the word to take hold and change the deep ache.

Nothing. Maybe it takes a few days.

I focused on what the word might indicate. Maybe it means the rest of the year will be filled with nothing but happiness, and the hard things will be kept away. My heart leaped at the thought. And God let me sit in that glow for a moment before He reeled me back in to hear the rest of what He had to say.

"It is not going to be an easy year. But you will be able to rejoice in all things. It won't be done through your own strength, but through Mine."

Over the next month, I poured through my Bible and wrote out every reference to rejoice I came

A Matter of Faith

Rejoicing isn't something we force; rather, it is given to us in the midst of our sadness

across. Scriptures I'd read many times before took on a new light. I read different teachings about rejoicing and, by the middle of February, I had a colorful, hand-doodled arsenal in my journal. I still missed my little dog, but the sadness lifted, and depression did not win.

The rest of the year was one of the most difficult I've ever experienced. In March, we discovered Mom's heart was functioning at about 50 percent. Doctors gave us the hope of another year with her, but we only received a few weeks. They were unbelievable weeks filled with love, laughter and family. There were lots of tears, too, but there was an unbelievable undercurrent of joy.

We held a memorial service in April. As a family, we each wrestled with different emotions in saying goodbye to Mom — again. Some of us weren't ready to have the service, others were desperate for the closure it might bring. Once again, a hard thing ended in rejoicing as friends and family came from near and far to celebrate. They loved on us, we loved on them, and we rejoiced in the memories we shared.

The confusion of dementia caused Dad to talk about Mom as

if she was still with us. More hard stuff. But then there was a shift in my heart, and as Dad continued to talk about Mom as if she was still with us, there was joy.

We faced lots of hard firsts without Mom: birthdays without a call, Mother's Day, Mom's first birthday in heaven and holidays.

In October, our 99-year-old maternal grandma was moved into hospice. Family and friends surrounded her with love and prayer as she passed from this world to the next. We couldn't help but celebrate the bittersweet goodbye, knowing she was ready to leave but now missing another member of our heritage.

I used to think "rejoice always" meant even in the heaviest of sadness I should fake my way to happiness and pretend everything is OK. I don't think that anymore. I now believe what it might imply is we can receive a spirit of joy in all things. Rejoicing isn't something we force; rather, it is given to us in the midst of our sadness. Maybe it is meant to come alongside tears and pain, to give us the strength to endure these hard things.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" — Philippians 4:4 (NIV).

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@pagosahun.com.

JIM GARRETT

♦ ATTORNEY ♦

Protecting your interests

LITIGATION, CRIMINAL DEFENSE
BUSINESS, REAL ESTATE, WILLS

New location: Downtown, above the theatre

422 PAGOSA ST., NO. 5

970-880-0468 • 412-508-1060

P.O. BOX 3265, PAGOSA SPRINGS • jyg44law@gmail.com

A Cure for Winter Projects: Rent it from P.V.R.

Sewer Inspection Cameras

Sewer Snakes

Dehumidifier

Wood Chippers

Man Lifts

Dump Trailers

Skid Steers

Excavators

Log Splitters & more



See our full line of equipment on pinevalleyrental.com

Shop local for your equipment rental needs

305 Bastille Drive
(970) 731-4410



SAN JUAN
DENTAL



Sharing our Core Values
with you each day through our work

Care • Compassion • Communication • Commitment

Call today for your appointment!

970-264-9436

www.pagosa.dentist • Conveniently located downtown at 308 Pagosa Street

Safe2Tell Colorado

(877) 542-7233

Anonymously report anything
that concerns or threatens you, your friends,
your family or your community.

Fun ways to spend the first day of the new year

Special to The PREVIEW

New Year's Day marks the unofficial culmination of the holiday season, which some feel begins months earlier with Halloween. Retailers have had all sorts of party and decorative goods filling shelves throughout the holiday season, and much emphasis has been placed on celebrating with friends and family.

The revelry that comes on New Year's Eve is hard to match, particularly for those who attend lavish parties or venture to city centers to ring in the new year with others. While Jan. 1 may be a bit more quiet, there are still plenty of ways to enjoy this first day of the year.

Plan a hiking excursion

There's a good chance you have not been out hiking for awhile, with your most recent venture having been a leaf-peeping trip. Enjoy the natural scenery during an entirely different season, with much lighter crowds at parks and on trails. If you've resolved to exercise more this year, hiking is a great start.

Host a relaxing brunch

With all the merrymaking the evening before, most people may

need a little time to recuperate before heading out. Brunch is a great way to get people fed and help them shake off fatigue from a late night of partying. With a focus on conversation and food, rather than dancing and drinking, this can be an intimate way to set the tone for the new year.

Queue up the movies

The hustle and bustle of the holidays can be exciting yet exhausting. Take an opportunity on Jan. 1 to slow down for perhaps the first time in at least two months. Ask household members to choose their favorite films, then spend the day binge-watching movies. Eat leftovers or order in so no one needs to leave the comfort of the sofa.

Adopt a new pet

Many charitable animal groups advise against giving pets as holiday gifts because the idea may be spontaneous and pets require a lot of care. For those who have been thinking of welcoming a pet into the family, this may be a good time to visit an animal shelter (if any are open) or peruse online adoption postings. The slow pace of the post-holiday months might be the

ideal time to help an animal get acclimated to a new home.

Go shopping

It may seem like the average person has exhausted all of his or her shopping energy by this time, but post-Christmas sales are great ways to stock up on holiday decor for next year at reduced prices. If stores are open on New Year's Day, shop around for ornaments, lawn figures, lights and more at steep discounts. Then spend the rest of the day sorting and organizing holiday items and discarding those that have seen better days.

Help at a nonprofit

Volunteer time at a local nonprofit group that delivers meals to homebound locals or one that visits nursing home residents. Start spreading New Year's cheer early on.

New Year's Day is a good time to spend quality time and have fun with loved ones.

Trustworthy.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100



Drive Safe This Holiday Season

10% OFF
Winterization Service or Oil & Filter Change

This Holiday Season make sure your family is safe.

There is no better time to have your vehicle winterized, put on all-season or studded snow tires, and equip it with Winter Wiper Blades to ensure easy start-ups and safer driving on the snowy, icy roads.

Bring in or mention this ad for this limited time offer. Shop supplies and tax not included. May not be combined with any other offer. See the pros at Piedra Automotive for details. Offer ends 1/17/24

Piedra Automotive

(970) 731-3335
505 Piedra Rd.
Open 8:00 - 5:30 Mon. - Fri.

24 TOWING & EMERGENCY
Hour ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

FULLY RESTORED & RENOVATED

Historic Victorian Home



Situated on two town lots overlooking the San Juan River. Previously a B&B, 2 kitchens, 6 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 one-half baths, 2 living rooms and much more. Lots of potential in this home. \$2,200,000. MLS #808143

To view this home contact

Ricardo Riojas
Ricardo@nexthomermr.com
909.900.3063 or 970.507.8655
Colorado License ER100039711



The Pagosa Springs SUN
your source for local news
Subscribe today at
PagosaSUN.com

POWER IT FORWARD WITH LPEA'S GIVING TREE



Donate and help your neighbors keep the lights on this holiday season.



1. Venmo us @GivingTree_LPEA (or scan the QR code)
2. Call us at (970) 247-5786
3. Drop off your donation at our office in Durango or Pagosa Springs.



Donations will be accepted through January 31st, 2024.

www.lpea.coop | (970) 247-5786

Five New Year's resolutions to benefit the brain

Special to The PREVIEW

Resolutions made at the start of a new year often focus on personal improvement. Giving up poor habits like smoking or drinking too much alcohol and losing weight through diet and exercise are some popular resolutions.

Health and wellness certainly dominate the resolution landscape. Improvement-minded individuals interested in gaining long-term benefits from their resolutions this year may want to consider ways to improve brain health and function.

Here are five ideas to consider:

1. Get moving: Exercise does the body good and even positively affects the brain. The American Academy of Neurology has found aerobic exercise may play a significant role in reversing and preventing cognitive decline. Researchers have found that even a little ex-

ercise each day can result in improved brain function in less than six months. Andrew E. Budson, M.D., a professor of neurology at Boston University, also said aerobic exercise releases growth factors in the brain, which can help grow new brain cells.

2. Start a new hobby. When doing the same activities over and over, you eventually learn how to do those activities better. But doctors can't confirm this is actually helping the brain in a meaningful way. Rather, there is evidence that doing new things can be beneficial to the brain. So, learning a new hobby, taking a class or even learning to play a musical instrument can push the brain to improve from a cognitive standpoint, indicates The Healthy, a Reader's Digest brand.

3. Make more time for fun. Repeated stress can have detrimental effects on the body and mind.

Harvard Health says stress has been linked to cognitive problems and a higher risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Taking time to relax and enjoy oneself can tame stress and, in turn, alleviate issues affecting memory and cognition.

4. Practice mindfulness more often. Mindfulness is an exercise in paying attention to one's surroundings, senses and more. Too often people are multitasking and never fully devoting their attention to one thing. Mindfulness gives the brain a break and brings a person into the present.

5. Eat a better diet. The benefit of eating healthy foods extends beyond the waistline. Many of the foods that are good for the heart are important for preventing cognitive decline and dementias. A 2015 systemic review found strong evidence for a protective effect of the Mediterranean diet, according to researchers at Deakin University School of Medicine in Australia.

By making brain health a priority when coming up with New Year's resolutions this year, individuals can benefit for years to come.

Thanks for laying the groundwork for Affordable Homeownership

Alpha Engineering and Murrey Land Surveying got the ball rolling for 3 homes in 2023 and already started on our 2024 build projects!



Be a part of our plan to Build 15 homes in 5 years. Find out how you can help by calling 970.264.6960 or email office@HabitatArchuleta.org.

Your donation of time, money or advocacy provides a hand-up to Archuleta workforce families.

New Year's traditions around the world

Special to The PREVIEW

Each Dec. 31, people anxiously await and count down to the arrival of the new year. Jan. 1 often is a time for reflection and for making future plans. It also is a holiday full of tradition.

Notable New Year's traditions include toasting champagne beneath skies lit up by fireworks, kissing one's sweetheart at midnight and making resolutions to better oneself in the year ahead.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions vary across the globe. The following is a look at the unique ways people ring in the new year throughout the world:

- Filipinos embrace round fruits for the new year. The custom includes gathering 12 different round fruits for each month of the year. The round shape symbolizes wealth and prosperity.

- Around Stonehaven, Scotland, people wield large fireballs for the Hogmanay festival on New Year's Eve. The idea is to ward off evil spirits by swinging balls of fires over the heads of trained professionals and then tossing them into the sea. The tradition has endured for more than 100 years.

- In the Eastern Orthodox Greek Church, Christmas isn't celebrated until Jan. 7. Aghios Vassilis, the Greek Santa Claus, makes his rounds on New Year's Day.

- Chilean families celebrate the arrival of the new year by commemorating deceased friends and family members. It is common for those in Chile to set up chairs next to graves in the cemetery.

- Burmese people end the Thingyan water festival on New Year's Day. Since April, they have celebrated the arrival of Thagayamin, a celestial Buddhist figure, with the firing of water cannons. The water-logged revelry ends with the new year.

- Siberians celebrate the new year's with the planting of the "New Year's Tree" underneath frozen lakes. This "yolka" is said to symbolize the coming of Father Frost, but also represents starting over.

- Grapes are a hallmark of Spanish New Year's celebrations. Throughout Spain, revelers gobble a grape per second as they count down the last 12 seconds of the year. Each grape corresponds to good luck for the 12 months of the new year.

- In Denmark, residents break old dishes on the doorsteps of family and friends on New Year's Day. The bigger the pile, the more friends and good will in the new year.

- In China, where the new year is celebrated on Feb. 5 this year according to the lunar calendar, celebrants paint their doors red or hang red curtains or cutouts on windows to symbolize good luck.

Subscribe to The SUN.
 (970) 264-2100
 \$35 per year in county
 \$45 per year out of county



GH420.COM

SPECIALS, ONLINE ORDERING, & MORE!

HALF OFF!

SELECT FLOWER & HOUSE CONCENTRATES
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

PRESENT THIS COUPON TO GET TWO HALF-GRAM JOINTS FOR

ONLY \$1

WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$10 OR MORE

THE GREEN HOUSE COLORADO



SUN2023 - EXP 12-31-23

ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER, PER VISIT. DOES NOT STACK WITH OTHER COUPONS. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. VALID AT COLORADO GREEN HOUSE LOCATIONS.

WE'RE HIRING!

DROP OFF A RESUME OR APPLY ONLINE
GH420.COM/APPLY

WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BLANKET
- BLIZZARD
- BRISK
- BUNDLE
- DOWNHILL
- FROZEN
- HAZARD
- HEAVY
- ICECAP
- ICE SKATING
- LAKE
- MITTENS
- MOUNTAIN
- NOR' EASTER
- PARKA
- SCARF
- SKIING
- SLED
- SLIPPERY
- SNOWMAN
- TEMPERATURE
- WINTRY
- WOODBURNING
- WOOLEN

*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.

Thank you Pagosa Springs
for supporting me in my 8th year of real estate!

Are you thinking of a change in 2024?
 I want to sell your home for you. The market is still moving! I'm working with buyers and sellers.
 Call me today for a free market analysis.

Debbie Loewen
 Employing Broker
 (970) 946-3480
 debbie@ownpagosa.com

Wolf Creek Realty
 Premium Mountain Properties
OWNPAGOSA

448 PAGOSA STREET • OWNPAGOSA.COM
 2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

THE Mountain Butler
 Pagosa Springs
Pagosa's Grocery Delivery Service

www.themtnbutler.com

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED PS CO

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

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

Winter is sadly the time for bursting pipes.
 Call us 24/7 for your flood damage needs
 Call 970-946-0238 or 970-749-9028

DISASTER RESTORATION
FLOOD MITIGATION
DUCT CLEANING

Mountain Men
 Disaster Mitigation

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

Lars Schneider 970-946-0238
BJ Jones 970-749-9028
 MountainMenDM.com • mail@mountainmendem.com

NATIONALLY LICENSED INSURED LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs. As long-time locals, we operate with small-town hospitality without the "Pagosa-time mentality." Your time is as valuable as ours, so we operate with punctuality. Mountain Men Disaster Mitigation is here to service you and your family through providing quality in our work, and being timely and efficient. Don't forget to check your crawl spaces for standing water. Water mixed with the normal environments produced in a crawlspace is the perfect breeding ground for microbial growth. We also offer sump pump system installations and repairs as well as moisture barriers. Call today for a free evaluation!



HEALTH FACT:

PARTICIPATING IN THIS WINTER SPORT CAN HELP A PERSON GET IN SHAPE.

ANSWER: SKING

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. More hair on woman 2. Scarf is a different color 3. Yellow circle on coat 4. Extra button on back person's coat

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1066:** WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR IS CROWNED KING OF ENGLAND.
- **1758:** HALLEY'S COMET IS SIGHTED BY JOHANN GEORG PALITZSCH, CONFIRMING EDMUND HALLEY'S PREDICTION.
- **2019:** TYPHOON PHANFONE HITS THE PHILIPPINES, CAUSING WIDESPREAD DAMAGE.

New word

ALPINE

a type of downhill skiing

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Ski

SPANISH: Esquí

ITALIAN: Sci

FRENCH: Ski

GERMAN: Ski

Did you know?

THE FIRST SKI CHAIRLIFT WAS INSTALLED AT SUN VALLEY SKI RESORT IN 1936.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SKIS

The rustling of wings

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Are those wings I hear? Yes, they are. I'm taking wings and flying toward a new horizon. I'm trusting others are also moving toward new possibilities in this new year.

We need to click the dimmer button on last year's rearview mirror. We saw things we wish we hadn't. The opposition is getting stronger.

Pilots like to fly against strong winds. The adverse winds will lift the plane and give it speed. Not sure how that works, but when things get tough, it seems we get tougher.

I commented to our writers'

Artist's Lane

group that it doesn't matter how we limp across the room, it's how we fly as writers. The group includes seven members over 80 and our precious Edith attends in a wheelchair at 95 years young and is still writing.

We look like soldiers coming home from the Civil War. Our avid skier who lives for the slopes is wearing a sling on his arm. He

won't be skiing this year. Our young tech guy, who experienced a brain tumor the size of a tangerine while in Slovakia, has a big slice in his head from surgery. Our 87-year-old children's story author is recuperating from a heart attack in the hospital. Several of us have taken to the cane, but we are still flying high in spirit.

A newscaster said this week, "The baby boomers were late getting married and having children. They are mad at their elderly parents who are not available as babysitters. Their parents are on cruises, traveling to foreign places and playing bingo. And many of

■ See Lane on next page

How to overcome a lack of motivation

Special to The PREVIEW

Lack of motivation can affect anyone in any aspect of their lives.

Days at the office when motivation is difficult to muster can adversely affect productivity, while lack of motivation at home can have a negative impact on individuals and their families.

Periodic lack of motivation might not be too problematic so long as it does not extend past a single day. But people might find themselves in a rut that's tough to get out of if their lack of motivation extends for several days or longer.

In such instances, individuals can try the following strategies to get themselves back on track:

- Write down some short- and long-term goals. Motivation might wane when individuals feel as though they have little direction in life. Jotting down some short- and long-term goals can be just the

kick in the pants people need to get back in the swing of things.

- Start planning. Simply jotting down your goals likely won't be enough to inspire action. Once you have determined your immediate and long-term goals, start developing a plan to achieve them. A successful first step may provide all the motivation you need to keep going forward.

- Share your goals. Sharing your goals with loved ones can be a great way to get and stay motivated. If your goals are complicated, loved ones can serve as the support system you need to keep going if or when you hit a bump in the road. And once you've shared your goals, you may be motivated to keep pursuing them so you can make your loved ones proud.

- Celebrate small successes. Short-term goals often pave the way toward achieving your long-term goals. For example, you can't

lose 20 pounds until you have lost five. Celebrate the benchmarks that are integral to achieving your long-term goals. Don't discount your efforts by focusing on how small some successes may be. Each small success will ultimately be part of a larger success, and that's worth celebrating.

Overcoming a lack of motivation may require some reassessment of your goals and a commitment to improving your life.



More Than Just Signs!

- DECALS & WINDOW GRAPHICS
- VEHICLE GRAPHICS & WRAPS
- STORE FRONTS
- PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
- APPAREL PRINTING
- NEON & ELECTRIC SIGN REPAIR
- MEMORIAL STONES

LOCATED AT 57 MAJESTIC DR. PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO



KATHIE LATTIN
NMLS#609186 DOES
MORTGAGES IN 47 STATES!
CALL 970.946.5182

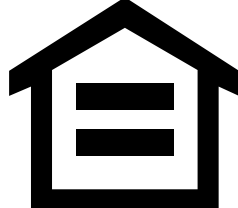


Bank Central
A Division of The Central Trust Bank.

APPLYWITHLATTIN.COM | MEMBER FDIC | NMLS #407985



HUD
Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



All About You
Day Spa & Oxygen Bar

Gift Certificates Available!

970-731-3391
www.dayspapagosa.com



Keeping traditions *Alive.*

Karastan Area Rugs SALE

20% OFF

Stop in to see us today!



Village Interiors Carpet One
22 Trinity Lane • 970.731.2711

Lane

■ **continued from previous page** them have taken up writing their memoirs and stories, still living full lives.”

I asked my Sweet Al a question this morning as we enjoyed our Bible study. “Who are you most afraid of letting down, and why?”

He had to process this before he answered. He always thinks I’m asking him a trick question. I’m not — just one to make him think.

I immediately said, “Who am I most afraid of letting down? No one, except the Lord. Yet he knows me. Al, you know me, also. I’m not afraid of letting you down. You know all about me. I can’t surprise you. If I let you down, you knew I would anyway. If I make a mistake, it probably won’t be as bad as I’ve done in the past.

“I believe that is a perk as we’ve grown older. We are in a place where we don’t have to prove ourselves. We refuse to put ourselves under anyone’s scrutiny.”

As we grow older in this new

year, limitations are more demanding and oppositions are stronger. I’ve never felt the call as strong as I have to pray. It’s a paradox; we are moving into a new year with greater potential of flying higher and yet I’ve never felt the wind so strong in my face as now.

Paul wrote in Ephesians about spiritual warfare. “Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you.” — Ephesians 6:10 (TPT).

That is the fruition of our walk with God all these years. Our spirit man is growing stronger and our fleshly man is growing weaker. The fleshly battles with health and safety are brutal, but our faith to believe in an all-loving God is easier.

I told Al I am amazed we are still alive and wake to each other’s voice

each morning. We are still breathing. Many of our friends have lost their lifetime partners. Several families have lost both parents this last year.

I’m looking forward to this new year being filled with greater possibilities. As I’m making plans for my next big project, I believe it will be the zenith of my days, the highest point of my life, spiritually speaking. And no, I’m not planning on exiting this earth for heaven any time soon.

After studying the word “zenith”, I feel it fits my generation of those over 70 and 80. Zenith means the highest point in an arc traveled by a star, a planet or another celestial body. The sun reaches its zenith when it is as high in the sky as it’s going to go on that day.

We’ve lived long enough to shed the expectations of others holding us down. The workload of daily life and the indecisiveness of what we should be doing is diminishing. Also, the temptations of the flesh

are fading. When I used to say, “I shouldn’t say this, but ...” I’m learning to know I shouldn’t say that. Period.

Final brushstroke: God tells us He has designed us for a certain purpose. For me it’s writing. Writing is reaching the summit. I’ve found a place in an intimate relationship with my Lord Jesus. I want

to write about. It is a place where it is well with my soul. Yes, if you hear the flutter of wings, just know, I’m moving over my head and reaching the highest point I can reach in this new year.

Send your comment to betty-slade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

PERSONALS

SERVICES

SERVICES



Loving Dog Care by Leslie N.

Find me on Rover.com
using zip code 81147

- ❖ Boarding
- ❖ Day care
- ❖ Drop ins
- ❖ House sitting



References and
Reviews online
at Rover.com

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 10a.m.. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS AREA TOURISM BOARD currently has four (4) vacant seats. We are currently seeking a lodging representative, a short term rental representative, a hospitality / recreation representative and one at-large member. The application can be downloaded from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWUWSwHnaEaloyhryS-9h8S_n7Lq6B0c/view?usp=sharing. Applications should be received no later than Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 at 5pm. Please contact Jennie Green at (970)903-9728 with any questions.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

AFFORDABLE KITCHENS, proudly doing business in Pagosa Springs since 2000. Cabinets, counter tops and installation. Please call (970)749-4335. Mike Barr, owner-operator.

ARE YOU IN NEED of Aerial Drone Footage? Our services include real estate, land surveys, weddings, action footage, social media & more! Licensed and insured. We also give lessons! Email or call for affordable rates! epicvalleydrones@gmail.com (407)690-6892.

ASPEN GLOW LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061.

BAZ THE HANDYMAN PAGOSA Springs is your one stop shop for wide range of home maintenance and repair solutions. Just call Baz (480)433-1776.

CHOICE CLEANING, LLC. Commercial, STR/LTR, post construction and move outs. Licensed and insured. Call (970)507-1399.

CLEANING WITH ATTENTION TO DETAILS. Residential and commercial. Please call Julie (970)946-8229.

HANDY HELPERS. “We are here to lend a helping hand,” snow removal, land clearing, debris haul off, jobsite cleanup, property maintenance & all your indoor/outdoor home projects. Give us a call today for a free estimate, (970)403-9159.

METAL ROOF REPAIR, TIGHTENING or replacing. Chimney cleaning, chimney repair. Replacement or new chimney installs. Call (970)731-4585 office, or (970)946-1275.

HANDYMAN SERVICE. Noah’s Ark Enterprises. (970)9015298.

FIREWOOD

Snow Removal



Call Dan • (970) 582-0006

REMODELING

NEW ADDITIONS COMMERCIAL



(970) 731-9700



Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners
For All Your Housekeeping & Window Cleaning Needs
Find us on Google & Facebook

Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

MINT ROOFING-ROOF SNOW REMOVAL & ICE DAM MITIGATION Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Bartenders, 3-4 nights. Must be able to work weekends. \$13 / hour to train. \$15 / hour plus tips. 3pm start time. Email Contact@Alleyhousegrille.com.

FIREWOOD. One cord, split, delivered and stacked in the immediate Pagosa Springs area. Only \$300. Call now, (970)903-0731.

GREAT MESSAGE PRICES
All Messages include a Soak!



OVERLOOK
HOT SPRNGS
SPA
Downtown Pagosa 264-4040

THINK HAIR
THINK ELIZABETH
970-903-5152

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

SERVICES



JD's Cool Water Heating

**Sales, Service & Repair
Boilers &
Tank-less Water Heaters**

27 years in Pagosa Springs • (970) 946-3989
Colorado License PC0001348, Insured

Excavation • Dirt Work

Asphalt Driveways • Foundations • Ponds • Septic Systems



Skid Steer • Mini Excavator
Seven-ton Dump Truck
Free Estimates

Call Josh at 970-903-5892

Serving Pagosa Springs, Arboles & Chromo

Home Renovation

Maintenance & Security Checks

We can facilitate all your maintenance or remodeling needs - Kitchen, bath, decks & plumbing
PROJECT/RENOVATION MANAGEMENT — Architecture, permitting, engineering & interior design



High Meadows Properties, LLC
A Premier Property Management Company Since 2003
Call today (970) 403-2263

For a more complete list of services and testimonials, go to www.HighMeadowsProperties.com



Local Real Estate, Business & Estate Planning Attorney

To schedule your free consultation, email alex@buscherlaw.com
970-335-9098
422 Pagosa Street, Suite 10
www.buscherlaw.com

Contracts, Leases, Wills & Trusts
Formation, Securities & Employment
FSBO, Landlord/Tenant & Property Management
MED, Hemp & FDA Compliance
Copyrights & Trademarks



Pagosa Construction Services

Remodels including Kitchen & Bath
Siding • Decking • Drywall • Painting
No Job Too Small

Call (970) 749-4252
Licensed & Insured • 20+ Years Experience

TURN A JOB TO DO INTO A JOB WELL DONE

SERVICES

SERVICES



Fine & Fast Painting

Handyman too!
Experienced • Equipped • Insured
Over 20 years experience

See some of my work at
www.flickr.com/photos/mmmsted

(857) 247-0871
mmmsted@gmail.com



WINTER STORAGE SPECIALS

Protect your property with our
20' New Storage Containers
available to rent or buy

Call today!
970-731-0007
PagosaSpringsStorage.com

Master Craftsman Handyman Services

Remodeling Specialist
Kitchens • Baths
Decks • Basements
Interior Trim • Painting
Exterior Siding Installation
Concrete Work • and more
Large & Small Repair Work

STEVE
(970) 946-3356




The Water Runner

Certified Bulk Potable Water Delivery
Cistern Deep Cleaning

You call, we haul! (970) 731-5022
Since 1999 Chadd Carnley, owner

CUSTOM HOMES



(970) 731-9700

SERVICES

Feel the warmth



Wood & Gas Burning Fireplaces & Stoves
Vermont Casting Majestic Hearth Isokern • FMI Enviro Pellet Stoves

Custom installation & finish work

Chase caps
Snow splitters

Pagosa Peak Custom Fireplaces

1065 W. Hwy. 160
Pagosa Springs, Colo
office and showroom:
(970) 264-2006
www.pagosafireplaces.com

New Construction Remodeling • Houses Garages • Barns • Decks

Licensed, insured & references
Plans drawn & submitted



Call Rick
(970) 946-1737

Blueprints

Have your plans drawn now.
Don't wait!
Be ready to start your house, barn, garage or deck on time.

Call Rick
946-1737

Stone & Tile Works

Over 25 years of expertise in stone and tile installation.

Leaky shower?
We fix that too!

Visit tilestoneworks.com
or call 720-360-9491

PLUMBING

Semi-retired plumber
30+ years experience
15+ years in Pagosa
Reasonable rates • Local references

Michael • 480-685-6191
I return all calls!

SERVICES

PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC. Group of high standard cleaners, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

PROFESSIONAL SNOW REMOVAL. - Residential and Commercial. Fully insured. Shovel and salt upon request. Call now for quote. (970)946-4450.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL. Driveways, walkways, patios/porches, roof raking, berm removal. Call Clarks' Custom Landscaping (505)709-8579 or email clarkscustomlandscape@gmail.com. Licensed and insured.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted.

SENIOR COMPANION/CARE-ASSIST Services in Pagosa Springs. Services include a wide range of tasks. Call for questions and pricing at (970)325-3585.

SERENITY SALT CAVE AND SPA. Gift certificates, gift baskets, massage therapy, Biomat, sound healing, aromatherapy oxygen lounge, Halotherapy, retail therapy, salt scrub, bath salts, mushroom-based coffees and teas, tinctures, handcrafted soaps and creams, and more. www.serenitysaltcavespa.com, River Center plaza, (970)812-8670. We look forward to meeting you!

SNOW REMOVAL, HANDYMAN and small engine repair. Call or text for references and pricing. Geoffrey, (970)585-4586.

TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL HOME SERVICES, (760)835-1041.

TREE REMOVAL. Licensed and insured up to \$2 million. Free estimates. No obligations. Call OR text (970)903-8068.

WELDER- 20 YEARS PIPE and structural certified, guaranteed work, custom fabrication, handrails, gates, repairs, fully equipped mobile welding rig ready to bring the shop to you. Call Sean (970)946-0385.

HELP WANTED

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR autobody tech. Apply in person at Precision Autobody & Collision.

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.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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

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.

LOOKING FOR CARPENTERS and laborers. Call Rick, (970)946-1737.

HELP WANTED

WINTER WORK!

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April

Lift Department
Base Operations/Parking
Ski School
Food & Beverage * Baker
Retail * Ticket Office
Snow Removal * Grooming
Custodial & Building Maintenance
Ski Patrol
Onsite Call Center/
Customer Service

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience

Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment
Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800 Pagosa Springs, CO
81147

 **WOLF CREEK**
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO

CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber
2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer \$16 p/h to start, accrued vacation/personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HELP WANTED



• Superintendent
• Painters
• Framers
• Project Manager
• Good pay, excellent benefits, must have experience for manager roles.
Training Available.

BWD Construction is NOW HIRING!

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16-18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT, 35 Mary Fisher Circle or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

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.

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.

SMALL MOTEL AND RV PARK hiring part-time maintenance person. 20 hours per week. Pool and spa knowledge helpful but not required. Pay depending on experience. Call (970)731-5345 for more information.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda. (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MULTI USE 6,800 SQUARE BUILDING with business in prime location with high producing business .60 acre. lot \$2,350,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME LOCATION NEAR NAVAJO State Park. Gas station, liquor store, convenience store, restaurant, motel, post office. \$1.7 million. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FOR SALE

4 SET TIRES COOPER DISCOVERER 275/60R20 AT3 Good tread \$480 970-946-0305 leave a message.

4 SET TIRES PATHFINDER 265/70R16 112T AT Good Tread \$320 970-946-0305 leave a message.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$240 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$300 split and delivered, per cord. \$250 picked up, per cord. (970)507-0369. Hattie.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload (about 1 cord). Call (970)946-4450.

FOR SALE. Gehl 362 mini excavator 2000. Thumb, Peter, side 5 cab tilt. 24" bucket. Recent rebuilt hydraulics. Too much to list. \$13,500.(970)507-0240.

HEAVY DUTY cab-over truck rack with removable crossbars for taller loads; for 8' bed. \$375 970-946-0305 leave a message.

NEED FIREWOOD? Pine/Aspen mix \$350 a cord, or get a HUGE dump truck load for \$600! GUARANTEED full cords. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

NEW DELL INSPIRON 3910 DESKTOP COMPUTER. Never used, \$500. (970)731-6878.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

PONDEROSA PINE FIREWOOD. Nice and dry, has been tarped all winter. \$250 per cord. (970)317-3120.

QUALITY HORSE HAY Grass and grass alfalfa mix. Barn stored. \$10 a bale. Call (970)884-2635.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

TORO SNOWBLOWER. 21", great condition. For pavement only. \$275, cash only. (970)618-7385.

PETS

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N.. Find me on Rover.com using zip code 81147. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews online at Rover.com.

WANTED

VINTAGE LICENSE PLATES WANTED, cash paid, higher price for older/rarer plates. Call/text Colin: (970)367-7594.

CARS FOR SALE

2011 HONDA ELEMENT. 191,877 miles, \$1,300, OBO, as is, body good. Contact Eddie, 141 S. 10th St, (970)264-5760.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

TWO VEHICLES FOR SALE. 1st is a 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. 2nd is a 2001 Buick LeSabre, 123,000 miles. Runs well. Could use some work. \$2200 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

2 PRIVATE OFFICE SPACES. Uptown at 543 Park Ave. 10x12, \$150, and 20x20 with sink, \$385. Both recently remodeled and price includes utilities. (970)300-9444, or info@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 Jacques (970)946-7636.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering Lewis St. Office Suites available from 238 SF to 755 SF, and priced from \$400 - \$700/ mo. Excellent for a studio or professional office space. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba



www.RMREALTYANDRENTALS.COM

Rocky Mountain
REALTY & RENTALS
970.731.5515

Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com
117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado
Property Owners Served
19+ Years. Mortgage &
Real Estate Exp
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



HOMES FOR RENT

HOMES FOR RENT

VACATION RENTALS

HOMES FOR SALE

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

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.

AMAZING FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath home that sits on 35 private acres in the Chimney Rock area. This is a must see property. \$2350 per month with some utilities included. TP-8. 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. \$1600 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.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

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.

LOVELY UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage townhome on golf course in uptown Pagosa. All appliances including gas fireplace. \$2150 per month. TP-5. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOMES. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 baths. Open floor plan with gas fireplace, oversize 2-car garage. Close to the bike path, uptown City Market and rec center. \$2,550/month includes: water/sewer, lawn maintenance, snow removal. Call/text (512)626-8499.

STUDIO APARTMENT. Furnished or unfurnished. 8.5 miles north. Pets considered, fenced yard. \$1200 per month, first month and security. Call (970)731-2010, please leave message.

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, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

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, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

COMMERCIAL

10 BEAUTIFUL COMMERCIAL ACRES. 50x167 metal building with concrete floor, 3 phase electric, well and more. \$650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

LIVE/WORK ON THIS 1.11 acre just off Hwy. 160. \$300,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817

MULTI USE 6,800 SQUARE FOOT building in prime location on .60 of an acre. \$1,375,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

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

Christie Calderwood
SRS, ABR, ePRO
Serving Sellers & Buyers
970-946-6856
christie@jimsmithrealty.com

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Log home on the banks of Stollsteimer Creek. 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home, 2-car garage, 2 acres with lots of extras. \$675,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.2 ACRES CLOSE to Navajo Lake. Utilities available. \$75,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.2 ACRES, MOUNTAIN VIEWS, electricity near, No HOA, close to town. \$35,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

35.81 ACRES WITH AWESOME VIEWS of Banded Peaks at the end of cul-de-sac with national forest access. Also comes with a full set of house plans. \$300,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES. Centrally located, all utilities near. \$250,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

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.

DOWNTOWN LOT, GREAT VIEWS for your dream home. \$190,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

DOWNTOWN, FLAT, BUILDABLE .52 acre lot, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

ONE ACRE LOT, all ready for your new home with newly installed all utilities, four bedroom permitted septic system, power and insulated pump house. \$165,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

RIVER FRONT PROPERTY, 1.45 acres, electricity across the street. \$289,900. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

Email classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

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

We end the year with a bird regaled by many as the king of the skies. With a wingspan that ranges between 6 and 7 feet, the golden eagle is one of the largest birds in North America.

Although sharp talons, a strongly hooked bill and powerful muscles make goldens capable of taking much larger prey, most often they hunt small mammals including rabbits, hare, ground squirrels and prairie dogs. They may also feed on carrion, rob nests and steal food from smaller birds. Unlike bald eagles, which catch more insect-eating fish, golden eagles largely escaped the harmful effects of DDT in insecticides that brought so many birds of prey to the brink of extinction.

With sharp eyesight they can spot a rabbit a mile or more away and locate prey while soaring high in the sky, flying low over the ground or watching from a high perch. During breeding season, mated pairs hunt cooperatively. Mates are believed to pair for life and stay together the entire year.

In North America, golden eagles are found in open and semi-open habitats across the West and more rarely in the east. Those that breed in northern areas may migrate south and are more wide-ranging in the winter. In summer they are restricted to areas with good nest sites, including cliffs and tall trees that provide a wide view of their surroundings.

Adult golden eagles are dark brown with golden-brown feathers on the nape and variable amounts of white in the wings. Immature birds do not attain full adult plumage until the age of 5 and, until then, in flight show distinct white patches on their wings and at the base of the tail.

Although these magnificent birds are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, two men in Montana were recently charged with illegally killing an estimated 3,600 eagles to sell parts. Around 70 percent of recorded golden eagle deaths can be attributed to human impact, including ingesting poisoned coyote bait and lead bullets, collisions with vehicles and wind turbines, and intentional killing.

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



We live in an amazing place and are Blessed to call Pagosa Springs our home. We cherish the fresh air, the mountains and forests, and having so many outdoor activity options in our back yard. But the best part of Pagosa Springs is the people who live and visit here.

With the New Year only days away, consider adding these New Year Resolutions to your list:

- * Wave at your neighbors
- * Slow down and enjoy your blessings
- * Volunteer at one of our local organizations that help others (it will help you more!)
- * Get to know your neighbors, especially those who may be living by themselves
- * Shop local and support our businesses and restaurants (remember they are our neighbors)
- * Get active. Do something physical everyday, preferably outdoors
- * Incorporate more "live" foods into your diet
- * Count your Blessings that you are living in a very special community surrounded by beauty
- * Pray. Get to know your Creator this year
- * Visit, or join, one of Pagosa Springs "Christ" centered churches. We would love to see you!

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16 TLV



Seventh-day
Adventist® Church

pagosada.org • 40 Oren Road • 970-731-1005



**CONSTITUTION
ALIVE!**

Join our local Constitution Host and others from Pagosa Springs as we watch, study, and discuss this powerful video series with Rick Green and David Barton.



- ★ Know your Rights!
- ★ Gain more Constitutional Knowledge than 99% of Americans!
- ★ Learn Tangible Action Steps for Preserving Liberty!
- ★ Entertaining! Inspiring! Educational!
- ★ Learn the Biblical, Historical, and Constitutional Foundation of Freedom!

Grace
IN PAGOSA
1044 Park Ave
Pagosa Springs



Monday evenings for 10 weeks beginning Jan 15 from 6:00-8:00pm at Grace in Pagosa. Scan the QR Code for more info. Course and digital workbook are FREE. A spiral-bound workbook is available for \$20. Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you
for supporting our
advertisers!